

# Predatory conferences: A to Z elements



There is no single checklist for determining if a conference is predatory. However, reputable conferences share some common qualities and features.

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## Affiliation

Genuine conferences are generally affiliated with legitimate and well-recognised organisations.

## Be vigilant

Use a tool such as [Think. Check. Attend.](#) to determine if a conference is legitimate or predatory.

## Copyright

Is there clear information about how and where conference proceedings will be published?

## Different fields

Predatory conference organisers can hold multiple conferences in different fields simultaneously or across different locations or platforms.

## Editorial Committee

Does the conference website identify the editorial committee, and have you heard of any of them?

## Fees

Predatory conferences often have rapid pay-to-present models, and no clear refund mechanism.

## Genuine

An approach from a reputable publisher will correctly identify your research area.

## Hazy

Is the conference overly general in nature and lacking a coherent theme?

## Limitation

Is the conference name similar to a well-known conference?

## Journal affiliation

If the conference claims affiliation with a journal, check the list of predatory journals: [Predatory Publishing – KScienc](#).

## Keynotes

Predatory conferences may use legitimate speakers' names without permission. Have you heard of the keynote speakers and is the theme consistent with their field of research?

## Landscape check

If you are unsure of the legitimacy of a conference, look for reviews on trusted online forums in your discipline.

## Mistakes

Beware of red flags such as spelling and grammatical errors, and incorrect or clumsy use of terms relating to your discipline.

## Network

Check in with your supervisors and others in your field to see if they know of this conference.

## Overblown

Is there a mismatch between the title of the conference and the quality of the information you can find on the conference website?

## Peer review

Predatory conferences typically have poor or non-existent peer review processes.

## Quality

A poor quality website should be treated as a red flag.

## Requirements

Reputable conferences provide clear requirements regarding the submission process, and review of conference papers and presentations.

## Sponsors

Check sponsors' legitimacy. If the conference is organised by a commercial company check if they are in partnership with reputable academic institutions or publishers.

## Track record

Has this conference run before? Do you know anyone who has attended?

## Unwanted solicitation

Predatory conferences often send solicitation to researchers individually.

## Vague

Predatory conferences are often lacking in detail about the conference speakers, program and venue.

## Wait

Don't rush to respond or register. Take the time to check the conference for legitimacy.

## Xaggeration

Predatory conferences often exaggerate the event's prestige.

## You

If you can't work out why you were approached for this conference, take extra care to check its legitimacy.

## Zero tolerance

Reputable publishers and conferences promote zero tolerance for plagiarism and have put steps in place to prevent plagiarism during the review process.

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