2026 ABSTRACT SUBMISSION GUIDELINES



Why apply

The Students in Health and Medical Research Conference (SHMRC) is an evening research symposium for the UWA Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, and a highlight of the academic year for the Western Australian Medical Students' Society (WAMSS). This evening brings together clinicians, researchers and the Western Australia health community for presentation of some of the fantastic research that is being conducted by students within the faculty. The 2026 SHMRC event will be held at Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research (North) on Tuesday, October 20th from 5:30 pm onwards.

Students presenting at the symposium are recognized for their achievements and have the opportunity to win cash prizes. We are hoping for the greatest number of applicants yet to showcase the work that they have completed as part of their research projects.

Who Can Apply

SHMRC is an opportunity for students to showcase research conducted as part of their studies or as an extracurricular activity. Individuals who meet the following criteria are eligible to submit an abstract for consideration at SHMRC 2026:

- The research work was done whilst enrolled as a student within a university.
- The applicant personally participated in the research work, which could include, the conception and design, or analysis and interpretation of data, and in drafting the abstract.
- The work was not conducted whilst employed in a research capacity.

If you are unsure of your eligibility, please contact us to discuss further.

For further guidance on the entry criteria please review the submission guidelines below.

Presentation Categories

There are three presentation categories available at SHMRC 2026. Applicants may select to have their abstract considered for all three categories, or any combination of categories of their preference.

Oral Presentations:

6 Minute Presentation: Successful applicants will be invited to give an 6-minute oral presentation, followed by a 2-minute question period. Slides to be submitted ahead of time, date to be determined.

3 Minute Presentation: Successful applicants will be invited to describe their research in 3 minutes followed by a 1 minute question period. Slides will be submitted ahead of time, date to be determined.

Poster Presentations: Successful applicants will be invited to present a poster on the evening of the conference.

Specific guidelines for each presentation category/type will be released once the abstract judging process is completed and presentations are allocated.

Prizes

All successful applicants will receive 2 additional complimentary tickets to the conference.

6 Minute Presentation Prize	$300
3 Minute Presentation Prize	$200
Poster Presentation Prize	$150
Audience choice presentation prize	$100
[New for 2026] Student-led research excellence award	$250

Optional Benefits

Professional Headshot

All presenters will have the opportunity to receive a professional headshot taken by the conference photographer on the event day.

UWA Research Repository Publication

This year SHMRC 2026 will be facilitating the optional publication of accepted abstracts in the UWA research repository.

Published authors will receive a UWA created DOI and associated URL, which can be used as evidence of presenting at SHMRC.

Abstract copies will only be downloadable from the repository by those with UWA accounts.

Abstract Submission

Persons submitting an abstract do so with the understanding that they will abide by the guidelines, conditions, deadlines, policies and decisions of the SHMRC Committee.

All abstracts must be submitted through the online application submission form by 11.59pm on Friday, 31 July 2026.

Applicants may submit multiple abstracts.

Abstracts must not have been presented at a previous SHMRC.

Abstracts should follow the abstract template and **must not exceed 250 words** (excluding title, authors and affiliated institutes).

Abstracts must be attached as a **WORD document**.

Abstracts should be structured as follows:

- **Title** (maximum of 15 words)
- **Authors and their affiliated institutions**. Underline the presenting author's name (your name).
- **Background**
- **Methods**
- **Results**
- **Conclusion**

It is possible to submit a 'work in progress/planning' abstract. This might include an introduction with background to the topic, the aims and hypotheses of the project, the study design, progress and where you are heading next with your research, and/or preliminary data if available.

Do not submit figures and tables in your abstract.

Presentation preference must be indicated on the abstract submission form (6 minute presentation, 3 minute thesis presentation, poster, or any combination of the above).

An offer will be preferentially made for an 6 minute presentation, followed by a three minute thesis presentation and lastly a poster, unless your preference specifies otherwise in the abstract submission form.

All abstracts will be subjected to anonymous and blinded peer review. The abstract scoring rubric is provided below.

How To Apply

Please access the SHMRC 2026 Abstract Submission Form through:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdotoJvBo-AlHeTQ73N1eeBk81hQEW_frXnRbYKGWCmzVxWyA/viewform?usp=dialog

Abstract template is available through:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1RS8jtxUgA01_pCJoHDeC0b465eq9CAL1/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=103937125065362798333&rtpof=true&sd=true

The deadline for submission is 11.59pm on Friday, 31 July 2026. No late submissions will be accepted.

Abstract Scoring Guide

This is the scoring sheet that will be provided to judges to score your abstracts.

For further queries please do not hesitate to contact our SHMRC 2026 Research Officers at research.shmrc@wamss.org.au

SHMRC 2026 Abstract Scoring Sheet

Presentation Title:

STRUCTURE & DETAIL	SCORE
Title / Structured Headings / Overall Presentation: 0 – 1 point Is the title specific, adequate and concise? Does it accurately describe the study population, intervention, methodology and outcomes?	
Background / Focus of Presentation / Research Questions (s): 0 – 2 points Is the context made clear? Is the scientific rationale clearly stated? Are the aims, objectives, hypotheses or research question(s) clearly stated?	
Methods: 0 – 3 points Are the methods and data sources clearly described? Are the analytical techniques specified? Are the methods appropriate to the question being investigated?	
Results / Findings: 0 – 2 points Are results available and described appropriately? Are the sample characteristics described? For quantitative studies, are confidence intervals and p values specified? For qualitative studies, are themes and/or categories presented systematically and meaningfully? For prospective studies, are proposed statistical analyses clearly described?	
Conclusions: 0 – 2 points Are the conclusions clear and concise? Do they reflect the aims and objectives? Are they supported by the results presented? Are key study limitations acknowledged? Where appropriate, are the implications made clear for policy, practice and further research?	
Structure & detail score (Note: minimum score for acceptance is 5)	**/10**
INTEREST, APPEAL & IMPACT	
Interest, appeal and impact: 0 – 2 points Is it interesting? Would it appeal to a broad audience? Does it have the potential to create impact (i.e. change clinical or public health practice or policy, improve health, reduce inequalities in health, change the course of science)? Is it novel/exciting/much better methodologically than other studies in the area? Does it address a research gap?	
Total score	**/12**