

Ruhr-University Poster Symposium in a nutshell

Poster Symposium is an annual event in Ruhr-University Bochum. Held by students for students within the Introduction to Scientific Community course, Poster Symposium provides the future scientists a room for practicing one of the most important skills – communication. Do not consider it only a Faculty of Chemistry and Biochemistry thing, alright? Poster Symposium provides a great experience, which goes beyond the scientific community.

The concept of Poster Symposium

On December 14, 2018, the event was opened at 10 o'clock with speeches of RUB professors' — Däschlein-Gessner and Plumeré — who explained their own vision of the event, trying to encourage students to talk to each other. During the entire event, between 10 and 12 o'clock, the presenters were discussing the studies themselves, their prospects, and sharing the vision of problems that the students tried to appeal for with the presented researches. So, communication really is what the whole event is all about.

What are these posters? Imagine that you have only one page to present the research on which you have been working hard for the past half a year. Only one page to combine figures, tables, and text in the most pleasant way for your audience – students and professors. Looks like a challenge, but that is what these posters are all about! They should be informative and clear so that visitors, who may be studying a whole different subject, grasp the essence of your paper easily. These posters are designed by 2nd-year master students themselves and reviewed afterward to ensure that the “product” is fit for its “consumers.” In the end, first year Master students were voting anonymously for their favorite poster. In 2018, Babak Farhadi-Jahromi (Supervisor: Prof. Rochus Schmidt) got the the most votes, second place was obtained by David Tezlaaf (Supervisor: Dr. Ulf-Peter Apfel) and third place by Michelle Schmidt (Supervisor: Prof. Viktoria Däschlein-Gessner).

Why should you go there?

Why one needs an event like that? The first idea that may pop up in your head may be like “To present and discuss your own work and research of others.” But, that's not the only cause, you know. The experience that you acquire there depends on what you are actually going to do during the event. There are three roles for Poster Symposium: organizer, presenter, or visitor. All of the 2nd-year master students present their posters, whereby the by 1st-year master students can choose between organizer or visitor. Let's see what each of these guys does.

Organizers are in charge of having the event running smoothly. They arrange the location, the time, and goodies for Poster Symposium. This team also registers visitors and presenters and counts the votes to decide which poster get an award. Obviously, after the Symposium, organizing a student party for these students becomes as easy as pie.

Presenters, as the role name implies, discuss, and defend their research, proving the research they were doing for such a long time is interesting and useful for others. Presenters are 2nd-year master students; so, yes, if you got that far, you are given this role.

Visitors, in their turn, can see what each group in the university does to find the department where it may be interesting for them to do an in-depth practical, carry out the research for master's thesis, or even apply for a Ph.D. or postdoc position. Both presenters and visitors can master their discussion skills; but while presenters “prove” that their work is valuable, visitors “challenge” this idea!

As a first-year Introduction to Scientific Community student, you can be either an organizer or visitor. To present your research, you need to attend this course for 1.5 years. If you are too busy to enroll the course, no worries, you still can come as a visitor.

You should really attend Poster Symposium - no matter what you study!

The Symposium provides the experience, knowledge, and skills that may not be used only in science. Just imagine that your boss asks you to present what your department has been doing the whole year in front of the board of directors – people who probably do not know who you are and what your department actually does. The experience acquired during the Introduction to Scientific Community course, and symposia like this one, can be applied literally everywhere. That is why it is good to see people from other faculties and beyond RUB on Poster Symposium in 2019.

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