

Virtual Undergraduate Research Showcase D 2020

Frequently Asked Questions

Why participate in the Virtual Undergraduate Research Showcase D 2020?

This showcase provides a way to share your MQP work and other research with the community. It is an opportunity for us to see the wonderful work that is done by WPI undergraduates. Research and open-ended inquiry are integral to the WPI Plan and the Major Qualifying Project is the capstone of a WPI undergraduate education and we need to show this off!

What will be the format for the showcase?

Your work for the WPI Virtual Research Showcase D 2020 will be communicated via

- a slide presentation describing your work and results, *and*
- a video that complements and supplements the slide presentation – *be as creative, reflective, as you want to be*

What is the process for registering and submitting?

First, [register here](#) to provide your project title and abstract (less than 750 characters) and provide information about your teammates and advisors. Only one registration per team, please.

After you submit your team's registration, the Virtual Undergraduate Research Showcase team will be in contact regarding next steps and instructions on how to submit your slides and video. The virtual showcase is currently open and can be found [here](#). We are continuing to add to it, so all new submissions are welcome!

How do I submit my slides and my video?

Email us your slides - any format, PowerPoint, Google Slides

Upload your videos - all formats

The [Submission Instructions document](#) provides clear directions for submission.

I have already registered for the showcase but I would like to make a change to the title, abstract, or something else on the form, can I do that?

Yes, you can. Please submit a new registration form and we will take the most recent registration and ignore the previous one. Please also email sweekes@wpi.edu to give us a heads-up about the change.

Why a video, too, and what do I put in the video?

With the video, we hope to hear your voice and hopefully, see your face. It adds some “human-ness” to your work. The video should complement and supplement the slides and can include many things that may not have been put in your slides.

Some suggestions as you think about what to put in your video:

- You can think of it as an extended abstract - What did you try? Did it fail? If it did, can you explain why it failed? What did you try next?
- Reflection – what have you gained from doing this research or design project - personally, technically, and professionally?
- How were you able to bring *Lehr und Kunst* - Theory and Practice - together in your work?
- Is there footage or images of your device, your simulation, your idea in action that you can add to your video? Would you like to add music?
- Were there things that you think you could have accomplished with your work, if you had been able to be on campus for D 2020 or if you had more time to work on it?
- Be creative, be you!

How can I make a video when I am away from campus and I do not have access to video editing software?

Your video can be as “simple” as recording yourself with your cell phone talking about your work and reflecting on what you have tried, learned, and grown over the course of your project and research work. It doesn’t have to be anything fancier than that! We just want to hear/see you and know more about you and your work.

It’s a good idea to write some sort of script for your video so that you make sure to hit all your talking points.

As a WPI student you also have access to video recording and video editing software even when you are away from campus. Camtasia is available to students for free under a special deal until June 1st. Just email helpdesk@wpi.edu and “request a Camtasia license key”.

Also, join the WPI [Global Lab Canvas](#) site and go to their Modules where you will find the **Virtual Undergraduate Research Showcase module** with information about using Zoom and other platforms to record and edit videos. There are also lots of other media training resources with easy audio, video and slide design tips. Additionally, the Global Lab also has graduate and undergraduate student consultants available to assist you in filming your videos, editing them and recording good-quality sound. Contact the Global Lab at: gr-global-lab@wpi.edu, or Drew Tisdelle ddtisdelle@wpi.edu if you have any questions and to set up meetings with media helpers!

Should the slides be accompanied by audio?

The slides should be voiceless and they could stand on their own. It is like when a visitor comes to a poster and reads it without you talking them through it.

Is it possible to participate without a video?

Both slides and video are needed to be part of the showcase.

Is there a limit to the number of slides I can submit or a limit to the length of the video?

We, the Office of Undergraduate Research, do not have a limit, in general, but we think that 10 minutes is quite long enough for a video and 10 slides is a good goal.

If your department is using this forum for its own purpose (like a review for Provost's MQP Award), then you must follow your department's guidelines.

We have more than one major on our project team, should we submit more than one registration?

Only [one registration form per project](#) is needed. On the registration form you will indicate the different majors of the students involved in the projects. We will make sure to put your submission on the page of each major.

What about intellectual property concerns? I think that our work might be patentable.

Many MQPs and research projects have been the subject of new patent applications. If you think you may have something unique that could be patentable, please email the Office of Technology and Communications OTC@wpi.edu so that it can be protected prior to sharing your work in any public forum including this showcase.