

Student posters: scientific products and assessment that outlives the course

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Posters as skills training and assessment

Beyond constituting a standard way to communicate scientific results in conferences, posters are also a great pedagogical tool to help students learn the course content, while practicing dissemination as a skill (Marino et al., 2000).

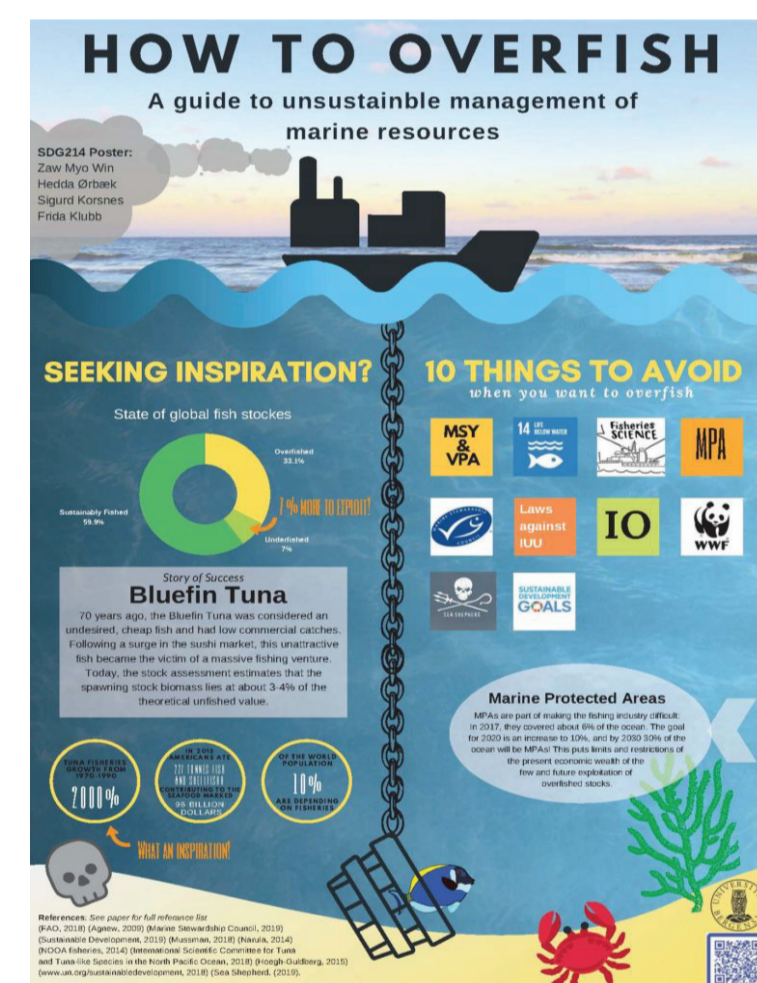
At the Department of Biological Sciences (BIO), several biology courses now include science communication and dissemination as part of the Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs). In line with the concept of constructive alignment (Biggs & Tangs, 2011), course teachers have added poster assignments to their curriculum, and redefined course assessment to include poster presentation.



During the poster symposium, the students pitch their poster either as a group or individually in flash (60-second) presentations in an auditorium on campus.



Students presenting their poster at the Student Poster Symposium at BIO.



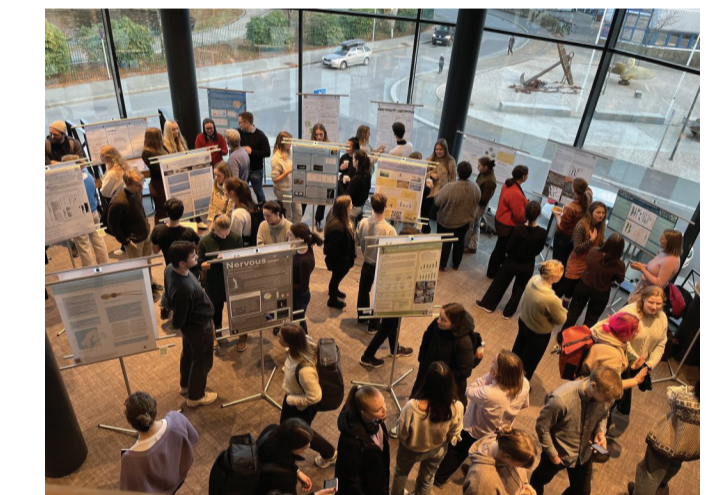
Student Poster Symposium at BIO

Since 2019, bioCEED has in collaboration with course teachers developed the biannual student poster symposium at BIO. All courses which include poster presentation either as assignment or assessment are invited to contribute to the symposium.

As of 2023, a total of 10 courses are involved. All posters are displayed nearby the auditorium (see picture to the left) allowing student presenters, teachers and visitors to mingle and discuss topics as varied as ecology, palaeoecology, SDGs, molecular biology, biodiversity, bioethics, among others.

