



Start Here

Is the conference listed on or run by a journal in any predatory journal lists, such as [Beall's list](#)?

Yes

Possibly predatory, proceed to next step.

No

Possibly safe, proceed to next step.

Is the conference hosted by a well known and academic journal, university, or society? Is the conference listed on their website?

No

Possibly predatory, proceed to next step.

Yes

Conference is most likely safe. *Still be cautious of red flags.*

Does the conference meet any of the following characteristics?

- **Suspicious topic(s) and/or name**
 - Variety of unrelated topics within one conference, or many conferences on variety of unrelated topics.
 - Name very similar to another credible or highly prestigious conference, may be trying to deceive you.
- **Unrealistic timeline**
 - Quick acceptance timeline
 - Too little time between the submission deadline and the conference for proper peer review
- **False information**
 - Has a scientific committee composed of either fake members or people completely unknown in the conference's academic domain
- **Invited via Suspicious E-mail**
 - Grammar/spelling mistakes, received multiple times, unclear sender
 - Addresses email correspondence personally to a researcher and/or mentions recipient's past research in the body of the email
- **No refund policy → may be motivated by money**
- **Suspicious website → poor grammar and spelling mistakes, poorly designed, confusing.**

Yes

Most likely predatory.

No

May be safe → investigate further

Conferences that are new, or that are in low-income economies with fewer resources may meet some criteria listed above, however, it is important not to confuse new or under-resourced conferences with predatory conferences. *If you think it is a new conference, consider: Is the conference sponsored by any well-known academic institutions or organization? Is the conference being promoted by academics in the field? Are there any renowned keynotes or guest speakers?*