

Overview 1

 What is this? 1

 Why should we get involved? 1

 Who are ASPiH? 1

 Key Dates: 2

 When and where is the ASPiH 2026 conference taking place this year? 2

Introduction to Sim Stars 2026 2

 What do you need to do? 2

 What is the theme for this year’s competition? 2

 How many teams can be entered from each institution? 5

 What is the role of the Facilitator (University Representative)? 5

 What is the role of the IRiS Staff? 5

 What happens after we complete the scenario? 5

Shortlisting 6

 What support will ASPiH/IRiS offer my team if we are shortlisted? 6

 What do I need to do next if my team have been shortlisted? 6

 If I want to go to the conference and our team has not been shortlisted, what can I do? 7

 At the conference 7

 If we are one of the four shortlisted teams, what will we need to do at conference? 7

Overview

This document provides detailed information for all involved in the 2026 Student-Sim Stars Competition being held at the national United Kingdom (UK) Simulation Society Meeting in Harrogate.

What is this?

Student-Sim Stars is a competition being run by the Association for Simulated Practice in Healthcare (ASPiH) and IRiS which is a web-based platform allowing users to design and develop high-quality simulation scenarios for teaching, learning and assessment.

Prequalifying health or social care students are invited to form a team and design a simulation scenario using the IRiS platform and submit this to the Student-Sim Stars competition. Each scenario will be reviewed, and four (4) shortlisted teams will be supported to attend the main ASPiH 2026 conference which is being held on the 26th and 27th November in Harrogate.

Why should we get involved?

If you are a prequalifying health or social care student and you are interested in simulation, then this is an exciting opportunity to develop your simulation design and delivery skills. If your team are fortunate enough to be shortlisted, you will have the opportunity to attend a scientific conference and connect with other members of the simulation community. This would be a great experience to include on your CV and to talk about with potential employers.

Who are ASPiH?

ASPiH is a not-for-profit organisation that promotes the use of simulation-based education (SBE) in healthcare. ASPiH's mission is to improve the quality and safety of patient care through simulation. They have published the ASPiH Standards to support learners, simulation practitioners and organisations to bolster simulation practice and patient safety, in benefit of patients, service users, families and communities.

Key Dates:

1st June Onboarding webinar

26th June: Deadline to register your student-team

31st July: Deadline to submit scenarios

25th August: Shortlisted teams announced

26th & 27th November: Shortlisted teams to run their scenarios at the ASPiH Conference

When and where is the ASPiH 2026 conference taking place this year?

The main ASPiH conference is taking place on the 26th-27th November 2026 at the Harrogate Convention Centre: <https://fitwise.eventsair.com/aspvh2026/> The theme for this year's conference is “**Simulation: The Next Era**”. The Student-Sim Stars 2026 competition aligns with this theme. This competition does not include support/entrance to the X-Perience workshops which will take place on the 25th of November.

Introduction to Sim Stars 2026

This section provides detailed guidance and should be read carefully when considering an application from both the students and their University representative (facilitator).

What do you need to do?

You will need to form a team which should be made up of four **(4)** prequalifying health or social care students.

What is the theme for this year's competition?

The theme of this year's conference is *Simulation: The Next Era*

Therefore, we are asking students to **Design, develop, and deliver a simulation activity that will enhance the capabilities of the future workforce in health and social care which incorporates one element of ASPiH's professional development framework.**

Design, develop, and deliver a simulation activity that will enhance the capabilities of the future workforce in health and social care in line with one element of the professional development framework. You will need to create one simulation design that lasts for no more than ten (10) minutes with a focus on the Professional Development Framework for Multi-professional Simulation in Health and Care (October 2025): <https://aspvh.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Simulation-in-Health-and-Care-%E2%80%93-Professional-Development-Core-Framework-Version-1.3.pdf>. There are five domains within the framework

- Educational
- Transformative
- Technological
- Scholarly

- Leadership

Each domain has three descriptors: Discovery, Growth, Maturity and in the document, there are numerous examples. Your mission is to choose at least one domain and one descriptor and create a simulation activity. These terms can be explored in a variety of ways, your design needs to clearly show the theme or themes chosen and how the simulation activity is related to that and should include (further guidance is provided within IRIS with a wizard).

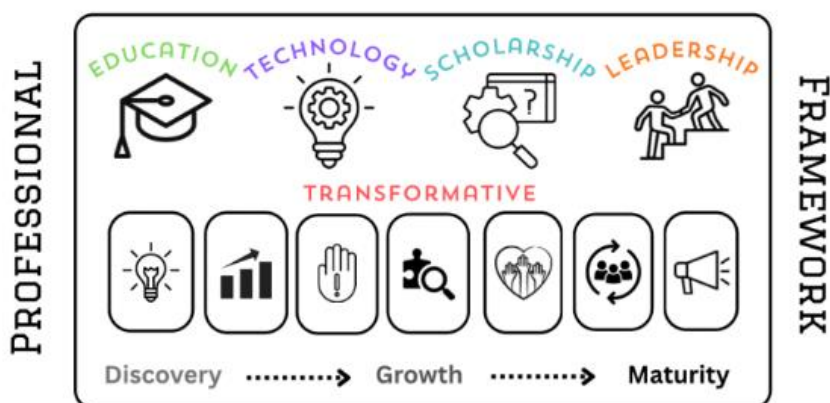
We have included some further details below on concepts we were envisaging to come through in the entries:

- When considering the future workforce, you might consider how you prepare them for what healthcare might look like in the next 2-3 years' time. It may be that you incorporate or review aspects of the NHS 10-year plan to help guide you with that content.
- You may consider simulation scenarios with blended realities, consider widening access, and content such as remote telemetry and monitoring; how is this simulation preparing participants for the next era in health and social care?

