

ESRC Poster Presenter Guide

A poster is a visual display of your research that is printed and displayed on a poster. Your job is to stand with it while you discuss with the ESRC mentors.



The 2026 ESRC will take place Thursday, 29 October from 7:45 – 10:00 PM in Harbour B at the Westin.

No formal presentations. No electricity or AV equipment. In addition to the poster boards, there will be tables throughout the room where people may gather if needed.

POSTER SPECIFICATIONS

Recommended Poster Size: 48 inches wide X 36 inches tall

- Posters are displayed on 6 foot wide X 4 foot tall double-sided fabric poster boards. Push pins will be provided by ILA. A 48"X36" poster will have a 12" border on each side.
- Your poster number will appear in the conference app (Whova) in October, and matching numbers will be on the display boards in your room.
- PowerPoint is the most common tool for creating posters. Free poster templates are widely available online
- Upload a PDF of your poster and other resources in the Whova app after the speaker center opens (optional).

PRINTING & GETTING IT THERE

Large-Format Posters Require a Print Shop. Plan Ahead.

- **Where to print:** Most local print shops offer large-format printing. Online printers are also an option – just leave enough time! Tip: Save your file as a print-ready PDF at the correct dimensions before submitting it to the print shop.
- **Allow time:** Don't wait until the last minute. Most shops need 1–2 business days for large-format prints. Online printers require greater lead time. Plan to have the printed poster in your hands at least a week before you travel.
- **Proof it first:** Print a reduced size copy before committing to the full size. Errors you missed on screen can be easier to spot on paper. Have someone else proofread it too.
- **Transporting it:** Roll your poster loosely and carry it in a poster tube (available at print shops, art supply stores, and online). Most tubes are carry-on friendly for flights, but if you

need to check it, tape the end caps securely. Never carry your poster unprotected; it can easily be creased or damaged.

DAY-OF TIMELINE

- Setup
 - **Arrive 5 Minutes Before the ESRC Begins.**
Locate your assigned board number and pin your poster. ILA provides push pins.
- Session
 - **Stand With Your Poster and Engage With Mentors**
Explain your work, answer questions, and receive feedback.
- After
 - **Remove Your Poster at the End of the ESRC**
Take your poster down as soon as the hosted session ends. Leave ILA's pins in the board.

TIPS FOR A GREAT POSTER

Balance Text and Visuals

Your poster should draw people in from across the room. Lead with a compelling title and include strong visuals.

Structure Poster for Scanning

People may not read every word; they'll scan. Use clear section headers so people can quickly orient themselves and ask informed questions.

Size and Contrast Matter

Your title should be readable from 8 feet away. Recommended body text is 24pt. High contrast between text and background is essential for ease of reading.

Prepare Your Pitch

Have a crisp, conversational summary ready to share your core ideas, why they matter, and what you found or propose. Practice until it feels natural.