

Call for Proposals

IVEC Conference 2026

International Virtual Exchange Conference

iveconference.org

The International Virtual Exchange Consortium (IVEC) is a global, inclusive community of virtual exchange practitioners, researchers, and professionals that provides a forum for dialogue and growth. The community aims to advance pedagogy and research in virtual exchange through a variety of means, including hosting its annual conference. The IVEC annual conference is the largest and most prominent event on virtual exchange, providing a forum for professors, administrators, students, and technical staff from institutions around the world interested in the growing practice of [virtual exchange](#). Virtual exchange provides authentic opportunities for intercultural and transnational engagement and learning using technology to connect people around the world. Through collaborative activities and courses, virtual exchange supports the development of transferable skills for living and working globally and provides opportunities for applied learning experiences.

IVEC 2026 will be held October 26-29, 2026, and will be a fully online event. Reflecting input from the IVEC community and building on previous events, IVEC 2026 will foster engagement among attendees through a combination of synchronous and asynchronous sessions and activities.

We invite proposals from individuals, institutions, and organizations worldwide focused on virtual exchange. We welcome proposals from virtual exchange practitioners (instructors, staff), administrators, and students who have participated in virtual exchange.

The conference language is English, and proposals should be submitted in English. However, in alignment with the ethos of the IVEC community, we encourage the inclusive and innovative use of multiple languages within conference sessions. All submissions will undergo a double-blind peer-review process. IVEC will notify applicants of the review process outcome in time to register by the early registration deadline.

Conference Tracks

Submissions are welcome in the following tracks. The descriptions below indicate the topics prioritized within each track.

- **Innovation in VE Practice:** Explorations of the use of innovative pedagogies and technologies, practice reports, case studies, and accounts of student experiences.
- **Impact through Research:** Presentations on research evaluating the impact and outcomes of virtual exchange projects, as well as the field more broadly. Proposals must clearly articulate the research questions and methodology and present concrete, completed results/analysis. Research conducted across multiple projects and/or with multiple iterations will be given preference.
- **VE for Global Change:** Presentations on intentional efforts to promote social justice, equity, inclusion, global citizenship education, peace education, and solving global challenges aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals, either within the context of a virtual exchange project or by engaging the local and international community.
- **Strategy and Policy:** Presentations on the implementation of virtual exchange strategy and policy at departmental, school, faculty, institutional, and system levels.
- **Shaping the Field:** Proposals for defining virtual exchange, universal standards for professional development, assessment, ethical use of AI, privacy policies, etc.

Session formats

IVEC 2026 will be held in a fully online format. Applicants must designate a presenter as the session moderator. The moderator will introduce the session topic and speakers, proactively invite audience participation throughout the session, and manage questions. For sessions with a single presenter, IVEC will provide a session moderator. In pursuit of including varied voices, participants can present in up to three (3) accepted sessions among synchronous workshops, synchronous facilitated discussions, and asynchronous flash presentations. The limit does not apply to networking events and synchronous invited roundtables. Please note that abstracts have a 2,000-character limit for all session formats.

Synchronous Workshops (90 minutes)

Workshops are action-oriented, hands-on sessions intended to train and actively engage participants. Workshop proposals must describe the intended content, the session goals, and how activities and technology will be used to enhance/maximize engagement through hands-on components of the session.

Synchronous Facilitated Discussions (60 minutes)

These sessions should propose a topic or challenge that is relevant to the wider field of virtual exchange and outline a set of thought-provoking questions and/or breakout activities in order to guide an interactive conversation with attendees. Proposals can include roles for up to four (4) facilitators, but should focus on engaging participants rather than developing a panel of presenters. Proposals must describe the topic or challenge and explain the framework for guiding discussion and involving groups of up to 50 participants in active conversation, which may include breakout rooms, interactive online collaboration spaces, or other tools.

Submissions should also include two questions/discussion prompts that the presenter(s) would like to pose to attendees to spark further conversation on the presentation topic. Supplemental resources informing the discussion, such as handouts or reference material, are welcome and may be listed in the proposal.

