



Join us in Lisbon!

2-3 April | Pre-conference workshops 1 April



The 9th international conference from The UCL Centre for Behaviour Change in partnership with the Behavioural Sciences Group at the NOVA National School of Public Health.

Submission guidelines for abstracts

Overview

Each abstract should be no more than 350 words. Abstract titles should be 15 words or fewer.

Contributors should select whether they are submitting under the heading of:

- [Research](#)
- [Knowledge in Practice](#)
- [Symposium](#)
- [Panel discussion / debate](#)

We specifically encourage submissions from non-academic sectors (such as industry, charities, NGOs, government departments) which would typically fall into the 'Knowledge in Practice' category.

Both 'Research' and 'Knowledge in Practice' submissions can be for oral or poster presentation.

We are also seeking proposals for workshops and creative ideation sessions, to take place on the pre-conference day (1st April). There is a separate process for this, please visit our website (www.ucl.ac.uk/conference-2025) for more information.

Virtual attendance

We encourage authors to attend the conference in person, but understand that this may not be possible for everyone. We offer the option to submit research for virtual posters.

Submission limits

You can submit a maximum of **two research abstracts** or **two knowledge in practice abstracts** (or one of each), to be considered for a maximum of **one oral presentation** and **one poster**.

In addition, you can contribute to a maximum of **one symposium** and **one workshop**. There is no limit on the number of non-presenting co-author contributions.

Review process

Abstracts will be reviewed by two external experts, with author identity hidden, from the Scientific Committee. The Scientific Committee will make the final decision on the inclusion of abstracts and on the presentation format (oral or poster, for research and knowledge in practice abstracts).

Please note that the names of reviewers and committee members will be published with the conference programme.

For the review process, the following criteria will be used:

1. **Importance/Strategic Value:** the findings are generalizable and help to advance the science of behaviour change and/or have strategic value,
2. **Originality:** the application, topic or methods are innovative,
3. **Clarity:** the abstract clearly sets out what was done, why and what was found,
4. **Completed data collection and analysis:** data to be collected and analysed by date of conference,
5. **Strength of Methodology:** methods are appropriate to the research aims (applicable to research abstracts only).

Research Abstracts

Research abstracts typically present original research, including research in an applied setting. Often, these pieces of work will have involved an academic researcher.

Abstracts submitted under this category should:

- Be related to behaviour change research for health (either digital or non-digital) and/or sustainability
- Be structured with the following headings (unless there are good reasons not to):
 - Rationale and aims
 - Methods (e.g. experiment, RCT, survey, interview study, think-aloud study, observational study, systematic review)
 - Findings
 - Conclusions
- Abstracts involving primary research (rather than reviews or conceptual analyses) must have received appropriate ethical approval and followed the appropriate standards of ethics in research
- Research where data collection and analyses are completed at time of submission will usually be given priority for oral presentations (or where a persuasive case is provided that the results will be available by the time of the conference)

Research abstracts that are selected for oral presentations will be given a maximum of 10 minutes in total. This is to include up to 7 minutes for presentation to allow for 3 minutes for questions.

Knowledge in Practice Abstracts

Knowledge in practice abstracts typically showcase projects or products that were conducted / developed in a non-academic context.

While abstracts may follow a similar format to the research abstracts, it is not necessary for all abstracts submitted in this category to be structured in a specific format.

Abstracts submitted under this category should:

- Showcase aims and/or results of the project or product and be clearly related to behaviour change in health or sustainability,
- Include a description of what will be presented and how the project/product was developed, tested and used (i.e. methods).

Abstracts which report on the results of a project will usually be given priority.

Innovative product descriptions or demonstrations may be included in a dedicated demonstration session depending on the number of submissions.

Knowledge in practice abstracts that are selected for oral presentations will be given a maximum of 10 minutes in total. This is to include up to 7 minutes for presentation to allow for 3 minutes for questions.

Symposia Proposals

Abstracts under this category should describe a series of 'research abstracts' focused on a particular topic relating to behaviour change for health and/ or sustainability. This includes four slots from different authors on a related topic. Please note that the total time for a symposium is 1h 15 minutes.

Symposia proposals should include:

- An overarching abstract: title and summary of the symposium, describing the importance and relevance of the symposium and how the presentations fit together. (max. 350 words)
- Title of each oral presentation by author
- Name of the first author, including their institutional affiliation, and name(s) and institutional affiliation(s) of the co-author(s)
- Abstract for each presentation (max. 350 words), which should follow the guidelines for research abstracts
- The name of the convenor and their institutional affiliation: this person should have overall responsibility for organizing the symposium. This person can also present an abstract.
- The name of the chair and their institutional affiliation: this person should facilitate discussion during the symposium. The chair may be the same person as the convenor or an author of one of the symposium presentations.
- The name of a discussant and their institutional affiliation: this person should ideally be external to the work presented, and will summarise and reflect on the abstracts presented

The chair and all presenters should attend the conference in person. Please contact us if this will not be possible.

All this information should be submitted at the same time by the symposia convenor.

Panel discussion/debate abstracts

Panel discussions / debates are welcome on any topic relating to behaviour change for health or sustainability.

Panel discussions / debates will be allocated 60 minutes. It should be planned that at least 50% of the time allocation is for audience participation.

Abstracts submitted under this category should include:

- The name of the convenor and their institutional affiliation: this person should have overall responsibility for organizing the panel discussion / debate and will lead the discussion
- The names of 3-4 panellists and their institutional affiliation
- A title and an overview abstract (max. 350 words) using the following headings: objectives, rationale and summary
- A summary of each panellist's contribution outlining their focus or approach (max 350 words each)

We encourage you to, where possible, make efforts to diversify your panel.

The convenor and all panellists should attend the conference in person. Please contact us if this will not be possible.

All this information should be submitted at the same time by the discussion convenor.