Drafting a Conference Proposal

Tips for crafting a successful conference presentation

28 November 2024

What's the Widening Participation Conference?

- Every year, the Widening Participation team hosts a student and staff-facing conference to share successes and challenges of Widening Participation work and student experiences at the University.

- Students and staff provide session content for conference attendees, based on projects, interventions, and lived experiences.

- This year, the theme of the conference is **Widening Participation at Warwick: Past, Present, and Future**, to help us reflect on WP work and look forward at new developments.

Types of proposals

Insight Talks (20 minutes)

- Short talks that highlight a specific element of WP work or student journeys.

- Can include slide presentations.

- Should leave time for questions and answers.

- Will be part of a set of talks (usually 2-3 are presented together).

Interactive Workshops (45 minutes)

- An opportunity to deliver a longer session, covering a topic in more depth.

- These should be interactive and include activities, reflection/ discussion time, or other means to engage attendees.

- We can provide materials including things like flipchart paper and markers.

Examples of Insight Talks

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You Are What You Think ↗ ▣

"You are no more than what you believe about yourself, your abilities and the life you can attain". This student-led presentation stresses the importance of self-perception in student success and attainment in life. It exposes the overlooked influence of self-perception on our ability to succeed. Where we typically derive our self-awareness from (situational background, family, socioeconomic status etc). And how we release ourselves from the constraints of those origins and establish new ties with updated versions of ourselves and our abilities, allowing us to pursue and achieve the fullness of our potential and take hold of all life has to offer.

The Walk of Shame: Measuring Success from My Council Estate Room ↗ ▣

Success translates to different outcomes depending on the person. For many students from widening participation backgrounds, there is added pressure on the outcomes of success. Through testimonials and lived experiences, we will be exploring what student success means to us.

"Empowerment through Engagement": My WP Journey and the Path Forward at Warwick' ↗ ▣

Join us for a personal exploration of life as a WP student at Warwick. This session narrates the impactful journey of navigating university life on a full bursary, sharing not just the challenges and triumphs but also the late-discovered yet life-altering WP opportunities. Hear first-hand accounts from multiple WP bursary recipients, discover the unity fostered through the Warwick Participation Student Network (WPSN) events, and understand what student success truly entails from our diverse perspectives. This narrative aims to inspire and guide new WP students to engage early and fully with the wealth of support available, ensuring they too are not solitary sojourners in their academic voyage.

Examples of Interactive Workshops

<u>**Workshop E - Foundation Year Experience - raising aspirations both within and beyond Warwick Business School**</u> ☑ 🄿

We are pleased to share the amazing things our Foundation Year students at WBS do. In this session, both existing and former Foundation Year students will share their lived experiences, including the highs and lows of the Foundation Year as well as their transition into direct entry.

Workshop E - 'Connecting Voices of WP Students and Staff: A Guide' - Student Led 🄿 *Presentation* ☑
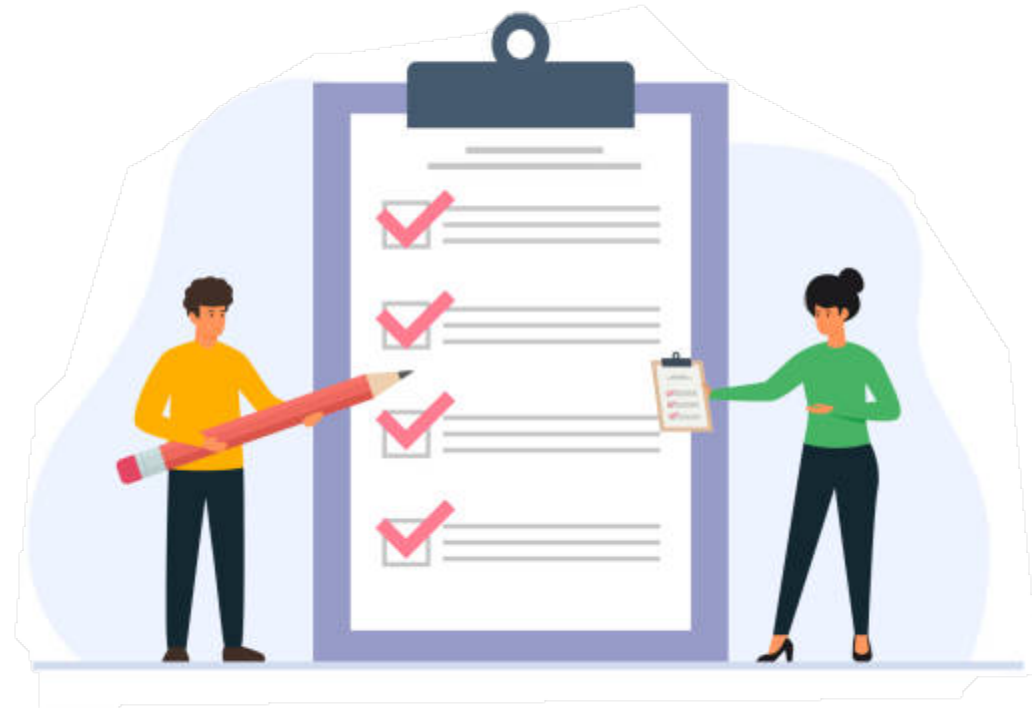
Student voice is an integral part of the university experience, and feeling represented and listened to by staff can make a real difference to underrepresented student groups. This workshop will aim to help staff identify networks in which they can actively engage with Widening Participation student groups, and also to effectively address student concerns with WP-specific issues, including financial hardship and caring responsibilities. The aim is to be more informed about how to support with these issues empathetically, and how to identify these voices within the student body.

