Abstract Assessment

Progressive Palaeontology 2019

In the (likely) event of the organising committee receiving more abstract submissions for full talks, lightning talks and poster presentations than they can possibly facilitate no matter how much they want to, the following criteria will be used to assess all abstracts submitted for consideration.

Abstract submission

Abstracts should be submitted through the Palaeontological Association online submission form, available after registering for the conference.

Submissions must include:

- Title
- Authors and affiliations
- Abstract text (max. 250 words)
- Indication of preference for Full Talk, Lightning Talk or Poster presentation
- Whether/when you have presented at ProgPal before
- Career stage (e.g. Masters, 1st Year PhD, etc.)

Full Talks are 12 mins in length with 3 mins for transition/questions. Lightning Talks are 4 mins with 1 min transition/questions. Poster boards will accommodate A1 landscape posters.

Sessions will combine Full and Lightning talks and there will be a dedicated poster session (poster dimensions to be confirmed). Session chairs will ensure that presentation times are strictly observed. It is anticipated that there will be time for approximately 15–20 of each Full and Lightning talks and space for at least 30 posters, though this is subject to change.

Travel grants

There is limited funding available for travel grants to support students who are presenting their work at Progressive Palaeontology. Students with limited funding are eligible to apply for a travel grant to cover travel and accommodation to attend the conference.

If you wish to apply for a travel grant please attach a statement (max. 150 words) justifying your need of it to your delegate registration. This should include **estimated costs of travel and accommodation** as well as **a statement explaining your financial need for the grant**. Students can apply to be funded up to a maximum amount depending on where they are travelling from: up to £75 within England/Wales, up to £120 from Scotland/Ireland, and up to £200 from mainland Europe and further afield.

Travel grant applications will be assessed on the rationale of this statement, the financial need of the applicant and the merit of the accompanying abstract(s).

Abstract assessment criteria

Abstracts will be assessed based on the following criteria. Accepted abstracts will clearly demonstrate the rationale and scientific significance of their work. Abstracts should clearly communicate the aims, methods, results and conclusions of the work to be presented.

At ProgPal we aim to showcase the breadth of palaeontological research undertaken by current research students. To this end, for equal-scoring abstracts, preference for talks will be given to abstracts on topics that are otherwise under-represented at the conference.

Progressive Palaeontology is a conference that helps early-career researchers hone their presentation skills. To this end, preference for Full Talks will go to 2nd, 3rd & 4th Year PhD students who have not previously presented a Full Talk at ProgPal. This does not preclude delegates at other career stages from presenting a Full Talk and should not discourage them from submitting an abstract for a Full Talk but is a criterion that will be used to separate equal-scoring abstracts.

Abstracts will be anonymised before being awarded scores by a set number of people from the organising committee. These scores will then be averaged to generate the final score on which the abstract will be assessed.

Table 1. Criteria for assessing abstracts submitted for consideration for presentation at ProgPal.

Criterion	Description	Marks	Assessment
Abstract clarity	The abstract should be well-written and intelligible to a non-specialist scientific audience.	0–3	Abstract
Abstract content	Abstracts should clearly demonstrate the aims (0–3), methods (0–3), results (0–3), conclusions (0–3) and scientific significance (0–3) of the work	0–15	Abstract
Topic	Preference will be given to abstract submissions on topics that are otherwise under-represented.	NA	Abstract
Previously presented	Preference will be given to 2nd, 3rd & 4th Year PhD students who have not previously presented a Full Talk at ProgPal.	NA	Web form