# Information Systems Conferences Tips, Tricks and Hacks for Research Students and Early Career Researchers

Conferences are the best places for meeting new people and uncovering new ideas. In information systems (IS) field while there is still more weight placed on journal publications, submitting work to a conference offers many benefit including networking opportunities and a friendly place to receive feedback and suggestions that will increase the chances of publication in a journal. The IS field sees the conference path as a valid entry point to publication and the submission, publication and presentation of your research at conferences is encouraged. However, to forge academic connections and position yourself as a future research expert it is essential to attend relevant, high quality research forums. There are numerous conferences, symposia, workshops, and other forms of networking opportunities advertised through emails and other media. They all require spending time and funding to register, attend, present and participate in these events. Since most research students and Early Career Researchers (ECR) have limited time and funding to spend for these activities, it is important to be strategic on how to get the best value from engaging with conference participation.

The purpose of this document is to share some useful tips, tricks, and hacks collected from discussions with senior academics and members of the Australian Council of Information Systems Professors and Heads of Schools (ACPHIS) to assist you in the decision-making process of choosing which conference to attend. It is important to note that ACPHIS provides a list of conferences, most of which are sponsored by the International Association of Information Systems (AIS) or its Australian chapter (AAIS). These conferences offer members valuable opportunities to present their research, network, explore potential job placements, and initiate collaborations with colleagues from their region and around the world.

The following link will direct you to the Australian Council of Information Systems Professors and Heads of Schools (ACPHIS) Recommended Conference List: [ACPHIS Conference List.](https://ucstaff.sharepoint.com/:w:/r/sites/ACPHISRecommendedConferenceWorkingGroup/_layouts/15/Doc.aspx?sourcedoc=%7B84FD8E55-4FC3-4DE6-8075-B91706B0B1E1%7D&file=240905%20Conference%20summary.docx&action=default&mobileredirect=true)

Here are some tips, tricks, and hacks for Research Students and Early Career Researchers to consider when selecting a conference to attend:

1. **Considering a Single Conference**:
2. **Research Focus:** Ensure the conference covers your area of research focus.
3. **Conference Tracks:** Select a compatible track for your research, or a general track if your paper presents innovative, emerging, novel topics demonstrating niche research.
4. **Sponsored/endorced by a reputable professional organisaton:** check if the conference is endorced by a reputable professional organisation (eg listed in the AIS conference list, organised by an IFIP TC relevant working group, associated with organisations such as IEEE or ACM).
5. **Choosing between Multiple Conferences:**

If multiple conferences cover your research area, consider the following:

1. **Workshops for Upskilling:** Check if the conference offer workshops to enhance your research skills, such as workshops related to publishing in high-quality journals, securing research grants, and/or paper development workshops.
2. **Fast-Track to Journals**: Check if the conference facilitate the fast-tracking of papers to journals.
3. **Acceptance Rate:** The acceptance rate can provide insight into the conference's selectivity. In general, a rigorous selection based on the review process is a useful process to ensure that only the best submissions are presentated at the event, hence, only the top submissions will be selected (see more below on peer review).
4. **Knowledge-Enhancing Opportunities:** Check if there additional workshops, panel discussions, interesting key notes or sessions with industry professionals that could enrich your knowledge in specific areas.
5. **Peer Review:** Make sure the conference is peer-reviewed to benefit from feedback and ensure the conference's credibility.
6. **Doctoral Consortium**: If you are a Higher Degree by Research (HDR) student (e.g., PhD, research Master's), check if the conference offer a Doctoral Consortium. This is a valuable platform for receiving feedback on your work, akin to a mini examination process with experienced senior scholars. You can also benfit from meeting and learning from research students from other insitutions.
7. **Specialised Focus:** If your research is highly specialised, consider attending conferences specifically tailored to your niche research focus. For example, if your focus is Business Process Management, the International Conference on Business Process Management (BPM) could be highly relevant.
8. **General:** If, on the other hand, your research is not specialised, consider attending a general conference such as the Australation Conference for Informations Systems (ACIS), where you will find many different tracks, and always a general track for niche papers.
9. **Location and Access:** Consider the geographical location and accessibility of the conference. Online options can also be valuable, especially if travel is a constraint, however, you will be missing a face to face interaction and networking opportunites outside the sessions.
10. **Maximising Networking Opportunities**

The most valuable add-value of the conference is its potential for networking. Conferences that attract leading academics and industry experts provide a great opportunity to make connections that could be beneficial for your career development.

* 1. **Researchers you Follow**: Find out which conferences your favourite researchers have presented or where they have been the key note speaker.
  2. **Your own Panel**: Ask your panel members what conferences they recommend.

1. **Planning for Maximum Exposure**

Look at the proceedings and outcomes of past editions of the conference. This can inform you about the quality and impact of presented research, keynote speakers, and other research publications including in the proceedings. Consider if the proceedings of the conference are published by reputable publisher and accessible on-line to maximise the readership opportunities. You may also seek some feedback from the attendees’ of the previous events.

1. **Thinking about Costs:**

Consider your budget and factor in registration fees, travel expenses, and accommodation. You need to ensure you have the necessary funding available before submitting your work to the conference.

1. **Ranking of Conferences:**

To further evaluate conferences, consider checking their rankings on independent websites. Note that organisations like ACPHIS do not influence these rankings, and the ACPHIS does not rank conferences. However, checking the conference ranking on independent websites can still provide helpful indicators of a conference’s reputation and relevance.

Here are some useful links to independent organisations:

CORE conferences ranking portal:   
[portal.core.edu.au/conf-ranks/?search=&by=all&source=CORE2023&sort=atitle&page=1](https://portal.core.edu.au/conf-ranks/?search=&by=all&source=CORE2023&sort=atitle&page=1)

German Professors ranking of IS conferences list - VHB Pubication Media Rating 2024: [VHB\_Rating\_2024\_Area\_rating\_WI.pdf (vhbonline.org)](https://vhbonline.org/fileadmin/user_upload/VHB_Rating_2024_Area_rating_WI.pdf)

1. **ACPHIS Recommendation:**

ACPHIS presents these tips, tricks and hacks as general advice for research students and Early Career Researchers when planning to submit to a conference. For specific advice about the conferences expected to maximise your professional growth and academic networking consult with your panel, advisers and peers.