

Student Research Conference (SRC) 2018



Criteria for the assessment of research papers

This year, there will be separate awards for students from Universities of Applied Sciences (UAS - Hogescholen) and for students of Research Universities. The reason is that there are differences between the two types of universities in the aims of bachelor education, and therefore also in types of research and research approaches that students engage in.

The broad criteria for the assessment of research papers are the same for all papers, but the criteria may have a different focus for UAS and research universities, as exemplified in the following examples.

1 - Research problem and research question / aim

The research question (or research aim) is original and clearly formulated, not too broad or too narrow, and researchable. The key concepts used are clearly defined. It is also clear why the author asks this research question: the question is well-embedded in the research problem. This research problem may be a theoretical issue, a practical problem, or a design problem. This broader research problem is clearly explained with the use of relevant and recent references. The author explains why the research problem is seen as an important problem.

2 - Research materials & method(s)

The methods used in the research project are explained clearly. The methods used make sense in the perspective of the research question. The methods and techniques - for example for design and implementation of an intervention in practice, for technical design, for empirical research, or for historical analysis - depending on the topic and discipline - are properly discussed, and the reader gets a clear idea of how the research took place.

3 – Results and discussion

Data are presented clearly, efficiently, and convincingly. The findings of the research (and development) process are discussed in relation to the research question/aim, and limitations of the research are also given attention. Broader implications of the findings, including theoretical or practical relevance, or ideas for further research, receive proper attention. It is also clear how the results fit into the wider field of knowledge, applied science, or technology (the study domain the student).

4 - State of the art in the field of study

In all respects the research paper fits into the “state of the art” of the field of study. This field of study may be an academic discipline, or an interdisciplinary, applied, or technology-oriented field of study, depending on the study program of the student involved. The “state of the art” refers to the definition of concepts, type of research problem, appropriateness of research methodologies, ways of presenting results, embedding of the work in literature, et cetera. Experts in the study field of the student should see what is done in the paper, as very high quality work.

5 - Quality of writing

The research paper should be clearly written, with logical argumentation and clear structure. Visual information, such as in graphs, diagrams, drawings, tables, et cetera, is functional and is always properly referred and discussed in the text.