

Criteria for the "student project" poster

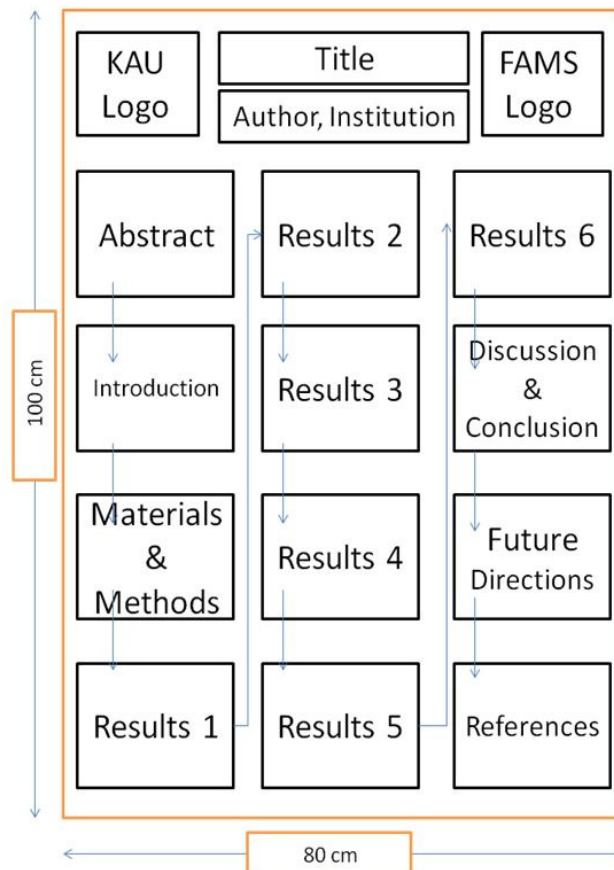
*** Required by all fifth year students of all departments.**

Posters are a special type of presentation. When well designed, they are not simply journal papers pasted onto boards. Nor are they mounted sets of presentation visuals. Rather, posters, when effectively designed, are something in between.

The purpose of scientific posters is to present work to an audience who is walking through a hallway or exhibit. In poster presentations at conferences, the presenter usually stands next to the poster, thus allowing for passers-by to engage in one-on-one discussions with the presenter. In other situations such as the hallways of laboratories, universities, and corporations, posters are stand-alone presentations for passers-by.

In preparing a poster, simplicity is the key. A poster should not contain a lot of details—the presenter can always communicate the fine points to interested participants. Keep in mind that the poster will be one of many in the exhibition area: You need to make sure that it will capture and hold the reader's attention.

Below is a recommended layout option. Note how the poster is read from left to right.
This layout allows many people to read your poster simultaneously.



Basic principles

- A poster is a *visual* presentation of information and should be designed as such - do not simply reproduce your written research in poster format.
- It should be understandable to the reader without verbal comment.
- Remember, you are trying to catch the people's attention.

Size:

- Height = 100cm
- Width = 80cm

Font:

- Times new roman

Elements of the Poster:

King Abdulaziz University Logo. This should be placed in the left upper corner. Please make sure to use the logo available at KAU website.

Faculty of Applied Medical Sciences Logo. This should be placed in the right upper corner. Please make sure to use the logo available at FAMS website.

Title: At the top of your poster you should have a title that is *brief but descriptive*. It should be the same as the title provided on your abstract. The title should be easily readable at a distance of about 1.5-2 meter away. It should be written in “active tense” if possible. Suggested font size: 72pt or larger.

Author(s) and Institution: The first name should be the name of the poster presenter, after this the authors are listed in the order of contribution to the work. The last name should always be your PI's name or the faculty member whose grant funds the research. Below the list of authors, include the department that houses your laboratory and the university.

Abstract: Your abstract should be identical to that which you submitted for the conference.

Introduction: Present any background necessary for the reader to understand your poster. Start with a general introduction to the field. Be brief, but include the important points to be sure the reader sees the relevance of your work. One page max length. Suggested font size: 20pt or larger.

Materials & Methods: You should clearly state the method you used for your study and the materials used to apply this method. This section is well written if others can repeat the same study using it and achieve the same results.

Results: Here you present data that you've collected in *support or denial* of your stated hypothesis/aims. Data is presented as a series of numbered figures. Make sure the Figure numbers are large (>20pt) so the reader can easily see the flow of the poster. Figures may be graphs, tables, photographs, illustrations, or diagrams.

If you have a methods oriented project or use an unusual technique, plan to explain these methods in your Figures. Otherwise, do not over-explain methods. Sequencing methods and common protocols should not be included in the figure.

All figures should have a **TITLE** and also a **FIGURE LEGEND**. Usually the title is the conclusion of the figure. The legend should give a full explanation of the data, including – where appropriate – color keys, scale, and any abbreviations used on the figure. The legend should walk the reader through the experiment at hand. Include in the legend a brief description of the method used.

Discussion & Conclusions: In this section you should explain in implication of your results and any agreement or disagreement with others researching in the same field. The conclusion should be stated as a series of bulleted items of the data you presented in your Figures. Be brief and to the point. If appropriate, mention any alternative explanations for your results and mention possible explanations for unexpected results.

Future Directions: In this section you should explain what you plan to do next on the project. Do your conclusions lead you to a new question? Are you considering trying a new method to answer your original question?

References: (Optional) Do not cite a paper unless you have read it yourself. Cite all your references in the text of the poster and list them in this section using a format from a major journal within your discipline.

Acknowledgements: (Optional) If you choose, you can acknowledge those who assisted you on or contributed to your research. This should include the funding source that paid you or provided the moneys used to buy reagents used in your study.

Tips for a good poster:

- Organize the information into sections.
- Try to keep your poster as attractive as possible.
- There should be balance and simplicity.

- Decide where you want to add graphics, photographs, graphs, etc.
- Do not try to present too much details.
- Leave enough white space - don't clutter the poster, it should have a clean and simple layout.
- Provide your name and contact details for people that might want to discuss it with you.
- Use images and graphics only when needed.
- When converting your poster to PDF, take care that your images are not degraded in the process. They may look fine on-screen but then look blurry or pixilated when printed as A1 or A0.
- The flow of information should be clear from the layout; if you have to use arrows to indicate the flow, the content could probably be arranged better.
- Clearly label diagrams/drawings and provide references to them in the text where necessary.

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