



Australian
National
University

Abstract submission guidelines

2024 Student Research Conference

ANU Student Life

Student Life

University Experience

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WHAT IS THE ANU STUDENT RESEARCH CONFERENCE?

The ANU Student Research Conference (SRC) is The Australian National University's undergraduate, Honours, and Master by coursework student conference. SRC is an annual event and is a proudly multidisciplinary conference, open to students from all academic disciplines. Each year, certificates and cash prizes across all presentation categories are awarded which recognise the achievements of students at the conference. Alongside a full program of student presentations, the conference typically includes a keynote speeches and opportunities to increase their disciplinary knowledge, connect with new disciplines, and network with academic staff and fellow students.

Students at all stages of their undergraduate, Honours, or Master by coursework degree are invited to apply to present at the conference by submitting an abstract. In addition to a supportive application pathway, SRC provides students with a platform to present research completed as part of their coursework at university, alongside development opportunities to build the skills to successfully communicate their research to a multidisciplinary audience with impact. In 2024, development opportunities will include pre-conference sessions such as abstract writing workshops and presentation skills workshops.

KEY DATES AND PROCESS OVERVIEW

- **Abstract submissions open:** 1st July 2024
- **Abstract submissions close:** 31st July 2024
- **Students receive abstract outcomes:** 19th August 2024
- **Skills-Based Workshops:** 24th July, 6th August, 14 August, 20 August 2024.
- **ANU Student Research Conference:** 13th September 2024

WHAT IS COURSEWORK RESEARCH?

Coursework research is any independent or group inquiry conducted as part of coursework within any undergraduate, Honours or coursework Masters course. This includes, but is **not** limited to, inquiry undertaken in a research-focused degree (such as PhB) or in a research-focussed course (such as a Special Topics course, Advanced Studies course, or Capstone project).

Examples of research include **short essays, extended/research essays, reports, literature reviews and theses** from:

- 1000, 2000, and 3000-level courses (undergraduate);
- 4000-level (Honours) courses; and,
- 6000 and 8000-level courses (Master by coursework).

The research undertaken does not need to be primary research - that is, you do not need to collect and analyse your own data - and your research may draw entirely upon secondary sources (such as existing data, literature, or other sources).

You might review the existing literature, confirm the results of an existing study or body of work, or make an argument based on existing data or literature.

If you have the following elements in an item(s) of coursework, you have done the appropriate inquiry for abstract submission to the ANU Student Research Conference:

- A clear statement of the research question, problem, or issue being investigated.
- Relevant context/background information needed to understand the importance of the research topic/issue.
- A clear statement of relevant methodology.
- Indication of what was found and why it matters.

The research/inquiry could have been submitted for assessment previously, and if it contains the elements listed above, then you are able to write and submit an abstract for that research/inquiry for the ANU Student Research Conference.

If you have already written and submitted an abstract for your research as part of an assessment, your submitted abstract must be re-written so that it is intelligible for the conference's multidisciplinary University audience (see [page 10](#)).

WHY SUBMIT AN ABSTRACT?

Abstract writing is a key academic skill that forms the basis of academic processes from writing a research report or essay to writing a thesis and applying to academic conferences. Moreover, writing an abstract requires you to outline concisely and compellingly the inquiry you undertook, the process you used and why it matters – a communication skill which is transferrable to a wide range of professional and business contexts.

Your abstract should provide an overview of the inquiry that you have undertaken. If your abstract submission to SRC is successful, the inquiry you have completed forms the basis of your conference presentation.

ELIGIBILITY

You are eligible to submit an abstract to the 2024 Student Research Conference if:

- You are an undergraduate (including Honours) or Masters (Coursework) student currently enrolled at ANU, OR you have graduated from ANU less than 12 months ago.
- The research/inquiry has **not** previously been published or presented except for the purposes of assessment at ANU.

Research must have been completed within an ANU course (including Honours), internship or research project, or otherwise for course credit at ANU.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

If I have started research on a particular subject matter in a subject and presented/published that, then continued inquiry on that same/similar subject matter in a new/subsequent ANU course, am I eligible to submit an abstract?

You may submit an abstract for any inquiry completed as coursework at ANU as long as that inquiry has not been published or presented elsewhere except for the purposes of assessment. If you have continued an inquiry into a subject matter within an ANU course after presenting or publishing an inquiry on the same subject matter in a previous ANU course, you are eligible to submit the work completed in the latter ANU course, if it has not also been published/presented.

