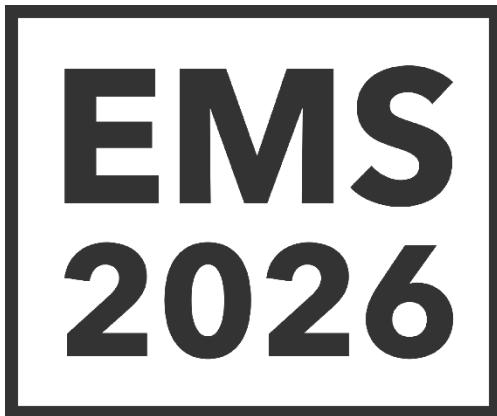


Call for Submissions



**EMS
2026**

Engaged Management Scholarship Conference 2026

“BRIGHT IDEAS, LASTING IMPACT”

Hosted by

Comillas ONEXED, Universidad Pontificia Comillas, Madrid, Spain

Conference Dates

July 16th – Doctoral Consortium
July 17th and 18th 2026 – EMS 2026 Conference

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1. INTRODUCTION

Theme: “*BRIGHT IDEAS, LASTING IMPACT*”

Dates: July 15th - 18th, 2026

Website: <https://edbac.org/ems2026>

Local enquiries and support email: ems2026@comillas.edu

Submission portal: <https://edbac.org/ems2026/submissions>

Conference Chair: Teresa Corzo, PhD

The **16th Annual Conference on Engaged Management Scholarship (EMS)** is organized by the Executive DBA Council (EDBAC) and Universidad Pontificia Comillas in Madrid, Spain.

EMS is a premier annual gathering for a growing global community of management scholar-practitioners, as well as DBA and Executive PhD programs. It is a space to connect, exchange practice-oriented yet rigorous research, and engage in meaningful debate on the future of management education for scholar-practitioners.

This year's conference highlights research that drives real-world change by bridging business performance and growth with a lasting positive impact on people, organizations, and society as a whole.

“Welcome to EMS 2026 - bring your ideas, questions, and impact & let's build it together!”

And please share your experience on social media using **#EMS2026**. Your insights and takeaways help amplify the conference and inspire this community to go further.

2. PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Teresa Corzo	Conference Chair
Javier Morales	Program Co-Chair
Carlos Bellón	Program Co-Chair
Cristina Domínguez	Program Co-Chair
Esperanza Hernández-Cuadra	Doctoral Consortium Co-Chair
Andrea Medina	Program Coordinator
Elsa Gutiérrez	Program Logistics Chair
Jeanette K Miller	Conference Advisory Committee
Ole Peter Anfinsen	Conference Advisory Committee
Omar Guillermo Rojas Altamirano	Conference Advisory Committee

3. IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES:

Monday, January 2026	Early bird registration and submission portal opens
Sunday, April 12th, 2026	Submission deadline for all submissions
Sunday, May 17th, 2026	Acceptance Notification
Sunday, May 19th, 2026	Early bird registration closes
Monday, May 20th, 2026	Full price conference registration opens
Sunday, June 21th, 2026	Conference registration closes
Sunday, June 21th, 2026	Final camera-ready deadline for papers and posters
Wednesday, July 15, 2026	Optional pre-conference activity (winery visit)
Thursday, July 16, 2026	Doctoral consortium and pre-conference activities
Friday, July 17, 2026 – Saturday, July 18, 2026	EMS-2026 conference

Social activity:

July 15th – Optional pre-conference activity

Doctoral Consortium and welcome dinner:

July 16th – Doctoral Consortium

Conference Dates:

July 17th and 18th 2026 – EMS 2025 Conference

4. SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

Intro about Comillas:

Universidad Pontificia Comillas (COMILLAS), is pleased to host the EMS 2025 conference, in Madrid, Spain. COMILLAS enrolls around 10,000 students and is known for its prestigious academic programs. It offers a wide range of disciplines, including law, business, engineering, humanities, and social sciences. The university is distinguished by its Jesuit heritage, emphasizing ethical education and social responsibility.

Renowned for its strong international focus, COMILLAS maintains numerous partnerships with global institutions and offers extensive exchange programs. It also excels in research, particularly in social sciences and engineering. COMILLAS provides a supportive and inclusive academic setting, fostering excellence and personal growth in the heart of Spain's capital.

Reference to our Executive DBA:

As part of Universidad Pontificia Comillas' commitment to engaged, practice-oriented research, the university hosts the **DBA in Management and Technology**, a three-year executive doctorate that combines advanced coursework with applied research and innovation - helping leaders turn technological disruption into a force for good in society.