Health & Care Simulation

October 2025

DEVELOPMENT



Your design needs to clearly demonstrate **Simulation for the next era**. Below gives some further guidance to help you with your entry.

- Create Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Timebound (SMART) learning objectives with a desired goal or outcome.
- Create one (1) or more patients or clients of any age or gender in any setting (community e.g. home, school, outside or in a hospital or other institution setting)
- Specify the level of the learners or students that this is designed for including their professions.
- Make sure to include clear incorporation of the Professional Development Framework
- The modality or type of simulation equipment which may include but not be limited to a manikin, a human representing the person or persons, virtual or augmented reality for example.
- You will need to consider that whatever scenario you design will need to be delivered at conference. You may have access to limited equipment so please factor that in during the planning stages.

How many teams can be entered from each institution?

Each institution can enter **one (1)** team.

Each team will need to be supported by a University Representative termed ‘*facilitator*’ (see below for more detail).

What is the role of the Facilitator (University Representative)?

Each team requires **one (1)** member of university staff from an academic, professional, or technical background to support you with the design, upload and to be at the conference with you if you are shortlisted. This person is termed the **facilitator**.

The facilitator is there to support you as a mentor or a guide, for example if you cannot login to assist you with contacting IRiS. They are not there to teach you how to design, to proofread or write your design or rewrite it. Their role is to help you access the software and to function as a support if required. This may include situations such as helping you to find a window of time to collaborate with your peers or finding a physical space for you to work

together. The facilitator can assist with the conference registration process and to be a guide and a supportive friendly face at the conference if you are successful.

What is the role of the iRIS Staff?

- They will provide a webinar alongside a designated ASPiH member. Here they will provide an overview of the software and how to use the online wizard to aid you in creating your design.
- They will provide links to their online resources to help you be successful.
- They will create an account for your team by using the email address of the Facilitator.

What happens after we complete the scenario?

After you have completed and uploaded your scenario it will be judged using shortlisting criteria. The top four (4) will be invited to attend the Conference to run their scenarios.

Please note that by submitting an entry you are confirming that you can attend the conference in person on both the 26th and 27th November. Scenarios must be delivered in person and cannot be delivered remotely. The facilitator must also be able to attend the conference to support you.

Shortlisting

Each submitted scenario should have all sections complete on the iRIS authoring platform wizard. If any of the sections are incomplete the entry will not go through the assessment process and will automatically be excluded. The shortlisting process is fair and transparent.

The highest scoring four (4) teams will be shortlisted and invited to attend conference as part of the competition.

What support will ASPiH/iRIS offer my team if we are shortlisted?

Each member of the shortlisted teams will be provided with a conference place (excludes access to the ASPiH X-perience day). They will also be given up to a maximum of £220 per person towards travel and accommodation. Each shortlisted team member will also be given a year's membership of ASPiH.

The Student-Sim Stars organising committee will be at conference to support you, providing clear guidance and instructions on what to do and conducting a meta debrief for you afterwards on your experience.

What do I need to do next if my team have been shortlisted?

If your team has been shortlisted, then you will need to make plans to attend the conference. You will be contacted by a member of the ASPiH events team with a specific code which you will need to use when registering for the conference. You will also need to book your travel and accommodation. You will need to pay for your travel and accommodation upfront but will be able to claim back up to £220 per person following the conference. Make sure you keep all receipts as you will need to complete an expenses form to claim this.

You will be contacted about your equipment needs prior to the conference to ensure we can be as prepared as possible to support you during the Student-Sim Stars competition.

If I want to go to the conference and our team has not been shortlisted, what can I do?

Unfortunately, only four (4) teams can be shortlisted through the Student-Sim Stars competition. Therefore, some of you will not be successful. However, we want as many of you as possible to join us in Harrogate. You can access discounted conference rates by joining ASPiH as a student member. See our conference website: <https://fitwise.eventsair.com/aspvh2026/> for further details. Early bird rates apply up until the 31st August. Therefore, if you are unsuccessful as part of the shortlisted teams, you will still have access to discounted rates, if you are an ASPiH member.

Here are some resources you can use to help you justify why attending the ASPiH conference is important: <https://fitwise.eventsair.com/aspvh2026/why-attend-aspvh-2026> You might find this helpful, especially if you are seeking any additional funding.

At the conference

If we are one of the four shortlisted teams, what will we need to do at conference?

You will be supported to deliver the scenario you have created. This is likely to take place in a designated area in the exhibition space. Your team will need to both deliver/facilitate the scenario and be the participants (learners). The following roles will be required:

- Someone should prepare and brief your simulated participants (if appropriate)
- Prepare any equipment which you plan to use during the scenario
- Pre brief the audience and the participants (learners)
- Provide members of your team to be the participants (learners)
- Allocate one (1) or two (2) members of your team to run a short debrief with the participants (learners) following the simulation scenario

For the rest of the conference, you are encouraged to make the most of the scientific programme and enjoy yourselves! Network with peers and form new connections, share your journey and look to engage in opportunities.