The 16th eSTEeM Annual Conference: SoTL Stories: Surfacing, Situating and Sharing

14-15 April 2027, Walton Hall and via MS Teams

Call for abstracts guidelines

At the heart of the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) is storytelling. Doing scholarship involves *surfacing* new stories from students and/or about teaching practice, *situating* those stories in the context in which learning takes place, and *sharing* them with others to inspire and create change.

The theme of this conference focuses on the power of storytelling. Communicating your SoTL projects and outcomes allows your audience to engage and helps us to feel connected in meaningful and relatable ways. Therefore, we would like to encourage proposals which tell a story. Think about what story you would like to tell us about and how you will tell the story e.g., setting the scene, describing what you did and highlighting what you have found and what it means to your module/faculty/the OU. You could also consider innovative ways of telling your story.

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The 16th eSTEeM Annual Conference invites the submission of abstracts for the following session types:

- Poster presentations
- Short oral presentations
- Workshops/walkshops/demonstrations

Submissions relating to the following themes are invited:

- Continuation and completion
- Access, Participation and Success
- Assessment and feedback
- Student support
- Employability
- Innovations in STEM teaching and learning
- International collaborations in STEM teaching and learning
- Sustainability in the STEM curriculum
- Other (please specify)

The conference will be hybrid with attendance welcomed in-person or online. However, we would like all presenters to attend and deliver their presentation in-person. If this is not possible, we may be able to accommodate online presentations. Please contact esteem@open.ac.uk to discuss your needs/requirements.

Presentations could be scheduled on either day of the conference so presenters should keep both dates available until notified of whether their abstract has been accepted.

Key dates for your diary

Submission of abstracts

w/c 16 November 2026	Call for abstracts opens.
17.00 on 15 January 2027	Submission deadline for abstracts.
5 February 2026	Presenters notified of outcome of abstract submissions.

Registration for conference

w/c 15 February 2027	Registration opens.
19 March 2027	Registration closes.
14-15 April 2027	The 16th eSTEeM Annual Conference: SoTL Stories: Surfacing, Situating and Sharing

Submission of posters and presentations

31 March 2027	Deadline for submission of PowerPoint posters and pre-recorded poster presentations.
9 April 2027	Deadline for submission of presentations (e.g., PowerPoint) for short orals and workshops/walkshops/demonstrations, if applicable.

Guidance on each session type

Poster presentations (Abstract 150 – 300 words)

A poster presentation session will take place in-person with posters being printed and displayed throughout the conference. In addition, as the conference is hybrid, poster presenters are also required to pre-record a voiceover to accompany their poster which should be a single PowerPoint slide suitable for viewing onscreen. You can be as creative/imaginative as you like, but the recording should be a **maximum of 2 minutes**. Recordings will be available to view prior to the conference allowing those delegates who are attending the conference online to watch the poster presentations.

For those in the early stages of their projects, posters should include a brief description of your project, what you're intending to do, how you are going to do it and what you're expecting to find/achieve/develop at the end of it. Alternatively, your poster can be an update on your progress so far or the outcomes of your project. Your poster may be accompanied by handouts.

All delegates will be invited to vote for the best poster presentation. The votes from in-person delegates and those from online participants will be collated to determine the winning poster.

Short oral presentations (Abstract 250 – 500 words)

Short oral presentations are part of a chaired session normally consisting of three 15-minute talks on a similar theme and leaving a further 3 minutes for questions and discussions. Presentations should discuss scholarship work in progress or recently completed projects. You may wish to consider delivering your talk in a more interactive/innovative format to allow for active audience engagement and participation.

As this conference is hybrid, please remember to design your presentation accordingly for both in-person and online attendees.

Workshops/walkshops/demonstrations (Abstract 250 – 500 words)

Workshop, walkshop or demonstration sessions are up to 1 hour. These sessions should provide participants with an opportunity to actively participate in practical activities. You may wish to allow time for debriefing with participants to discuss their experiences of the activity.

This year we encourage you to consider whether your workshop/demonstration could be delivered as a 'walkshop'. This involves taking participants on a guided walk around campus and the surrounding area, having prompted them in advance with a topic or topic(s) to discuss or reflect on as they walk. In the event of inclement weather, the discussions would take place in a seminar room offered in-person only, so you should be prepared for any eventuality!

Abstracts should provide a brief description detailing the hands-on elements of the activity/session.

We are also inviting workshop facilitators to indicate whether they would like to run their session in-person only, online only or hybrid. If you choose to run the session in hybrid mode, please remember to design your session accordingly ensuring you have enough project team members to facilitate and manage both the in-person and online participants.

Guidelines for abstract submissions

Please use the online abstract submission form.

Your abstract should be an accurate summary of the planned presentation/session.

All accepted abstracts will be published in the conference booklet.

The deadline for submissions is **17.00 Friday 15th January 2027,**

Use of AI guidance

If you choose to use GenAI in the creation of your abstract and/or conference content, then please ensure that you are aware of and adhere to the following –

- Generative AI End User Acceptable Use policy: This policy details acceptable use of GenAI tools for end users and sets out principles for permitted GenAI usage, details responsibilities and prohibited uses.
- Generative AI Acceptable Tools List: This document lists all OU recommended GenAI tools, tools permitted for low-risk purposes, tools recommended only for limited use and prohibited tools.

You must adhere to existing ethics and informed consent agreements regarding participant data, which must not be put into GenAI tools without prior explicit informed consent.

You will be required to disclose where you use content that GenAI has generated for you.

Further information

We will provide you with a PowerPoint poster template and arrange for the printing of your poster. It will be printed to A1 size and displayed on a poster board Recorded poster presentations will be made available via the eSTEeM YouTube channel.

Three or four short oral presentations will be grouped together and delivered back-to-back. PC/laptop and projection facilities will be available.

Presenter(s) of abstracts for the workshops/walkshops/demonstrations will be contacted to discuss their requirements.

Queries

If you have any queries, please contact esteem@open.ac.uk.