25th Anniversary Celebrations

DST DATA GALLERY WALK 2026

Undergraduate Research Poster Competition

Organized by the Department of Statistics, University of Colombo

Participant Information & Guidelines

1. Who can participate?

- Open to **Honours graduates of the Department of Statistics, University of Colombo from the past five years**.
- The submission must be based on the participant's **undergraduate thesis or industrial research project**.

2. Understanding the Audience

Your presentation should be designed to communicate effectively with three distinct audience groups, each with different levels of knowledge, interests, and expectations:

- A/L Students – Introduce the research in an accessible manner, using basic scientific concepts to demonstrate its relevance and inspire interest in future study and career opportunities.
- University Students & Researchers – Highlight the research methodology, innovation, findings, and potential for further research and development.
- Industry Professionals – Emphasize practical applications, real-world impact, scalability, and opportunities for industry collaboration or implementation.

3. Content Strategy

To ensure the poster is accessible and engaging to all three groups:

- **Minimize the Use of Jargon** – Use clear, accessible language and briefly explain technical terminology where necessary.

- **Present a Clear Narrative** – Organize the content around a logical progression: **Problem → Approach → Findings/Solution → Impact**.
- **Use Analogies and Examples** – Relate complex concepts to familiar experiences or real-world examples to facilitate understanding.
- **Emphasize Practical Relevance** – Clearly demonstrate how the research can address real-world challenges and its potential applications across relevant fields.
- **Prioritize Visual Communication** – Use appropriate graphs, charts, diagrams, images, and other visual elements. Ideally, **40–50% of the poster should consist of visual content**.
- **Include a "Why This Matters" Section** – Clearly communicate the significance of the research, its broader implications, and the value it offers to different audiences.

4. Poster Guidelines

- Submit the **initial research poster as a single PDF file** for evaluation.
- Ensure that the submitted PDF is in **portrait** format.
- Resolution: Minimum 150 dpi, recommended 300 dpi.
- Ensure that **all text, figures, tables, graphs, and captions are clearly readable at the full poster size**.
- **Number all figures and tables consistently** and provide clear, descriptive titles or captions (e.g., *Figure 1: Figure Name*; *Table 1: Table Name*).
- Use **high-resolution images and graphics** to ensure that all visual elements remain sharp, clear, and suitable for high-quality printing.
- References should follow **APA 7th edition** guidelines.
- Use the following file naming convention when submitting:
  Surname_Firstname_ResearchPoster.pdf
- Submit the final research poster by **30th October 2026 at 11:59 p.m**.

5. Selection & Presentation at the DST Data Gallery Walk

Submitted posters will be initially screened, and selected participants will be invited to present their research posters at the **DST Data Gallery Walk 2026** which will be held at the **Department of Statistics on 25th November 2026.**

For selected participants:

- Participants must bring a **printed version of their submitted research poster** to the event. (printing material? Flex)
- The printed poster must comply with the specified **85 cm x 200 cm** dimensions.
- Participants should be prepared to **briefly present and explain their research** to visitors, academics, and fellow students.
- Selected participants are expected to be available throughout the designated **Gallery Walk session**.
- All selected presenters will receive a **Certificate of Participation**.
- During the event, a judging panel will evaluate the research posters and select the **top three posters**.
- The **1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners**, along with the recipient of the **People's Choice Award**, will receive **certificates and awards**.

6. **Research & Academic Integrity**

- The submitted work must be the **participant's own research** undertaken as part of their undergraduate thesis or research project.
- Any use of external data, images, figures, or published material must be **appropriately acknowledged and referenced**.
- Participants are responsible for ensuring that their research complies with relevant **ethical and institutional requirements**, where applicable.
- Posters must not contain **confidential, personally identifiable, or restricted information**.

Remember: Your exhibition is an opportunity to **communicate the value of statistics, inspire future researchers, demonstrate the impact of data-driven thinking, and connect with a diverse audience**.

Make your research clear, engaging, and impactful!

- **Register to the event by 19th October 2026:**
  https://tinyurl.com/dst-poster-registration

- **Submit your research poster by 30th October 2026 11:59 p.m.**
  https://tinyurl.com/dst-poster-submission

For Further Information

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