Asynchronous Flash Presentations

Flash Presentations are a set of concisely prepared, narrated slides that will be shared with participants asynchronously. Slide decks will be limited to 10 slides (excluding a cover slide, references, and contact information). IVEC encourages keeping narrated slide shows to 10-15 minutes. Proposals should include an outline of the presentation topic and content to be shared, plus two questions or discussion prompts that the presenters(s) would like to pose to attendees to spark further conversation on the topic.

Synchronous Invited Roundtables

To maximize participant engagement and generate discussion, IVEC will invite authors of a selection of accepted **Asynchronous Flash Presentations** to participate in synchronous roundtable sessions grouped by common themes or creative interdisciplinary connections. Applicants who submit an asynchronous flash presentation proposal do not need to make an additional submission to be considered for a synchronous invited roundtable.

Networking or Special Interest Group Events (60 minutes)

Bring your creativity and interests to fruition with a networking session. Special interest groups who want to continue their dialogue and work, groups interested in broad discipline- or topic-specific partnering sessions, and community members with fun ideas for engagement, are all invited to submit proposals for networking events. Proposals must describe the activity or event, explain the approach to creating engagement, and be able to involve groups of up to 50 participants.

Review Criteria

Proposals will be assessed on the following criteria:

- **Alignment with a Conference Track:** See specific criteria above
- **Relevant:** The proposal has high potential to attract conference attendees by addressing the community's needs, raising issues important to virtual exchange and engagement, and offering content that can be broadly disseminated and understood.
- **Clear:** The session's intended outcomes are easily understood.
- **Engaging:** The proposal prioritizes active engagement of participants, rather than simply sharing information.
- **Well Researched:** Claims are backed by sufficient data; claims draw upon relevant literature and/or multiple perspectives; and limitations are described honestly (research sessions only).
- **Scope:** Applicable to a broad range of practitioners at various levels

Important Dates

- Submission system opens: February 19, 2026
- Deadline for submission of abstracts: March 26
- Notification of review process outcome: May 14
- Registration opens: April 14, 2026
 - Early-bird registration: April 14 - August 17
- Scholarship application deadline: July 1
- Conference begins: October 26
- Conference ends; registration closes: October 29
- Submission of papers for *Journal of Virtual Exchange* Special Issue (optional): November 30.

Submission Instructions

Proposals should be submitted via the conference website at www.iveconference.org.

The following information will be requested during the submission process:

- Names, titles, contact info, institutional or organizational affiliation, and short bio (max 100 words) for each presenter and facilitator.
- Conference track (selected from the list above)
- Session format (selected from the list above)
- Title of the abstract
- Up to three specific keywords or themes that the session will explore
- Abstract (no more than 2,000 characters)
- Two questions or discussion prompts that the presenter(s) would like to pose to attendees to spark further conversation on the presentation topic

All presenters must register for the conference before August 17, 2026, to guarantee inclusion in the conference agenda. Applicants should list in the proposal only individuals who will present at the conference. Applicants may include additional non-presenting authors on the presentation slides, but please note that IVEC will list only the presenter/facilitator names in the conference program.

A limited number of scholarships will be available to cover registration fees.

Publication Opportunities

The *Journal of Virtual Exchange* (JVE) will publish a selection of papers from the 2026 IVEC Conference in a Special Issue to be published in 2027. The JVE is an open-access, peer-reviewed international journal aimed at virtual exchange practitioners and researchers and published by UNICollaboration. Presenters who choose to submit to the JVE Special Issue need to indicate whether their piece is a [Research Article](#) or [Practice Report](#), follow the relevant guidelines provided by the JVE, and must submit a clean, edited copy of their submission by November 30, 2026. All submissions will undergo a double-blind peer review process. More detailed information and any additional publication opportunities will be announced via the conference website: www.iveconference.org.

License

The organizers support the use and creation of Open Educational Resources. All submissions and presentations must be licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial 4.0 License (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>), which permits others to share and build on your work for educational, research, and other non-commercial purposes. By

submitting a proposal, you agree to use this license on work submitted related to your presentation.

Contact Information

By submitting a proposal for consideration in the IVEC 2026 Conference, you consent to IVEC using your contact information for the purposes of communicating conference-related information and being added to our general mailing list for these purposes. To have your name and email removed from our contact list at any time, please contact us at info@iveconference.org.

For more information about the conference and the practice of virtual exchange, please visit IVEConference.org. For inquiries, please contact info@iveconference.org.