For example, suppose you undertook inquiry on a particular subject matter in a 3000-level course, then published or presented that research at a conference or in a journal before continuing study of the same/similar subject matter in a 4000-level Honours course. You would *not* be eligible to present the inquiry completed in the 3000-level course, but you are eligible to present the inquiry undertaken in the 4000-level course.

ACADEMIC'S ENDORSEMENT (OPTIONAL)

You may request that a relevant academic staff member reads and endorses your abstract via email to student.life@anu.edu.au with the subject heading "SRC Abstract Endorsement". Due to the review process, you will already have feedback from academic staff on your abstract and a chance to take on board that feedback, edit it, and re-submit your abstract.

This endorsement could be given by the ANU academic staff member who was/is responsible for the assessment of your coursework/research, and/or who has overseen your research. This can be your:

- Course convenor
- Tutor
- Honours or research project supervisor
- Research group leader
- Other appropriate ANU academic staff member.

If you choose to pursue an endorsement, please provide the relevant academic staff member with the following script:

I [academic's full name including titles] have read and endorse this abstract and associated inquiry of [student's name] that they are submitting to the 2024 ANU Student Research Conference. They completed the inquiry as part of [indicate course/class, research opportunity or other context in which the research was completed] in [month & year] at The Australian National University. I recommend this inquiry to the ANU Student Research Conference 2024 as high quality, valid, honest and ethical inquiry and I endorse the student's statement of originality. I acknowledge that the ANU Student Research Conference may be considered a public conference which may preclude this student's inquiry from presentation and/or publication elsewhere.

I acknowledge that the abstract submitted to the ANU Student Research Conference by the student must be original and not previously submitted as coursework or elsewhere. However, in exceptional circumstances I may endorse an abstract that has been previously submitted for publication and/or assessment. The abstract I am hereby endorsing [PLEASE SELECT: is original OR has previously been submitted elsewhere (please provide detail)].

ABSTRACT REQUIREMENTS

The ANU Student Research Conference is a multidisciplinary conference that welcomes a wide audience from a variety of study levels and academic disciplines. One of the staff members who reviews your abstract will not be from your academic college. Further, the academic staff member from your academic college may not be from within your subject area. Your abstract must therefore be written for a general university audience, to reflect the audience that your abstract and presentation will be shared with at the conference.

Your abstract will be reviewed by ANU academic and professional staff according to the following criteria:

- Contains terminology and content that can be understood by a general university audience.
- Provides a clear statement of the research question, problem, or issue being investigated.
- Provides relevant context/background information needed to understand the importance of the research topic/issue.
- Includes a clear statement of relevant methodology.
- Indicates what was found and why it matters.
- Is written clearly and concisely.
- If referencing is used, it must be accurate and consistent in a style appropriate to the academic discipline.

If you have already written and submitted an abstract for your research as a part of an assessment, your submitted abstract must be re-written for the conference's multidisciplinary university audience. Ordinarily, you must not submit the same abstract to the ANU Student Research Conference which has been submitted as part of your ANU coursework.

REFERENCING

There is no requirement to include references in your abstract, however any referencing should be accurate and consistent in a style appropriate to your academic discipline. In-text references are the standard for abstracts in many disciplines (e.g. Surname 2019: 7 - 20).

KEYWORDS

When you submit your abstract, you will be asked to identify a maximum of 10 keywords associated with your inquiry. If your abstract is accepted to the conference, these keywords will be published in the conference program with your abstract. It is important to provide as many accurate keywords as possible. To assist in identifying keywords, you might like to consider the following as they relate to your abstract:

- Academic field (identify both broad and specific terms);
- Subject matter (identify both broad and specific terms);
- Specific theory/theories used;
- Methodology/methodologies used (e.g. systematic literature review).

Keywords should be separated with a semi-colon or comma in the abstract submission portal. Please do not write in full sentences.

WORD COUNT

Your abstract should be no longer than 250 words in length. However, a leniency of 10% will be applied (maximum 275 words). Abstract reviewers reserve the right to request that abstracts greater than 275 words are reduced.

The word count does not include the abstract title, keywords, or reference list. It does include in-text referencing.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

I am writing an abstract for an essay/report that I wrote for coursework. How do I identify the methodology that I used?

A methodology is an explanation of what type of data will be required to answer the research questions or test the hypotheses, and how the data will be collected and analysed.

It is recommended that you consult with your course convenor, tutor or supervisor to discuss the abstract requirements, including if you are unsure of the methodology used.

You may find some examples of types of research methodology under the subheading 'Research Methodology Types' [here](#), also [here](#) (computational text analysis), [here](#) (constructivism), [here](#) (history), [here](#) (Qualitative analysis), and [here](#) (surveys).

