ALT Annual Conference 2015: Call for Proposals

Introduction

The ALT Annual Conference 2015, "Shaping the future of learning together" will be held at the University of Manchester, 8 – 10 September 2015.

The 2015 conference will be chaired by Amanda Jefferies, University of Hertfordshire and Liz Masterman, University of Oxford, under the theme 'Shaping the Future of Learning Together'. The programme will reflect the theme of shaping and sharing learning through breaking down the traditional divisions between stakeholders and between their roles, with a focus on:

1 Harnessing the power of the crowd – collaboration and connectivist learning;
2 Social media in learning and teaching;
3 Open educational practice;
4 Learners as agents of change;
5 Participatory approaches to the development of learning technologies.

Your 500 word proposal needs to show clearly how your session is going to address the relevant theme and should where possible include recent research, case studies, practice or learner perspectives from any learning context including schools, colleges, universities and industry.

Keep in mind that the proposal you submit for review now will, if accepted, also be used for inclusion in the conference programme and is the primary way for participants to choose which session to attend.

The deadline for submissions has been extended to Midnight GMT Monday 30 March 2015.

Key dates for your diary:

◊ Join the Programme Committee: January 2015
◊ Webinars for potential authors: 3 March 2015
◊ Extended deadline for proposals: **Midnight GMT Monday 30 March 2015**
◊ Webinar for accepted authors: May 2015
◊ Register to attend: May 2015

Submit a proposal now: http://go.alt.ac.uk/1wDvqZT

Keep up to date with the Annual Conference #altc on Twitter.

Session formats

Sessions at the conference can vary in length: 15, 30 or 60 minutes long. Most sessions are 15 or 30 minutes long, with fewer being a full hour. When submitting your proposal you need to indicate what length of session you would prefer and provide details of the format of the proposed session that show how the time will be used. When submitting your proposal you will need to choose from one of the following four session types:

❖ **Standard Presentation**
These will normally take the form of a 10 minute presentation followed by 5 minutes for questions.
Time (minutes): 15
Abstract Word Limit: 500

❖ **Extended Presentation for possible publication in Research in Learning Technology**
These will normally report a piece of research. The format can be a straightforward presentation (20 minutes with discussion) or it can be more interactive, with greater audience engagement. If your proposal is accepted, you can present your paper at the conference and then submit it directly to Research in Learning Technology. Accepted authors will be sent more information about publication of their papers upon acceptance.
Time (minutes): 30
Abstract Word Limit: 500

❖ **Extended Presentation**
These will normally involve some audience participation such as in a traditional demonstration session.
Time (minutes): 30
Abstract Word Limit: 500

❖ **Long Presentation**
These may follow a variety of formats including workshops and discussions. We are especially interested in innovative and creative session formats.
Time (minutes): 60
Abstract Word Limit: 500

All sessions must include:
◊ time for discussion
◊ some interaction with participants
◊ for 30 or 60 min long sessions, we require session leads to ensure that at least half of the session is interactive/actively engages with participants instead of 'lecture style' delivery

Each session will be chaired by a member of the Programme Committee who will help you run the session. You will need to nominate 1 session lead to act as main point of contact in the run up to the conference and whose name will appear in the programme as lead contact for participants.

Most rooms are flat-floored with cabaret or classroom style seating and seat between 50-90 participants. You should thus plan your session with this in mind.

Research

This year there is a single Call for Proposals for the Annual Conference (in previous years there was a separate Call for Research Papers). Researchers can now submit their proposals directly via this, single, Call for Proposals and submit a 500 word proposal. During submission researchers should choose the appropriate submission type to indicate that their submission is a research submission and accepted authors will then receive information about submitting their full papers for subsequent

publication in Research in Learning Technology, the ALT journal. Papers will be published after the conference to enable researchers to incorporate feedback from the session into their paper. More information is included at the end of this document.

The reviewing, selection, and acceptance process

All submitted proposals are double-blind peer-reviewed by members of the Programme Committee. After review and one cycle of revision and re-submission, the conference Programme Committee select proposals for potential inclusion in the conference.

Criteria for proposal review and selection

◊   The maximum word count for proposals is 500 words. References will be counted towards the 500 word limit. Longer proposals will not be reviewed.
◊   References should be key to the contents of the proposal – ideally two or three and at most six. They should follow Harvard System (parenthetical referencing – see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parenthetical_referencing).
◊   All proposals will be double blind peer reviewed so should have all author names, institutions and references to the authors work removed.
◊   Contributions should not have appeared elsewhere, in whole or in part.
◊   To ensure a suitably diverse programme, no individual will be allowed to submit as the main author more than one proposal. There is no limit on the number of times someone can be named as a subsidiary author.
◊   Required fields for submission: conference theme; session type; author name, email, affiliation; title; abstract.

Note for proposals with a commercial focus

We do not accept proposals with a primary focus on demonstrating services or products offered by a commercial provider and which do not explicitly address the conference theme(s) in a learning context. If you are unsure of how to best submit your proposal, we encourage you to attend our author webinars or contact us directly.

Proposals will be refereed according to:

◊   Relevance to the conference title "Shaping the future of learning together" and to one or more of the five conference themes.
◊   Usefulness to conference participants including those from outside the UK.
◊   Contribution to the provision of reliable evidence for scholarship and research into the integration of learning technologies into education.
◊   Appropriate reflection and evaluation

◊   Clarity, coherence and conformance to guidelines.

Here education is considered broadly and includes formal and informal learning settings in schools, colleges, universities, the workplace, homes and communities, at any stage in learners' lives.

Acceptance and conference registration

When a proposal has been accepted, at least one presenter must book to attend the conference by a deadline date that will be notified at the time of provisional acceptance. Only when this booking has been made will the proposal be fully accepted for the conference.

At the conference

You will have the time mentioned above for your presentation according to presentation type. Time

limits will be strictly enforced. Detailed guidance will be provided to presenters in advance of the conference.

Developing your proposal into a research paper and publication in Research in Learning Technology

When submitting your proposal online you should select the submission type to indicate that your are making a research submission. Your 500 word proposal will then be reviewed as usual and you will be informed about the outcome as outlined above. If you proposal is accepted, you will receive information regarding your full paper being presented at the conference and submitted to Research in Learning Technology for publication.

Papers submitted to Research in Learning Technology which are accepted will be published after the conference - giving those researchers who wish to use the conference as an opportunity for feedback from their peers to make revisions after the event. Final full papers will need to be submitted at the latest 1 month after the conference.

This is a change from previous years and if you are a researcher and you have questions about the new submission process, please email anna.davidge@alt.ac.uk including the ID number of your submission.

Early career researchers

If you select this option and your proposal is accepted, one of our Editors will review your proposal and if needed support you in developing your session into a paper published in the journal. We particularly encourage early-career researchers and practitioners from schools, colleges, industry and other learning contexts, or first-time authors to consider having their proposal considered for publication.

Submit a proposal now: http://go.alt.ac.uk/1wDvqZT

Document History

Date	By	Summary
29/01/2015	AD	Initial publication
04/03/2015	MH	Clarification of session formats

11/03/2015	AD	Extension of submission deadline