

GRADUATE RESEARCH CONFERENCE PRESENTATION GUIDELINES

LIGHTNING PRESENTATION AND RESEARCH POSTERS

Eligible students

- To be eligible to enter, students must be currently enrolled in (or under examination for) an MRes, MPhil, or PhD program at Macquarie University at the time of the presentation (Thursday 5 November 2026).
- Students who are currently on leave from their program will not be eligible unless they resume their studies before the presentation date.
- Students whose degree has been conferred prior to the presentation date will not be eligible to present.

Presentation formats

- Lightning presentation

The lightning presentation requires presenters to highlight the transformative impact of their research in five (5) minutes. There will be three (3) presentations per session, with five (5) minutes of Q&A at the end of each session. Presenters can use up to four (4) PowerPoint slides.

- Poster presentation

The poster presentation requires presenters to submit a poster (size range A3 – A0) in landscape or portrait orientation highlighting the powerful impact of their research and to be available for questions by conference delegates during the poster sessions (1.00pm - 2.00pm, Thursday 5 November 2026). Presenters may submit a poster that has been presented at a previous conference.

Application requirements

- The application process opens Wednesday 5 August 2026 and closes Friday 4 September 2026. No late submissions will be accepted;
- Eligible students are welcome to submit one (1) abstract per presentation format;
- Abstracts for both presentation formats should be no more than 100 words;
- All entries must be submitted via the application form: [Graduate Research Conference Call for papers and posters](#);
- Abstracts will be reviewed and assessed according to the selection criteria;
- Application outcomes will be communicated by Friday 25 September 2026. All decisions made by the committee are final.

Selection criteria

Abstracts for both presentation formats will be assessed on the following criteria:

- relevance to the presentation theme;
- clarity of explanation of research impact and key findings;
- adherence to the Presentation Guidelines and word limit.

Prizes

There will be three prize winners for each presentation format:

- First Place - \$300.00
- Second Place - \$200.00
- People's Choice - \$100.00

All eligible entries will be judged for first and second place by the judging panel and the decision will be final. The panel will judge each entry according to the impact, clarity and communication of the message. The People's Choice award will be decided by votes from conference attendees on the final day of the conference (Thursday 5 November 2026).

Winners will be announced on the final day of the conference (Thursday 5 November 2026) and notified via their student email after the close of the conference.