

Call for submissions

NET 2024 - Igniting change: breaking boundaries with digital innovation and creativity in healthcare education.

A conference brought to you by the Networking and Innovation in Healthcare Education committee and Advance HE.

Date: 11 December 2024

Location: Virtual

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1. Call for submissions

The NET Conference Committee and Advance HE invite all healthcare educators, both in the UK and internationally, to submit abstracts for sessions at their forthcoming conference, **NET 2024 - Igniting change: breaking boundaries with digital innovation and creativity in healthcare education**, taking place virtually on 11 December 2024.

NET is the leading, international conference for networking in healthcare education. Over the years, NET's networking opportunities have spawned both national and international collaborations in research and education developments. 2024's event will take place virtually, switching back to in-person in 2025.

The NET conference sees a range of healthcare education professionals attending and would include anyone in the fields of: nursing, counselling, dentistry, dietetics, general practice medicine, occupational therapy, oncology, paramedic medicine, pharmacy, physiotherapy, psychology, radiography, radiology, speech and language therapy, veterinary surgery and more.

The diversity of attendees from across the range of healthcare professions enriches the conference discussions and debates, and stimulate the cross-fertilisation of ideas, adding invaluable insights, understanding, and learning from each other.

Networking is at the heart of every conference, which provides a supportive, friendly, and engaging environment for all delegates, particularly for new presenters, to ensure that this important rite of passage is a positive and rewarding experience. In the words of recent delegates, NET is:

'such an inclusive, collegial and welcoming conference';

'a vibrant event with a good buzz about it'

'as a new presenter and first-time delegate, I felt supported and inspired';

'there was an air of positivity and joy'. "As one of the student presenters, I was very excited to be a representative for the Physician Associate programme and be an ambassador for the profession on a global educational platform" (NET2021).

2. Submission process

Abstracts should be submitted to our online site at:

https://advancehe.smapply.org/prog/net_conference_2024

On the online form you will be asked for the following:

- Acceptance of Advance HE's privacy policy.
- Acceptance of the conference submission terms and conditions – please read these carefully.
- Contact details for the main session presenter and any co-presenters of the session.
- A 100-word promotional abstract of your session for marketing purposes only. This section **will not** be included for review by our Scientific Panel and as such should not be perceived as an introductory or background statement for your submission.
- The type of session you are submitting (oral presentation, poster or vlog).
- The theme to which your session most closely aligns.
- A summary of your proposed session, with a maximum word count of 500 words. Summaries should include: background to your research or innovation or why an issue should be raised for debate (including positioning within current literature or recent trends and any international relevance); research methodology (research papers only); key findings from your research or innovation; what lessons conference delegates will learn from your session; why this topic is relevant to the healthcare sector.
- Full references for all citations included in your submission, in full Harvard style.
- Five keywords relating to your session (to assist with scheduling the conference programme)

3. Conference themes

Through the four themes outlined below, the NET2024 conference will focus on ***Igniting change: breaking boundaries with digital innovation and creativity in healthcare education***. With this year's conference being virtual we wanted to explore creative ways the healthcare education sector is embracing the fast-changing educational environment.

The four thematic areas below highlight some key elements of the learning journey and how we are innovating to develop the healthcare workforce and support the delivery of excellence.

Innovating healthcare education; now and in the future

This theme will consider an array of submissions which address current innovations and future directions in healthcare education. We encourage contributions which highlight novel approaches to teaching and learning, integration of technology, curriculum development and strategies for enhancing student engagement and success in diverse healthcare settings.

We welcome abstracts that explore but is not limited to:

- Innovative teaching and learning methodologies
- Curriculum design and assessment strategies
- Inclusive education practices that support underrepresented groups
- Approaches to embedding a sense of belonging and identity in learners
- Strategies for effective student engagement and retention
- Data driven approaches to evaluate and enhance educational outcomes
- The impact of online, blended and hybrid learning models on healthcare education
- Development of resilience, self-efficacy and other key attributes in students
- Evidence-based initiatives and practice which demonstrate successful educational innovations

Digital practices, AI, simulation and gamification

This theme seeks to explore the latest advancements and future possibilities in digital practices, artificial intelligence, simulation and gamification. We encourage submissions which showcase innovative application of these technologies, their impact on teaching and learning and strategies for integrating them into healthcare education.