Discussion point

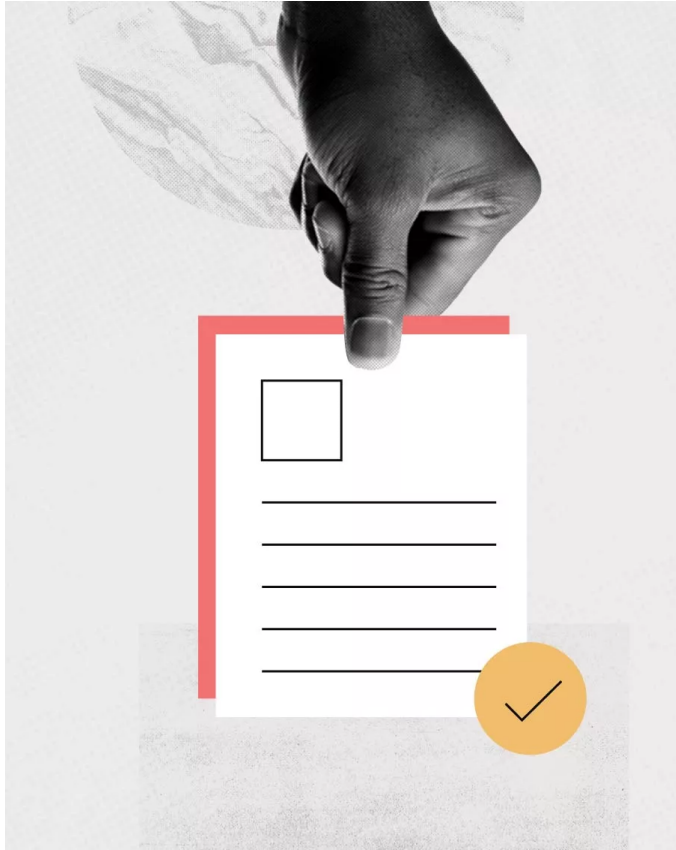How could Warwick improve mature students' sense of belonging?

What's involved in writing a proposal?

- You'll need to fill in the session proposal form, which will ask you to include:
  - Which session type you want to run
  - Any additional speakers (students or staff) you will have
  - Title of your session
  - Short blurb (max 100 words) to feature in the programme
  - How the session will explore the conference theme
  - Resources you might need to run the session

- If you're successful, you will need to:
  - Put together slides to present on the day
  - Develop your interactive element
  - Attend the conference and present!

What should your proposal include?

- Be sure your proposal addresses the conference theme and explores at least one element of WP work or experiences.

- Consider sharing your own lived experience, if you feel comfortable doing so.

- Use your own research, classwork, society/social experiences, or reflections you have as a student as a starting point for a session.

- If you're proposing an interactive workshop, be sure there are interactive elements.

- 100 words is short – use them wisely!

- If you're collaborating on a project or nervous to present on your own, submit a joint proposal with friends, classmates, other students, or staff members!

Tips for writing a proposal

Make your session title catchy and interesting

Ensure your proposal is clear and includes what you want attendees to get out of it

Propose a session on a topic you're passionate about

Use data and evidence to back up your topic and consider multiple student experiences

Consider your audience: who is your session for

When in doubt, address the five W's: who, what, where, when, why (and how)

Submission Logistics

- You can <u>submit your proposal</u> on our website.

- The deadline to apply is **Friday 10 January 2025!**

- Look at previous year's programmes to get a feel for sessions (including titles, short blurbs, and presentation slides).

- If you need any support or have any questions, contact us at wpcommunity@warwick.ac.uk.

Thank you for listening

Any questions?

wpcommunity@warwick.ac.uk