

EMI Machine Learning in Mechanics Student Paper Competition

Sponsored by: EMI Machine Learning in Mechanics

Purpose:

- To foster active participation of emerging professionals in EMI conferences, specifically in fields at the intersection of Machine Learning and Mechanics.
- To engage student members with the Machine Learning in Mechanics Committee to promote professional development, community bonds and prepare them to take on future responsibilities within the technical community.
- To enhance technical writing and presentation skills while encouraging high-quality submissions to the flagship journals of EMI, such as Journal of Engineering Mechanics.

Requirements:

1. Be the lead author of an abstract submitted to the EMI conference by the designated conference deadline and register to EMI 2026.
2. Be a full-time student at the time of abstract submission and the main contributor to the research.
3. Participate only in the ML in Mechanics student competition. The submission will be disqualified if the same paper is also submitted to another competition organized by a different EMI technical committee at the conference.

Deadlines:

- January 15, 2026 - Abstract submission deadline (EMI abstract deadline).
- March 1, 2026 - Express interest in participating in the competition by emailing Prof. Audrey Olivier (audreyol@usc.edu), forwarding the EMI abstract acceptance notification. Prof. Olivier will reply and provide the paper template.
- April 1, 2026 - Submit full paper to Prof. Audrey Olivier (audreyol@usc.edu), following instructions given in the template.

Prizes:

Up to three winners will be selected and be awarded a certificate.

Student finalists will be invited to submit an extended version of their papers for a by-invitation-only special collection on Journal of Engineering Mechanics (example from previous years: https://ascelibrary.org/jenmdt/emi_student_finalist_papers).

Process:

- A committee of expert judges from the ML in Mechanics committee will review manuscripts. The reviewers shall not have conflict of interest with the submissions.

- The panel will select top papers (approximately 5 finalists) based on the review feedback.
- The selected papers will be presented by student participants in the conference, date and location TBD.
- Review committee will rank finalists, with input from ML in Mechanics committee members who are present at the special session and are not co- authors of the selected top papers.
- The final winners will be announced during the EMI conference.

Contact: Audrey Olivier, audreyol@usc.edu