We welcome abstracts which explore but is not limited to:

- The use of AI in personalised learning and student assessment
- Development and implementation of simulation based education
- Gamification techniques to enhance learner engagement and motivation
- Digital tools and platforms for interactive and immersive learning experiences
- The role of virtual and augmented reality in healthcare training
- Data analytics and machine learning for improved educational outcomes
- Ethical considerations and challenges in adopting digital technologies
- Case studies and best practices highlighting the integration of digital innovations
- Impact of digital practises on student retention and success

Creativity and sustainability in the design and delivery of healthcare education

This theme will consider innovative and sustainable approaches in healthcare education. We encourage submissions which demonstrate creative strategies, sustainable practices and their impact on educational outcomes and the healthcare sector.

We welcome abstracts which explore but is not limited to:

- Innovative curriculum design and pedagogical approaches
- Sustainable practices in healthcare education
- Integration of creativity in teaching and learning methods
- Development of eco-friendly resource and materials
- Strategies for promoting sustainability in healthcare education and training environments
- Approaches to fostering a culture of sustainability amongst students and educators
- Impact of creative and sustainable practices on the student experience, engagement and retention
- Exploring the financial sustainability of our sector

The student experience and supporting the student journey (for example mental health, finance, remote students, placements)

This theme aims to address the multi-faceted aspects of the student experience, including mental health, financial support, remote learning and placements. We encourage submissions which highlight effective practices, innovative solutions and impactful research in supporting students throughout their educational journeys.

We welcome abstracts which explore but is not limited to:

- Strategies for supporting student mental health and wellbeing
- Financial support mechanisms
- Approaches to engaging and supporting remote learners
- Best practices in managing and optimising placement experiences
- Technology and tools to enhance the student experience
- Policies and frameworks for improving student retention and success
- Insights into student voice and feedback and its role in shaping support services

4. Session types

For the 2024 conference, presenters are welcome to submit abstracts relating to the following session types:

- Oral presentations for themed sessions
- Vlogs/Posters.

All session types should relate to one of the four conference themes listed above.

All presenters and co-presenters will be expected to register for the conference in order to deliver their session and be active participants in the conference.

All submissions must:

- be clearly written in English and demonstrate academic rigour and scholarship;
- be relevant to the selected sub-theme;
- adhere to assigned word limits;
- include clear implications for healthcare education tomorrow;
- address the interests of an international, multidisciplinary healthcare audience;
- be free from jargon or 'shorthand' and any abbreviations should be spelled out in full;
- include full references, using the Harvard referencing style (excluded from word limits).

Submissions will be reviewed against the following criteria:

- demonstration of academic rigour and scholarship;
- relevance to the selected theme;
- evidence of understanding current issues and relevant debates;
- transferability to a variety of settings and healthcare professions;
- inclusion of clear implications for healthcare education tomorrow; and
- addressing the interests of an international, multidisciplinary healthcare audience.

a. Oral presentations for themed sessions

Themed sessions are designed to allow a meaningful and in-depth discussion around one of the conference's themes. Your presentation will be no more than 20 minutes in length to leave 5 mins for Q&A. Your presentation will be grouped alongside 3 or 4 other similarly themed sessions and once all presentations have been delivered, the remaining time within the session will be focused on questions for the presenters and discussion around the session's theme. All themed sessions will be chaired by an experienced convenor who will facilitate the session, including overseeing the timings. All presenters should be prepared to remain in the session for the full duration, answer questions from delegates and contribute to the theme group discussion.

Submissions for oral presentations should relate to either **research studies** or **innovation projects** undertaken or in progress at your institution.

Research studies should focus on the education of healthcare professionals and have implications for learning, teaching or assessment. This is an opportunity to present a fully completed study, a completed phase of a study or a systematic review. Submissions should acknowledge the international relevance of the research and its impact on healthcare education practice in higher education (HE). A study, or phase of a study, must be complete with the data available and analysed by the time of presentation at the beginning of December 2024.