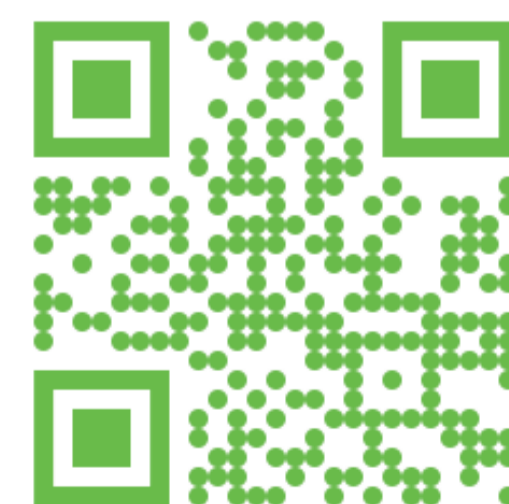
Peer feedback forms

Students, teachers and visitors get together outside the auditorium and engage in discussions around the posters. Participants use their mobiles to scan QR codes and get access to online feedback forms. Their feedback thus contribute to student learning.



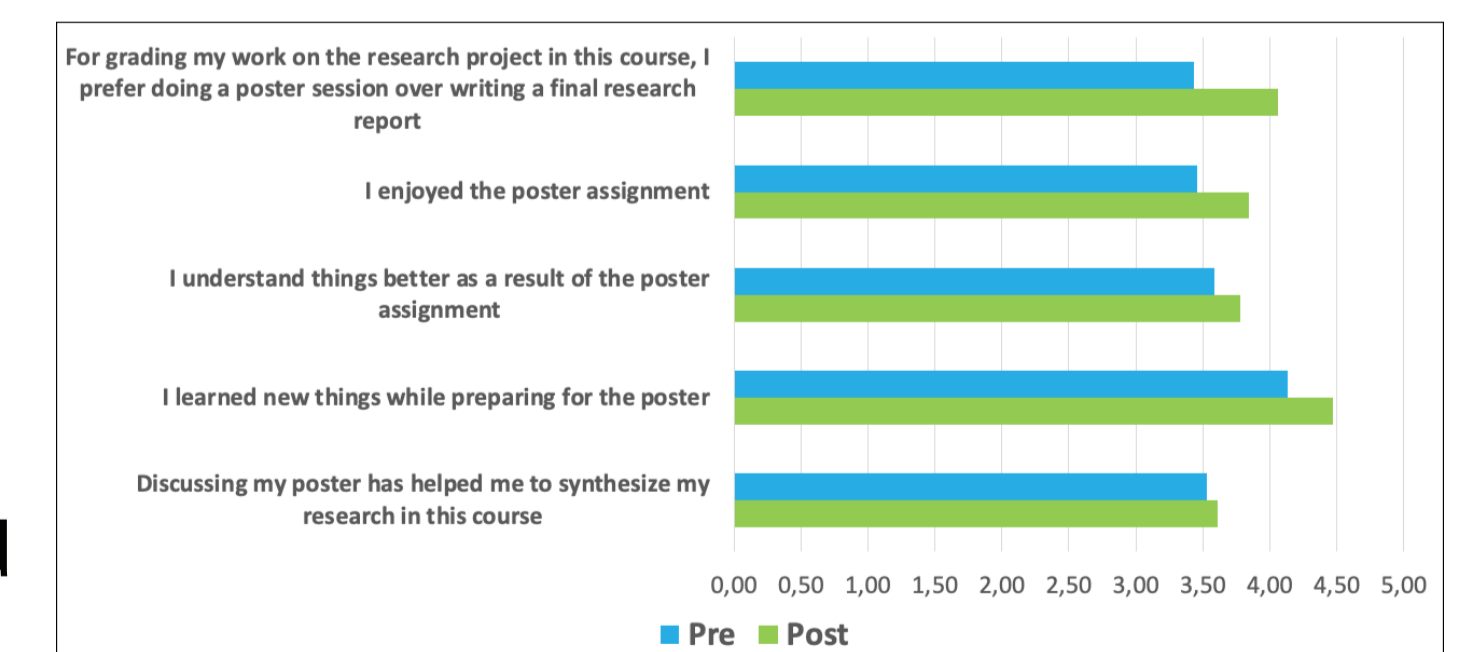
Showcasing student work on a dedicated website

Every semester, we gather and display the posters online at biopitch.w.uib.no. Via this website, students may document and disseminate further their work to a larger audience, for example to potential employers by linking their posters to their CV. Posters are given a unique QR code and link which they may use to document their work.



What the students say

We asked students to answer a survey about their experience of the poster assignments and symposium. These are the results based on data collected in Spring 2021.



References

Biggs, J., & Tang, C. (2011). Teaching For Quality Learning At University. McGraw-Hill Education (UK).
Marino, R. et al. (2000). Using poster sessions as an alternative to written examination—the poster exam. *J. Chem. Educ.* 77, 9, 1158.



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Teaching and Learning Toolkit

bioCEED has published a toolkit on how to build a Student Poster Symposium from scratch, with recommendations and links to resources. Check it out with this QR code.

