

RCN Education National Conference and Exhibition 2024

Criteria for abstract selection and top tips

1. Topic areas and descriptors

Please note, for inclusion in the conference programme, the Education Forum Committee will ONLY consider abstracts under the following topics:

New approaches in preregistration nurse and nursing associate education

Descriptor

Submissions in this area will be concerned with initiatives which underpin a nurturing education environment that develops student professional practice across apprenticeship, undergraduate and postgraduate provision. Examples may include initiatives focusing on building student communities of practice, innovative pedagogical approaches to learning, teaching and assessment, facilitating success, reducing attrition, addressing the student learning experience and the diverse needs of the student population. Innovations which have been co-produced with students would be particularly welcome in this area.

Sustaining and developing the nursing workforce from support workers to advanced practitioners

Descriptor

Submissions in this area will be concerned with innovations that focus on the current workforce in health and social care settings. Examples could include education partnerships to support staff development and career pathways from support workers to advanced practitioner and nurse consultants, creative approaches to lifelong learning and continuing professional development, and evolving education models which address staff well-being and recruitment and retention.

Innovations in inclusive education

Descriptor

Within this theme, we would include submissions that demonstrate commitment to diversity and inclusion within nurse education and acknowledge the need to embrace a workforce that is representative of the diversity found in the communities that we serve. We know that a diverse and inclusive workforce can help us to develop new ways of thinking leading to improvement and innovation in the way we work. We would particularly welcome submissions around supporting international nurses, neurodiversity and widening participation in nurse education.

The use of technology in nurse education

Descriptor

Education and leadership are essential for driving and shaping technological transformation across health and social care. Abstracts within this theme will focus on the use of technological advances to enhance nurse education, patient care and safety, and

professional practice. Submissions may include the use of technology-enhanced learning, artificial intelligence, virtual reality, augmented reality and simulation in nurse education.

We would also welcome submissions that explore approaches to enhancing digital literacy and technological confidence amongst learners.

Please note: the word limit must be adhered to, the AMS will automatically limit entry.

Word limits:

Aim of abstract	100 words
Abstract	300 words
Learning outcomes	100 words
Recommended reading titles	100 words

Abstract guidance notes

For all presentation formats the word limit is **300 words**. This also applies to individual papers that are submitted as part of a symposium.

When writing the 300 word abstract, authors should be careful not to include information which could identify the author/s, as abstracts are reviewed blind.

- Abstracts must clearly demonstrate an aspect of innovation in nursing education.
- Abstracts should be a clear concise summary of the main points from your presentation.
- The abstract should be jargon-free, indicate clear aims and objectives and clearly demonstrate the impact on nursing education and practice
- Recommended reading titles – if your submission does not have recommended reading titles please type in Not Applicable **3.4** All accepted abstracts will be published ‘as submitted’. It is therefore incumbent upon the author to ensure that the spelling, grammar and syntax is of an academic publishing standard.
- Posters will be allocated to a conference day and will be displayed for general viewing only.

Symposium guidance notes

- Each paper in a symposium will need to be submitted individually on the abstract management system. The 300 word limit excluding references and learning outcomes applies to individual papers submitted as part of a symposium.
- Authors of all papers should agree a consistent overarching symposium title in addition to their paper title in advance of making a submission. This will ensure that papers can be easily identified by administrators and grouped together for reviews.

The naming convention to follow is Symposium Title | Paper Title | Paper No

- Deep Space Explorations Symposium – Space Travel (1)
- Deep Space Explorations Symposium – Food in space (2)
- Deep Space Explorations Symposium – Sleeping in Space (3)

Review and scoring

The Scientific Committee reserve the right to change the mode of presentation if a different format is felt to be more appropriate for an accepted abstract.

The Scientific Committee will include the RCN Education Forum Committee and a number of selected, experienced reviewers. Each abstract will be anonymously assessed by 3 reviewers against the following 4 main criteria:

- rigour of approach
- advancing the art and science of nursing
- relevance to conference theme
- clarity of text

When writing abstracts with these criteria in mind writers should consider:

- Does this abstract illustrate how this work has been rigorously undertaken and developed and where appropriate, illustrate how it is contemporary or innovative?
- Does this abstract report on work that can be used in practice?
- Is the abstract relevant to the conference themes?
- Does the abstract read clearly and without jargon?

Sponsored educational events

The RCN offers sponsorship opportunities to organisations wishing to host their own educational sessions. Abstract submissions that align to a commercial entity maybe subject to additional review and managed under the programme of sponsored activity.

To discuss the options for sponsored educational events please email our [corporate relations team](#) or call [020 7647 3940](tel:02076473940).

Top tips for submitting a quality abstract

Before you start, be clear what aspect of your work you want to present. What will appeal to your audience?

To maximise the chances of your abstract being selected for presentation, it may be helpful to consider these factors:

- In what way(s) is your work innovative?
- Does your work relate to a contemporary issue facing the nursing community?
- How can your work and findings be linked to the wider context of the overarching conference theme?
- Does your work take into account equality, diversity and inclusion?
- Is your work relevant to the wider nursing / health care education and practice community? In what way?
- How is your work evidence-based and quality assured?
- Does your abstract clearly communicate the impact of your findings for nursing education and practice?

- Are there clear learning outcomes identified from your session?
- If submitting for a concurrent or symposia session, are the aims and objectives of your session achievable within the time allocated?
- How will your event add value to the conference? What learning will delegates take away with them that can be used in practice?

And some more general advice includes:

Do's	Dont's
Make sure you read and understand the abstract submitter guidelines.	Guess if you aren't clear what something means. If you have any queries or need clarification contact education@rcn.org.uk
Make sure your abstract is well written. Keep language simple and clear. Your abstract should aim to be a condensed summary of your method and findings.	Submit an abstract that's too short or lengthy, is too vague and doesn't make sense.
Make sure your abstract makes clear what your presentation is about: what was the subject of your project, what was discovered / the outcomes and how it was accomplished.	Submit an abstract that doesn't clearly communicate the aims and objectives of your work, methods and findings.
Use professional language making sure your information is easy to understand by a diverse audience.	Use abbreviations and jargon – remember abbreviations are not universal. Don't make any assumptions about your reader.
Ensure that there is a logical and coherent flow to the abstract.	Jump from one section to the next: your reader will not be familiar with your work so be methodical.
Review what you have written and carefully proofread before submitting. You could even ask a friend/colleague to do this.	Make basic spelling and grammar mistakes. If you haven't taken the time to read through it suggests you put through a last-minute submission.
Make sure you submit before the deadline: midnight on Monday 21 October 2024	Submit a panic abstract. A rushed submission put in at the last minute will not do your work justice.

If you have any queries or need guidance on submitting, please contact education@rcn.org.uk

We look forward to reviewing your submissions and welcoming you to the event.

RCN Education Conference Team.

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