Innovation projects are an opportunity to present educational innovations/developments that have been implemented in one or a small number of sites and their contribution and value evaluated. These presentations are intended to trigger debate about how small-scale innovations may be useful in other settings. They may include reports of innovations in clinical practice, together with the implications for educational development and change.

b. Vlogs/Posters

Posters can be in the traditional form or recorded as a short Vlog of no more than 2-3 minutes. They must address topical and innovative issues relating to the future of healthcare education. They allow you to present preliminary findings of a project/study that may not yet be complete. They may include reports of clinical practice developments, provided they include implications for educational development and change.

Posters and Vlogs will be added to our Event App in advance of the conference to encourage early viewing with time set aside on the day of the conference to informally talk and engage in discussion with delegates; they do not need to include a formal presentation.

Poster presenters should be produced in either portrait or landscape orientation but should not exceed A1 (in landscape) or A0 (in portrait).

Vlog presenters are encouraged to submit a 2-3 min video talking through their submission in a video format (mp4).

Tips and guidance on preparing an academic poster can be found on the Advance HE website at: <https://www.advance-he.ac.uk/sites/default/files/2019-05/Tips-and-guidance-on-preparing-an-academic-poster-FINAL.pdf>

5. Important information

Please note, if your abstract is accepted for the conference, you and any co-presenters will be expected to register as **paying delegates** for the conference. Presenters will be provided with a 10% presenter discount code provided the booking is completed by the deadline. Online bookings are now open.

Delegate fees

- One-day virtual conference - £223 Early booking rate currently open until 15 October 2024, Standard rate thereafter is £235.

Key dates

- **7 October 2024:** Authors will be informed of acceptance of submission.
- **8 November 2024:** Authors to confirm attendance at conference
- **15 November 2024:** Deadline for all presenters to book their place at the conference and end of presenter discount.
- **2 December 2024:** Submission of pre-recordings, PPT presentations and resources.

Presenter availability

The conference takes place on 11 December 2024. Presenters will be made aware of the time of their session no later than **7 October 2024**. Please ensure that you are available to attend the conference for the full day.

Co-presenters and responsibilities

Please include all co-presenters on the submission form. Please note:

- **All presenters** listed on the form should attend the conference if the session is accepted, and each will be expected to register for the conference.
- If your session is accepted for the conference, **lead presenters** are required to **confirm that they accept** the offer to present. Please ensure that you have agreed with your department or line manager that funding (if required) for your place at the conference is available, **before** confirming your acceptance.
- All presenters, **including co-presenters**, need to have booked onto the conference by **15 November 2024**. Please note any presenters booking after this date will not be eligible for the 10% presenter discount.
- It is the responsibility of the **lead presenter** to pass on all relevant details to any co-presenters, as correspondence in the first instance will be sent to the lead presenter only.
- It is the responsibility of the **lead presenter** to inform Advance HE at the earliest opportunity of any changes to the session title or content, or of any circumstances that prevent presenters attending the conference that could lead to the session being withdrawn.
- It is the responsibility of the **lead presenter** to submit all pre-recordings, PPTs and resources to the conference team by **2 December 2024**.

Materials and handouts

We encourage presenters to provide further information and resources during sessions, these can be added as resources accessible to all before during and after the conference and shared via web links or QR codes.

Attendee numbers

As there is no requirement for delegates to sign up to specific sessions at the conference, we are unable to guarantee audience numbers at any session.

Accessibility

We will provide presenters with clear Advance HE guidance on the accessibility of presentations, and it is expected that all presenters adhere to this guidance and ensure that any presentations and virtual resources meet them.

Privacy policy

All the information supplied on the submission forms will be stored by Advance HE in paper and/or electronic format for the purposes of administration of the conference. Additionally, except where stated otherwise, information supplied in submission forms may be published in the conference app, on the conference website and Advance HE blog pages.

For further information regarding Advance HE's programmes and events privacy policy, please visit: <https://www.advance-he.ac.uk/programmes-events/privacy-policy>

By completing the submission form you are agreeing to your data being used in the above manner.

Contact us

If you have any queries about the conference, please contact conference@advance-he.ac.uk

We look forward to welcoming you to NET24!