

Tips for Writing an Abstract for NCBDS 42

Recognizing that some applicants might be writing their first conference abstract, the following are suggestions for crafting an abstract for an academic conference. Please note that this guidance is tailored to NCBDS abstracts and may differ from other conferences.

The NCBDS abstract focuses on the field of beginning design, which includes design studio, history/theory coursework, technology-based classes, representation, cross-disciplinary studies, and general education courses relevant to design disciplines. The scope of referenced coursework can range from undergraduate to graduate levels, high school programs, associate degree programs, or non-credited summer introductory courses.

For NCBDS 42, a *Full Paper* should be a complete, detailed examination of ideas related to the conference theme, including methodology, results, and discussion, whereas a *Featured Project* should focus on a specific project or assignment that explores the conference theme. Both *Full Paper* and *Featured Project* abstracts are at most 500 words, excluding references. A paper may have up to five images, while a project relies more heavily on visuals, with a maximum of fifteen images (fig. 1).

An abstract should begin with a concise and relevant thesis statement, connecting the subject matter to a contemporary issue or the conference theme. The body text should introduce a pedagogical approach and/or research methods that supports the thesis. Faculty members should assemble information or data to validate their thesis through various means such as references to known theories, precedents from history or contemporary practice, survey data (with appropriate IRB approval), student interviews, or exploration of technologies. References to journal articles, conference papers, and publications — based on a survey of literature — can help situate the abstract's argument.

The abstract should avoid excessive tangential information, overemphasis on historical context, or irrelevant details. Be concise. The abstract should focus on its specific contributions to advancing beginning design research and discourse, leaving readers intrigued and wanting to know more. Use clear and active language, avoid identifying pronouns for unspecified participants, and remove all identifying information, including names and affiliations. Visual evidence in the form of images can enhance the impact of the thesis statement. The concluding statement should sum up the key points or implications of the abstract effectively.

Please remember to **omit all author names** from the submission and any other identifying information to maintain an anonymous review process.