

Tips related to the content of your poster

Your poster should contain information typically required in an application package

Relevant work experience

Explicitly state your relevant work experience.

- Use descriptions that are quantitative and verifiable.
 - E.g., you should state, “Supervised 3 graduate students and 2 undergraduates on a project that culminated in a publication” instead of “Used effective communication to supervise a dynamic team that disseminated results to a broad audience.”

Consider highlighting relevant project(s) (especially if you are interested in research careers).

- Focus on how you used your skills to solve a problem since your problem-solving process and other related skills may be important to employers not in your research area.
- Technician-level positions may be interested in your proficiency with specific tools and instruments.

Other experience and skills

Educational history and interests

- Describe relevant coursework and course-related projects, especially if you have limited work experience.

Soft skills

- Again, include examples that are quantitative/verifiable if possible.
 - E.g., you should state, “Took a three-day training course on mentorship of undergraduates.”
- Other common examples: communication - list/describe presentations that you’ve given in the past; teamwork - consider group projects and collaborations; adaptability - recall instances where your projects suddenly changed and how you responded.

Culture and values

- Consider how you’d integrate into a culture that supports employees who have various backgrounds and life experiences.

The style/aesthetics should facilitate the communication of your career aspirations:

Make your text large enough that it is readable.

- You may want to scale your poster to a smaller size and print a draft on standard copy paper. If the scaled text is too small in that form, it will likely be too small on a poster.

Use effective graphics.

- Use images instead of “walls of text”
- E.g., find photographs of techniques and equipment that you have experience with; use graphics to communicate aspects related to soft skills.

Tips related to your elevator pitch

Your “elevator pitch” should summarize your background and career goals

Relevant work experience

Make your overall message clear

- i.e., clearly define what your career objective is.

Introduce yourself in your elevator pitch.

- “My name is XYZ, and I am a nth-year graduate student at ABC University, studying Major Focus Area.”

Highlight what you’ve done and then describe what you want to do.

- “I’ve spent n years researching Research Topic, where I discovered Something, which would make me a great candidate for a position in Interesting Field.

If you plan in advanced to meet with specific recruiters, end your pitch by describing how their company interests you. If not, consider memorizing a few questions to ask to potential recruiters to learn about their company.