

# HOW TO...

## WRITE A GREAT ABSTRACT

If you're thinking of submitting an abstract to the Annual Conference or a Focused Meeting, here is some guidance to give you the best chance of it being accepted.

Remember: fellow delegates will plan their conference on the basis of abstracts of interest, so it's important to lay your work out in a way that will encourage others to visit your poster or attend your talk while still remaining objective about the data.

### Structure

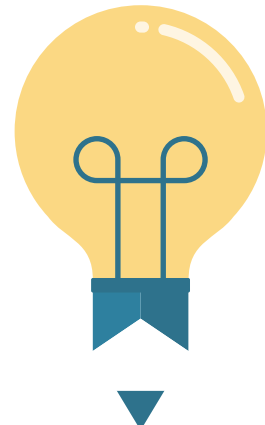
**Length** – abstracts for Microbiology Society meetings should be 200–250 words in length.

**Background** – this should be around two sentences summarising the scientific basis of your work.

**Methods** – this should be the second longest section of your abstract, outlining the methods used to achieve your results.

**Results** – this should take up the majority of your abstract, detailing your findings which should be stated objectively and include specific reference to the data you have obtained.

**Conclusion** – this should be two sentences setting your results in context of the wider research area.



To find out more about our presentation requirements see [microbiologysociety.org/conferences](https://microbiologysociety.org/conferences)

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## Top Tips

Make sure your title is informative – this is your first chance to engage the reader.

Focus on the novel aspect of your research: why should you have the chance to present your work?

Be concise. Use clear, scientific language.

Don't include figures in your abstract, instead refer to your data and describe statistical tests.

“ In a good abstract, the point of the research is clear; the fact that something has actually been discovered using a robust technique and an appreciation of subsequent applicability or extension for the work is evident. ”

Dr Kim Hardie, University of Nottingham

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