I am a current Honours student who would like to present at SRC this year. However, the results of my research are not yet finalised. How should I write my abstract?

If you are able to meet the abstract requirements, then you are eligible to submit your work to the ANU Student Research Conference. Students are encouraged to consult with their Honours supervisor when preparing their abstract and conference presentation.

If your abstract is successful, you will be able to base your conference presentation in September on any research results that you have gathered since you submitted your abstract.

If you are unable to meet the abstract requirements this year, you may be eligible to present your research at next year's ANU Student Research Conference.

We completed a group project and all members of our group would like to present it at SRC- how should we apply?

ANU SRC welcomes abstract submissions based on group research projects.

To submit an abstract for a group project:

- One member of the group should complete the abstract submission form. This group member will be considered the 'primary applicant'. This can be any member of your group.
- Under the First and Last Name questions of the abstract submission form, include the names of all group members who would like to participate.
- ONLY provide one email address in the abstract submission form.
- If your abstract is accepted, all group members can participate in the presentation.

We completed a group project, but only some members of our group would like to present it at SRC- how should we apply?

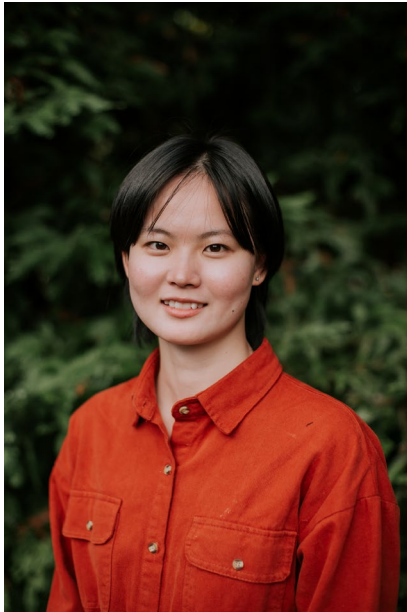
You must evidence, such as an email, from the group members who *do not* want to be involved with their permission given for the other members of the group to present without them.

How many abstracts can I submit?

You are welcome to submit up to three abstracts. **Due to significant student interest in the conference, you will be invited to present a maximum of once at the conference - even if more than one of your abstracts is accepted to the conference.** If more than one of your abstracts is accepted to the conference, you will be asked to select the abstract on which you would like to base your conference presentation.

You will receive feedback from the abstract reviewers on each of your submitted abstracts.

MY ABSTRACT WRITING EXPERIENCE: YIMENG CHENG



In 2021, Yimeng was successful in the abstract submission process and presented her research at the Australasian Conference of Undergraduate Research hosted by ANU. Yimeng's advice for writing an abstract and her published abstract are included below.

Please note, this advice and abstract example is general in nature and is not a substitute for the advice of the relevant academic staff member and/or the SRC abstract requirements.

**"...write down
the parts you
know best...and
then ask
someone you
know for help."**

"For me, abstract writing was effectively an outline for my subsequent conference presentation. I wrote down what I know and then asked for feedback from my supervisor. The feedback she gave me enriched my abstract. In addition, when I received suggestions from the reviewers, I added further contextual information so that people without relevant knowledge could understand what my topic was about. My advice to anyone who is thinking about submitting an abstract is to write down the parts you know best (it might be the relevant background, the methods section, or the result section) and then ask someone you know for help. Throughout the abstract submission process, you will get a lot of advice on how to progressively refine your abstract such as through SRC abstract writing workshops, and the feedback you receive from the peer reviewers."

YIMENG'S ABSTRACT

Hikikomori (Long-Term Social Withdrawal) and Re-employment Seeking

Yimeng Cheng, Junwen Chen, Diana Cardenas, Motohiro Sakai

Long-term social withdrawal in young adults has become a major concern in Japanese society, a phenomenon known as 'hikikomori'. Withdrawn individuals are more anxious in workplace and refuse to attend work-related events, which leads to great loss in the labour market. Empirical evidence shows that job-searching self-efficacy (JSSE) plays a vital role in re-establish one's confidence in job-related events, as well as increasing one's effort and satisfaction in searching for jobs. This study

aimed to investigate how people with hikikomori differ in employment-related psychological constructs, and the mediation role of JSSE in the relationship between hikikomori and employment anxiety, job search satisfaction and efforts. The study used secondary data collected in Japan with 81 participants with current and past hikikomori, matched with 100 participants without Hikikomori by age and gender. MANOVAs and Tukey's HSD demonstrated that the current hikikomori group had significantly lower job-searching satisfaction ($p = .043$) and JSSE ($p = .019$) than the control group. Regarding mediation effects, hikikomori had a negative significant indirect effect on job searching satisfaction and efforts. Furthermore, hikikomori had a positive significant indirect effect on employment anxiety through JSSE. Although the past-hikikomori group does not significantly differ from both groups, its scores were closer to the control group in all variables except for employment anxiety, demonstrating a certain level of recovery in their job-related wellbeing. Future research should consider enhancing self-efficacy in Hikikomori individuals to encourage their re-engagement in employment activities.

