

### **Brief and formatting:**

Empower 2026 is a celebration of research and a chance to connect and share your work with researchers across the sciences and humanities. We welcome submissions from all STEM disciplines and backgrounds and hope to see a diverse range of poster topics.

We are looking for posters that introduce people to your field and show us what you are working on. We encourage submissions from early-stage as well as late-stage students. Results are not essential, and planned work is encouraged, but the poster should be on a project that you are currently working on or have previously worked on.

When creating your poster, remember that many attendees will be outside of your field, so it is important to introduce niche concepts and choose language that is accessible.

You can use any software you like to create your poster. There are no strict requirements for layout, but if you are unsure where to start, posters typically include the following sections:

- **Introduction** and background to the topic
- **Aim** - what are you hoping to achieve in your work
- **Method** - what is your approach to achieving your aim
- **Results** - optional - we know you may not have results yet!
- **Discussion** - on the main points from your results, method or planned work
- **Future** work - no Gantt charts :)

### **Advice:**

- Don't include too much text
- All text and figures should be necessary for the person viewing the poster
- Font size and image quality should be suitable for an A1 poster
- Avoid complex language
- The poster should be Portrait orientation
- The poster should contain "Empower 2026", author name and affiliation

*Aim for clarity, not complexity. The goal of communication is to be understood, not to impress.*

Some good links for creating a poster:

<https://www.posternerd.com/tutorials>

<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC5714380/>

### **Prizes and Judging:**

Posters will be judged by attendees based on the following points:

- Originality of research
- Visual presentation
- Clarity of communication

An independent panel will give the final decision for the award of the prizes to first, second and third place:

- First - £200
- Second - £150
- Third - £100

### **Attendance and presenting:**

The dedicated poster session is scheduled for **12:00 - 1:00 p.m.**, and the posters will be on display in the networking area for the duration of the event. If you will be submitting a poster, it is encouraged that you attend the poster session in order to answer any questions that may arise because this will make you stand out.

While we encourage you to attend during the poster session, we understand that people may be travelling from outside London and so may not be able to attend for the full duration. Nevertheless, we will still take cognisance of this in judging the posters.

We will print the poster at no cost to you. They will be printed in A1, so please ensure text and images are the correct size and quality. Following the event, you will be able to take the posters home with you (Poster printing typically costs £25+)

Any further questions, please reach out to **[blackdoctoralnetwork@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:blackdoctoralnetwork@imperial.ac.uk)**