Reference to the theme:

The theme of this year's #EMS2026 conference - "**BRIGHT IDEAS, LASTING IMPACT**" - captures our ambition to turn rigorous, evidence-based management into real-world action. It reflects the development of executives' research capabilities and decision-making skills, so that they can lead with insight, translate knowledge into practice, and **create the strongest possible positive, lasting impact** across their organizations, stakeholders, and the communities they serve worldwide.

This year's conference will spotlight academic research with tangible influence - research that not only fuels business growth and long-term success, but also **raises the bar for responsible leadership** by improving outcomes for people, strengthening organizations, and contributing to a healthier, more equitable society. By bridging scholarly excellence with executive practice, **#EMS2026** is designed to amplify ideas that endure - ideas that help leaders build performance **and** purpose, delivering value that lasts well beyond the conference itself.

The EMS 2026 conference is open to diverse research questions posed by researchers that are aimed at different contexts and real-world problems, and that employ diverse methods of inquiry and conceptual frameworks. Research submissions that employ rigorous scientific methods and highly relevant practical findings and applications are strongly encouraged. Please review the following guidelines for preparing a research submission for the EMS 2026 conference:

Original/New Work Rule

- All submitted papers must not have been presented at prior EMS conferences or other academic meetings. However, substantively revised versions of the previously presented work are acceptable.
- At the time of submission, all papers must not have been published or accepted for publication by academic journals or other outlets.
- If a paper is under review for publication in an academic journal, it must NOT appear in pre-print, print, or online before the EMS 2026 conference (July 15th - 18th, 2026).

We look forward to receiving papers for the following submission types:

- Research Papers
- Working Papers (for Poster session)
- Doctoral Consortium
- Panel Proposals
- Workshops
- Consortia Panels

All submissions (research papers, working papers for poster sessions, doctoral consortium submissions, and panel proposals) must be made through the EDBAC submission portal, available at <https://edbac.org/ems2026/submissions> which will be open until **Sunday, April 12, 2026, 11:59 pm CET**. Please visit <https://edbac.org/ems2026> for more information.

All submissions will be carefully reviewed, and accepted papers, posters, and doctoral consortium submissions are expected to be presented by one or more registered authors for the conference. Maximum 2 submissions allowed.

Please note that all accepted submissions involve a commitment to register and present in-person at the conference, as appropriate for the type of submission. Submissions for which no authors are registered for the conference by the above deadlines will be removed from the program and proceedings.

We look forward to receiving your EMS 2026 submissions!

- For questions about **submissions, review process, registration, or the program**, please contact **EDBAC** at ems@edbac.org
- For questions related to **the venue and on-site logistics in Madrid** (location, directions, accessibility, local arrangements, etc.), please contact **Universidad Pontificia Comillas** at ems2026@comillas.edu

4.1. RESEARCH PAPER SUBMISSIONS

These submissions represent completed papers or research projects, which can be either conceptual or empirical papers. All submissions will be peer-reviewed and, if accepted, presented in person at the conference, and will appear in the conference proceedings. Submissions to this track are completed research projects of either type:

- **Conceptual Papers:** papers that provide comprehensive and integrative syntheses of research related to engaged management, that develop conceptual frameworks that extend or critically evaluate existing theories or suggest innovative theories.
- **Empirical Papers:** Analysis of empirical data that result in findings of practical and theoretical importance, with a demonstrated influence on management practice. Empirical papers must provide a detailed description of the methodology, data, and results of each study. We encourage authors to summarize their results in a table and use figures, when necessary.

Research paper submissions can adopt any theoretical perspective and methodological approach including quantitative studies, qualitative studies, conceptual papers, research reviews, and so forth. All submissions must provide unique insights to theory and future research as well as offer solutions to important business problems that are practical, evidence-based, and consistent with the mission, aim and scope of engaged scholarship. Submissions should include a brief introduction explaining what the research question is and why it is important and/or interesting to engaged scholarship.

The length of the submissions cannot exceed 8,000 words, not including references, tables, figures, and appendices. For citation and reference style, it is recommended to follow the Academy of Management Journal style (see <https://aom.org/docs/default-source/events/amjstyleguide.aspx>).

Reviewing will be blind. Evaluation will be based on a) how important and/or interesting the research is to the Engaged Management audience; b) quality of the research; c) coherence and readability; d) completeness of the research. Please adhere to high standards of spelling and grammar and consider having a copyeditor or peer review the paper prior to submission.

Deadlines: Please see the table with Important Dates, page 3.

Papers will be grouped into themes for the different sessions. Sessions will have a duration of 1 hour and 30 minutes. Each session will have a discussant (the moderator).

