



IMAT Student Poster Competition

Overview and Eligibility

The ASM Emerging Professionals Committee sponsors the IMAT student poster competition for undergraduates and graduates. Students may enter only the competition matching their academic status at the time of the conference. Postdoctoral researchers are not eligible.

The competition recognizes three winners:

- **1st Place:** \$250
- **2nd Place:** \$150
- **3rd Place:** \$100

Winners will be announced on Wednesday in the Exhibit Hall – Industry Forum.

Eligibility Requirements

- Students may submit their abstract to only one location at IMAT. Abstracts submitted to this contest may not also be submitted to another IMAT symposium for oral or poster presentation.
- Undergraduate posters may feature work completed at the student's home institution, through summer internships, REU programs, or co-op experiences.

Poster Requirements and Judging Format

- Each poster will be evaluated by at least two post-graduate, non-student volunteer judges, ideally representing industry, academia, and government.
- Poster size: Maximum of 3' x 4' (landscape) or 4' x 3' (portrait). Oversized posters will not be displayed or eligible for the competition.
- Students must bring their own printed posters and display them in their assigned locations before judging. Posters will not be printed on-site.
- Posters must remain on display throughout the assigned session.

Judging typically lasts two hours:

- First hour: Judges review posters without presenters present.
- Second hour: Students must be present to discuss their work and answer questions.

Student Presentation Guidelines

Students should prepare an approximately five-minute overview that includes:

- Introduction: Name, university, year of study, and collaborators, if applicable.
- Objectives: Research hypothesis or objective and relevant background.
- Methods and Results: Research approach and findings to date.
- Conclusions: Key takeaways, whether the objectives were addressed, and any ongoing or future work.

Guidelines for Judges

- Introduce yourself as a member of the judging team.
- Evaluate both the scientific content and presentation using the attached 48-point scoring rubric.
- Ask questions to clarify the research and assess the student's understanding. If a scoring criterion is not addressed, ask about it directly when appropriate.
- Consider the student's academic level and available institutional resources when evaluating the work.
- Maintain a respectful, constructive tone. Aggressive or dismissive questioning is not appropriate.

Scoring and Award Finalization

The rubric contains eight criteria, each scored from 0–6, for a maximum of 48 points.

Judges must return completed score sheets to the designated contest coordinator on-site within 30 minutes of the judging session ending.

ASM staff will calculate the average scores from all submitted score sheets. Winners are selected based on the highest average scores. In the event of a tie, ASM staff will consult available judges and consider qualitative comments and overall impressions. Judges are encouraged to include brief comments to support evaluations.

Student Feedback

Judges are encouraged to provide brief, constructive comments on their score sheets. After awards are finalized, organizers may share completed score sheets with students who request feedback. Judges may also provide verbal feedback when requested.



IMAT Student Poster Competition - Judging Rubric

Author Name
Title
Judge
Total Score

Score each from 0–6	0–6
1. Scientific Merit: Is the work meaningful, well-designed, and technically sound?	
2. Completeness & Rigor: Are the methods, analysis, and conclusions logical, thorough, and well supported by the evidence?	
3. Impact: Does the work address an important materials science or engineering problem, and does it have potential significance or application?	
4. Originality: Does the work present new ideas, data, methods, approaches, or insights?	
5. Clarity of Poster: Is the research clearly presented, well written, and easy to understand?	
6. Visual Quality: Are figures, tables, graphics, and layout effective, readable, and well organized?	
7. Story & Objectives: Are the objectives clearly stated, and does the poster present a logical connection between the objectives, methods, results, and conclusions?	
8. Presenter Interaction: Is the presenter able to clearly explain the research and respond effectively to questions?	
TOTAL OUT OF 48	
Comments:	

Scoring

6 = Exceptional: Outstanding work with no meaningful weaknesses

4–5 = Strong: Very good work with only minor weaknesses

2–3 = Adequate: Meets expectations but has noticeable gaps or weaknesses

0–1 = Needs Improvement: Significant problems, major weaknesses, or incomplete work