

ICUR©

Conference Participation Guide

Welcome to ICUR 2026!

The **International Conference of Undergraduate Research** is an annual, two-day academic conference that showcases excellence in undergraduate research from around the world. It provides undergraduate researchers with a unique opportunity to present their research in real-time, video-linked sessions from their home campus.

Participants benefit from a supportive forum to engage in international research dialogue. Attendance at ICUR provides material for your CV, extensive feedback, valuable networking opportunities, and an introduction to research as a potential career. Past presenters have described ICUR as a ‘unique experience that enables you to meet students from other countries and learn about issues important to them’, as ‘rewarding, insightful and exciting’ and as a ‘once-in-a-lifetime opportunity’.

ICUR values the attendance and participation of all audience members - and encourages presenters and non-presenting attendees to join the conversation! Active participation in the conference audience is a fantastic platform for **interdisciplinary engagement** and **international conversations**, as well as an exciting opportunity to see what’s going on in (and support) new undergraduate research.

Setting Up: Your Profile, Your Conference Experience

ICUR 2026 is a hybrid event. We welcome audiences from all over the world to engage with across online and in person platforms. This year, we are using **Oxford Abstracts** to manage our online programme.

Check with your local institutional coordinator to find out if you can participate in person - or join us online via your computer, smartphone, or other device.

To access the full programme online, you will need to register as an audience member. Audience registration is available online here: **https://app.oxfordabstracts.com/register/event/76303**

To access the hybrid sessions as an **online participant**, just find your chosen session in the **programme**, click to open the session information, and then click on the **Zoom link provided in the panel description**. You'll be let into the webinar when the panel starts!

Active Participation: Benefits and How To

What is active participation?

At a conference like ICUR, **active participation looks different for everyone**. It's not about asking the most questions, or even about attending the most panels - it's about **engaging meaningfully** with research and people in your own way, and how you - as a presenter and/or a member of the audience - are part of creating a **supportive conference culture**.

For you, participating actively could mean **attending a panel** (in person or online); **asking a question** in a Q&A or to a poster presenter; sending a presenter a message via Oxford Abstract's **networking features** to let them know you enjoyed their presentation; having a **conversation with a presenter** in a coffee break; browsing the **online poster gallery**; taking time to **reflect individually** on what you've learned; or something else!

Sometimes it's helpful to think about **generosity** and **reciprocity** as part of active participation. In other words - how would you like people to engage with your work? Could that inform how you engage with audiences and presenters yourself?

Benefits of Active Participation

- Develop your understanding of a particular topic or area of interest
- Learn something new
- Connect with presenters and audience members
- Encourage students to continue their research after ICUR
- Be part of fostering a vibrant and supportive research culture

Active Participation at ICUR 2026

*The conference programme is a great place to start. Use the **Oxford Abstracts guide** to kickstart your conference experience!*

- **Browse to find abstracts** for projects which interest you
- **Bookmark** your top three "unmissable" presentations
- **Look through the online poster gallery** - maybe leave a comment or a question for a presenter!
- Use the Oxford Abstracts' **networking feature** to connect with a presenter whose work interests you

*Engaging with the **Q&A** in a spoken presentation can be a wonderful opportunity to connect with presenters and to learn more about an interesting topic.* **Remember** *- if you are joining online, type your question into the **Q&A box on Zoom** so that the Session Chair can read it out on your behalf. The following is a (non-exhaustive) list of areas in which you could ask questions!*

- Before any question - **thank the presenter** for an interesting and engaging talk
- Follow up on a particularly **interesting area of the talk** - "Could you expand on [x]?" *or* "You mentioned [y]. Could you tell me a bit more about that?"
- Are there practical applications for the research? Could you ask about policy implications, or future study areas?
- Is there an interesting connection with your research, or with other important areas of study?

Conference Etiquette

- Arrive to the panel **on time** - usually there is a **fifteen minute break** built into the schedule to allow for movement between panels.

- Remain in the room or webinar **for the duration of the panel** - this is particularly important if you are one of the other panellists! Leaving in the middle can be off putting to the other presenters. *Please note: if you have individual access needs which cause you to arrive late or mean that you need to leave early, then of course that is fine!*

- Try **not to be on your phone** while presenters are speaking - and make sure your phone (and any other electronic device) is on **silent** during the panel.

- If you're asking a question in the Q&A, try to phrase it **clearly** and **concisely** - remember that the Q&A section is only **five minutes long**, and you can always continue your conversation into the break or connect with the presenter on Oxford Abstracts if there was not time for your question in the live session.

- **Be supportive of each other**. Ask the kinds of questions you would like to be asked; give each other opportunities to give and expand on different points of view; clap at the end of presentations.

- **Take care of yourself** - conferences can be long, exhausting days, and it's important to keep your own wellbeing in mind. **The ICUR programme is designed for you to take it at your own pace!** Make sure you dress professionally but comfortably; stay hydrated; get some fresh air and a break when you need to; and check out resources like this great article on navigating conferences with social anxiety if you struggle with this, or if you're just feeling a bit apprehensive about conference networking. If you need anything, ICUR staff will be available throughout the conference.



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