Please note that you cannot submit the same paper to a poster track.

We look forward to receiving your EMS 2026 submission!

If you have any questions, please email us at ems@edbac.org

4.2. POSTER PAPER SUBMISSIONS

These submissions are **work-in-progress** research projects or research proposals that will be reviewed and approved in advance by a select editorial board chosen by the Poster Session Chairs. Since the **work-in-progress** papers or research proposals may not have any collected data or results at the time of the submission, they will be judged on the merit of the research idea, study plan, and potential implications for research and practice. If the preliminary results of the study are available, it is recommended to briefly summarize them.

Submission Instructions - *submissions consist of a 3-page extended abstract that addresses:*

- Double-spaced, font size 12.
- Problems addressed, aims, and research question(s).
- Justification for why and to whom the research is important.
- Theoretical basis for the work.
- Research design.
- Information about data sample and preliminary results, if any.
- Presentation of findings (if applicable at that stage).
- Discussion of the relevance and/or practical importance of the study.
- References (not part of 3 pages)

Please note that the submission to this track is a 3-page extended abstract for a working paper or research proposal, not the poster itself. If and when accepted to the Poster session, the author(s) will receive a PowerPoint poster template with the right size requirement to be filled out. Below are some preliminaries of the poster requirements so applicants can envision what they will have to submit.

Guidelines for the Poster Format

We ask that you design your poster thoughtfully in a way that allows readers to easily grasp your research:

- Include **your full name** and **the title** of the paper.
- Use simple, direct language that is easy for readers to understand.
- Use a large font that is easy to read from a few feet away and aim for visual impact.
- Prioritize information. It is most important for readers to walk away knowing the key takeaways from your research.

Include the following:

- Problems addressed, aims, and research question(s).
- Justification for why and to whom the research is important.
- Theoretical basis for the work.
- Research design.
- Intended data sample.
- Findings (if applicable at that stage).
- Discussion of the relevance and/or practical importance of the study.
- References.

All posters will be printed and mounted by **Universidad Pontificia Comillas**, before the start of the poster session. **Deadlines:** Please see the table with Important Dates. We look forward to receiving your EMS 2026 submission! If you have any questions, please email us at ems@edbac.org

4.3. DOCTORAL CONSORTIUM SUBMISSIONS – EDBAC MEMBERS ONLY

The Doctoral Consortium is an excellent opportunity for executive doctoral students working on their dissertation research to share and develop their research and careers with expert review and feedback from peers and faculty facilitators who have been invited from across EDBAC institutions by the Doctoral Consortium Chair.

Corresponding with our “**Bright Ideas, Lasting Impact**” conference theme, sessions will address all phases of the scholar-practitioner journey, from dissertation completion through to effective dissemination, increasing the impact of research, as well as career opportunities post-dissertation.

A highlight of the Consortium is the Round Table Sessions, in which small groups of students and faculty will gather to discuss each Table member’s dissertation. Table assignments will be made in advance, and each Table member’s submission will be distributed to all of those at their Table prior to the conference to facilitate advanced preparation and generative discussion.

Format and criteria for submission

DBA students in their second year of the program and beyond can submit to the Doctoral Consortium. The submission consists of a 3-page extended abstract of the dissertation proposal, including the following:

- Problems addressed, aims, and research question(s).
- Literature review and theoretical foundation.
- Proposed methodology and justification for the research design.
- Intended contribution to theory and practice.

Important note: Participation must be in person. All accepted applicants are expected to attend all Consortium activities on Thursday, July 16th, 2026, and to prepare for the Round Table discussions by reading fellow Table members’ abstracts. Upon acceptance to and participation in the Doctoral Consortium, abstracts will be included in the conference proceedings.

Doctoral Consortium applicants are also encouraged to apply to the Poster session so that the broader conference attendees can provide additional feedback. Even if the same extended abstract of the dissertation proposal is used to apply to both the consortium and poster session, two separate submissions must be made.

Deadlines: Please see the table with Important Dates, page 3.

We look forward to receiving your EMS 2026 submission! If you have any questions, please email us at ems@edbac.org

4.4. PANELS, WORKSHOPS, AND CONSORTIA SUBMISSIONS

Panels and Workshops will be sessions on relevant topics to Engaged Scholarship and DBA programs, faculty, students, and alumni. Panels (including alumni consortium panels) aim to present ideas and engage the audience in discussion. Workshops are usually offered by faculty, staff, or alumni who share knowledge of a given research topic or practice and can be interactive.

Submissions should include:

- Panel or Workshop
- Title
- Brief description (4-5 sentences)
- Name of the Chair and email address
- Panel participant names, university affiliation, and email addresses