I would like to thank Dr Junwen Chen, my primary supervisor for this research, for her thorough and patient guidance over the past year. I would also like to thank Dr Diana Cardenas for her critical comments and warm encouragement in accomplishing this project. Lastly, thanks to Dr Motohiro Sakai from Japan, whose collaboration made this study possible.

CHOOSING A CONFERENCE PRESENTATION FORMAT

When you submit your abstract, you will be prompted to select your first and second preferences for the type of presentation you would like to make at the conference, if your abstract submission is successful.

While conference organisers make every effort to accommodate your first preference, on occasion you may be offered your second preference due to program constraints.

Poster presentation

- This category is available to undergraduates, Honours and Masters students.
- 10-minute presentation based on research poster which you prepare.
- Up to 5 minutes Q&A with audience and judges.

Oral presentation

- This category is available to undergraduates, Honours and Masters students.
- 10-minute oral presentation using a slide deck or similar which you prepare.
- Up to 5 minutes Q&A with audience and judges.

PRIZES

Depending on your study level and presentation category, you will have the opportunity to compete for a portion of the total \$2,000.00 prize pool!

ABSTRACT REVIEW PROCESS

STEP 1: ACADEMIC'S ENDORSEMENT (OPTIONAL)

You are encouraged to seek endorsement from an appropriate academic staff member, and if granted, they should send the endorsement to studnet.life@anu.edu.au before 11.59 p.m. 31 July 2024 with the subject line '**Academic's Endorsement: SRC 2024**'.

STEP 2: ABSTRACT REVIEW BY ACADEMIC STAFF

Your abstract will be blindly matched to two ANU academic staff members: where possible, one staff member from your academic college and one from outside your academic college.

Abstract reviewers will assess your application against the abstract criteria included above.

This is a double-blind review process, which means that no identifying information about you (other than your abstract and study level) will be made available to abstract reviewers. Similarly, no identifying information about your abstract reviewers will be made available to you.

You will receive the feedback provided by abstract reviewers [via email from SRC staff](#). Following this review, your abstract may be:

- **Accepted**
 - This means the abstract reviewers have considered your abstract to be of a high standard and you have been offered a place at the conference - congratulations! You can now make the most of pre-conference skills workshops and start preparing your conference presentation.

- **Accepted with revisions**
 - This means your abstract has been accepted pending some revisions as suggested by the abstract reviewers. This is a [completely normal](#) part of the process of presenting at academic conferences, and each year most students are accepted with revisions.
 - In the international 2021 Australasian Conference of Undergraduate Research hosted by ANU, approximately 75% of students received an 'accept with revisions' outcome.
 - Please see Step 3 for advice on how to respond to feedback.
 - You are encouraged to make the most of pre-conference skills workshops as you await the results of your revised abstract submission.

- **Not accepted**
 - This means that your abstract does not meet the requirements specified above, and the abstract reviewers have deemed that your abstract is not quite ready for the conference yet. You will be provided with feedback on your abstract. This is also a completely normal experience (see [here](#)) and we encourage you to continue striving to push yourself academically.

STEP 3: RESUBMIT YOUR REVISED ABSTRACT

This round applies only to students whose abstract has been accepted with revisions and is an opportunity to apply the specific feedback provided by the abstract reviewers before resubmitting your abstract.

If you do not agree with the feedback provided, you may submit your objection in writing to the abstract review panel within 5 days of receiving your abstract review outcome. You must address each point of feedback to which you object in dot-point form and cite appropriate peer-reviewed sources. Please submit a written objection via email: student.life@anu.edu.au

You are encouraged to consult with your course convenor/tutor/supervisor throughout this process, and to access the [ANU Academic Skills advice for dealing with feedback](#).

SUBMIT YOUR ABSTRACT

Please submit your abstract via the [ANU Student Research Conference abstract submission portal](#).

Please note, no abstract submissions are accepted via email, or after the abstract submission deadline of 11.59 p.m., 31 July.

Very best wishes for your abstract submission! Please don't hesitate to contact SRC staff with any questions or concerns: student.life@anu.edu.au