Abstract Guidelines

General information and requirements

Submission	Language	Length
Until July 15	English (AE or BE)	max. 250 words

NOT accepted formats of research projects
case studies, literature reviews, and literature studies (exception: meta-analyses).

Necessary for submission
- Title - Field of research (one of the categories mentioned below. Note: If your exact field of research is not amongst the categories below, you can choose the category that is the closest to your field of research) - Abstract - 4 keywords

Tips and tricks for writing an abstract

There are no strict rules on how to write an abstract. Nonetheless, some unwritten rules exist that are being generally followed in the scientific community. Our team recommends reading the abstract guideline provided by *Nature,* which provides a great overview on how one could structure an abstract visualised by an example (https://cbs.umn.edu/sites/cbs.umn.edu/files/public/downloads/Annotated_Nature_abstract.pdf).

Further tips from the ESC team

An abstract is a summary of a research project's content which attracts the reader's attention and motivates to continue reading the paper. It should be a good reflection of the content that will follow in the paper. An abstract highlights the following questions:

- What was investigated?
- Why was the investigation performed?
- What results were thereby obtained?
- Why are these findings useful and/or important?

Generally, it is recommended to use formal, concise language and no contractions (e.g. don't, won't)

Most abstracts start off broad, but get specific quickly. The first one to two sentences (so-called topic sentences) should be understandable for researchers from different fields, too. When it comes to your findings, you can get specific. But avoid getting too much into detail, especially regarding the methods (meaning, do not copy paste protocols you used for your experiment). An exception hereof is if your research project was of methodological nature – again though, do not overdo it with details. No matter how small your research project was, always try to finish with an outlook, which can again be broader. You can, for example, mention experiments that should be done next to verify/complement your data, or estimate how your finding support/change the knowledge in your field. Having a thought-through outlook signals the jury that you have understood your topic.

Many results? - Focus on the most important ones. Make sure you provide a round story. If there's a side project which does not fit well into the overall topic, better leave it out in the abstract. If you mention results in your abstract that are not fully related to your topic it might cause confusion, Of course, you can always incorporate these on your poster/presentation later.

Very importantly, do not alter facts for the sake of simplification! Moreover, the European Students' Conference does not accept plagiarism in any form. If an abstract was to be found to be plagiarised it would lead to immediate disqualification from the ESC Contest. Writing an abstract is an opportunity to see if you can express your project in your own words.

Tips and tricks for the title and keywords

The title should be as concise but informative as possible and attract the reader's attention. It should not contain question. By rule of thumb, a title should contain max. 100 characters (including spaces).

Keywords are very important if you want your research paper to be found by the right audience in e.g. PubMed. Try to think of keywords as hashtags. Pick them as if you wanted to achieve that your abstract is found by as many people as possible who are looking for the content investigated in your project.

Research project categories

- Anaesthesiology/emergency medicine
- Anatomy
- Biotechnology/microbiology
- Cardiac/thoracic/vascular surgery
- Cardiology
- Dentistry
- Dermatology
- Endocrinology
- Gastroenterology
- General and visceral surgery
- Genetics/molecular biology/biochemistry
- Geriatrics
- Gynaecology
- Haematology
- Immunology
- Infectiology/pneumology
- Internal medicine

- Microbiology/infectiology
- Nephrology/urology
- Neurology
- Neurosciences
- Neurosurgery
- Oncology
- Otorhinolaryngology/ophthalmology
- Paediatrics
- Parasitology
- Pathology
- Pharmacology
- Physiology
- Psychiatry/psychology
- Public health
- Pulmonology
- Radiology
- Rheumatology
- Trauma surgery/orthopaedic surgery

We wish you good luck!

Your ESC Team