

Call for papers

The EYFE2018 programme committee welcomes a wide variety of submissions within the conference themes.

Themes

From Excitement to Expectations to Experiences

We invite submissions within this theme to share results of research, experience and evidence-based practice on the transition to university, student retention and study success.

From Excitement to Expectations addresses admission, matching and selection of students before they begin their programme of choice: 'the right student in the right place'. An example is the mandatory matching system in the Netherlands which has enhanced the student success rate.

From Expectations to Experiences is all about mentoring and guidance of students throughout their programme, in regard to personal development as well as learning outcomes.

Diversity and Inclusion

We invite submissions that address research outcomes or experiences that foster diversity and inclusion, and help to widen the successful participation of underrepresented student groups. Diversity in the student body enriches academic debate and prepares students for their future role in a multifaceted society. How do institutions of higher education optimally support students regardless of gender, culture, religion, ability or socio-economic background?

The social and international mobility brought by the first decades of the 21st century lends urgency this question; institutions of higher education must recognize and nurture potential in an increasingly diverse population.

Conference presentation formats

Proposals are sought for workshops, paper presentations, show-and-tell sessions and poster presentations. Proposals must be written in English, the lingua franca for the conference.

Workshops

60-minute interactive sessions can be conducted by one or more workshop leaders in which educational insights, solutions to problems or effective practices within the themes are shared and developed with international conference participants. Successful workshop proposals require strategies for active engagement of participants. Workshops suitable for fostering new professional networks may be selected for the pre-conference programme (90-minutes sessions).

Workshop submissions (maximum 400 words) must include clear discussion of:

- goals of the workshop, e.g. reaching a conclusion on a defined theme, brainstorm sessions, sharing experiences, setting up a network;
- issues to be addressed;
- relevance to conference themes;
- approach(es) to be used, including structure of workshop;
- expected outcomes for participants.

Paper sessions

30-minute paper sessions (20-25 minutes with 5-10 minutes for discussion) will be scheduled by sub-themes. Papers may treat research, evaluation, policy or practice. Papers should be clearly evidence-based and research presented and should have results that can be reported, even if only in preliminary form.

Paper submissions (maximum 400 words) must include clear discussion of:

- questions to be addressed;
- relevance to conference themes;
- approach to be used;
- anticipated outcomes or conclusions.

Show-and-tell sessions

This format has been popular with delegates at previous EFYE conferences, as it provides the opportunity to hear about a series of initiatives and to engage with presenters and each other.

Four show-and-tell presenters are grouped for a 60-minute session. The show-and-tell presenters are each allotted five minutes to introduce their initiative/project on no more than two slides. The presenters are also provided with a display area, suitable for a laptop for film viewing, a poster or hand-out summarising the initiative, and/or examples of materials.

After all show-and-tell presenters have given their brief presentations, session participants can visit the displays and talk further with presenters about their work. The time available allows participants to review several projects and talk individually with presenters. An advantage for presenters is that they can inform participants about their work via a variety of display materials.

The session closes with a facilitated plenary discussion of the presentations, identifying, where possible, any common themes.

Session structure:

- 20 minutes (4 show-and-tell presenters x 5 minutes)
- 20 minutes to visit displays
- 10 minutes plenary discussion

Sessions will be facilitated by an experienced facilitator to ensure time keeping.

Show-and-tell submissions must include discussion of relevance of presentation to conference themes.

Poster presentations

Posters will be displayed during a special poster session. Poster presentations may treat research, evaluation, policy or practice, and ideally is evidence-based with outcomes that can be presented effectively in visible form. Poster submissions (maximum 400 words) must include clear discussion of:

- questions to be addressed;
- relevance to conference themes;
- approach to be used;
- anticipated outcomes or conclusions.

Colour-coding will help guide participants and a digital 'poster in my pocket' system will convey information smoothly. The session will be informal and the organisation will facilitate and stimulate the participants to view the posters.