Guidelines for Editing Pint-of-Science Posters on Overleaf

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1 Introduction to Overleaf and LaTeX

We have created the Pint of Science poster templates on Overleaf and we've made it possible to edit them within our LaTeX editor. This has several advantages, including that the same formatting is locked, so you won't accidentally squash logos or struggle with other formatting to keep the poster looking as it should.

And for those new to LaTeX, don't panic. We have created a step by step guide that will have you creating graphically rich posters in no time.

1.1 What is LaTeX?

LaTeX is a document preparation system that uses a plain text markup language which is then compiled into a PDF. By using optimal typographical rules, LaTeX creates beautifully typeset and professional looking documents superior to that from a typical 'What You See Is What You Get' (WYSIWYG) word processor.

LaTeX is commonly used by scientists, engineers, mathematicians and other professionals to create a diverse range of documents.

1.2 Why use Overleaf?

Overleaf was founded in 2012 by two mathematicians, John Hammersley and John Lees-Miller, who aimed to solve the problem of version confusion, referencing headaches and formatting frustration having experienced it for themselves while working on a project to create the first driverless cars at Heathrow airport.

To solve these problems they built a light-weight collaboration system and used it for writing research papers. It was simple and intuitive to use – all you needed was a web browser. This intuitive online platform has since seen rapid adoption across science and research, and Overleaf's award-winning collaboration technology is now in use by over 5 million researchers, students and technical writers in institutions, labs and industry worldwide.

We have an increasing number of users from multiple disciplines who also use Overleaf as it addresses multiple pain points many academics face on a daily basis.

With Overleaf, many users avoid the steep learning curve that can usually hinder those getting started with LaTeX. This is thanks to our online LaTeX editor which comes with dual Visual Editor mode and source code mode so you can work from the source code or an interface similar to WYSIWYG editors. This is complemented by thousands of templates to help you get started and a fantastic support team that helps make the barriers to LaTeX proficiency much lower.

2 Benefits of using Overleaf for Academics

Overleaf is an online collaborative writing and publishing tool that makes the whole process of writing, editing and publishing scientific documents much quicker and easier. Overleaf provides the convenience of an easy-to-use LaTeX editor with real-time collaboration and the fully compiled output produced automatically in the background as you type.

- All you need is a web browser
- Always have the latest version of your work
- Effortlessly share your work with colleagues/supervisors

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- Automatic real-time preview document
- Real-time track changes and commenting
- Complementary Rich Text and LaTeX modes
- Quickly find LaTeX errors
- Easily manage references

You can find out more about Overleaf on this page and read below to see what our users are saying about Overleaf on social media.

"At first I was intimidated by overleaf but as others are saying it was surprisingly easy to pick up and the templates are extremely helpful. You got this!"

— Ashley Maynard, PhD student working to understand complex biology

"I wanted to learn LaTeX but was wary of how long it would take for years. I managed to pick up almost all of what I needed in an afternoon on Overleaf. I wish I'd done it sooner!"

— Viki Male, Immunologist

"Overleaf completely changed my mind of LaTeX... I went from someone who thought that it was only useful for maths/physics stuff to an absolute lover of LaTeX in one afternoon"

— @ItstheChemist, Chemistry graduate

"I learned LaTeX 20+ years ago for this reason and haven't regretted it since. Still use it for papers/proposals. Overleaf is a great update. Allows for easy collaborative editing with advisor. Can get up and running quickly w/ online tutorials. Tricky stuff you can google for help."

— David Klinke, Prof in Chemical and Biomedical Engineering

3 How to Customize your Pint of Science Poster using Overleaf

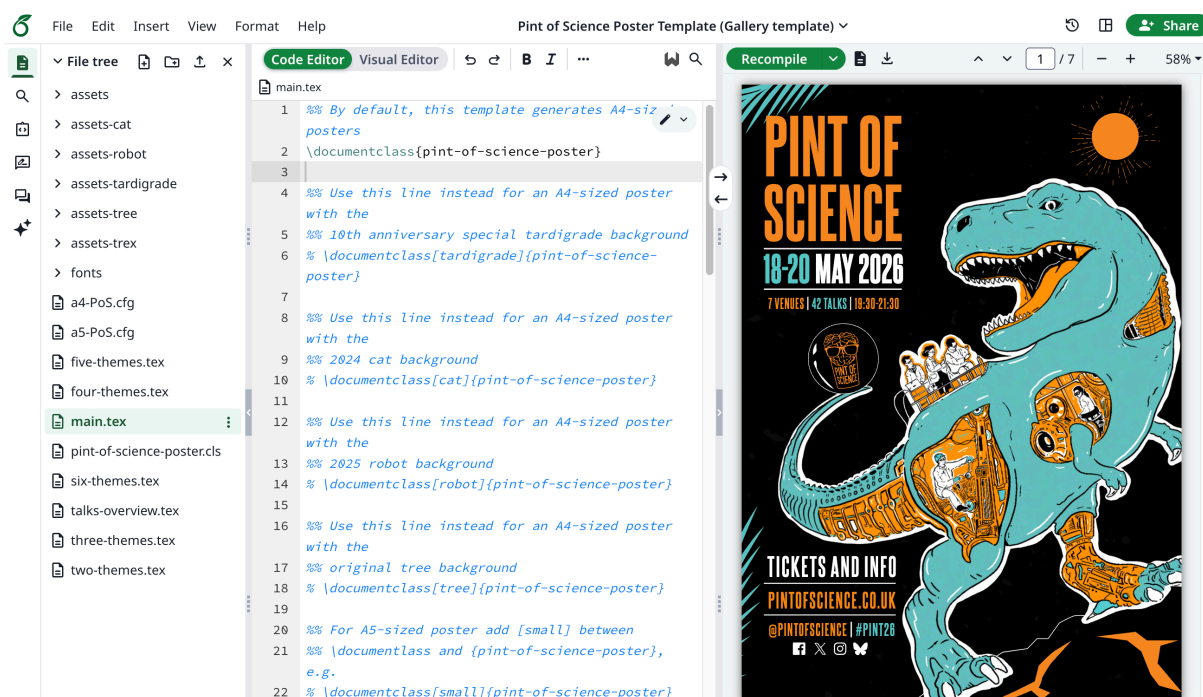**Step 1:** Register with Overleaf if you don't yet have an account

Step 2: Click this link and open as template: https://www.overleaf.com/latex/templates/pint-of-science-poster-template/cjsjwrwprvzv
Below is a screenshot of what the template looks like when you first open it. Note there are three types of files — .tex, .cls and .cfg.
.tex files are documents created using the programming language LaTeX. These are the files that you will edit to customize your posters.
.cls files is a file written in LaTeX that stores a class with a predefined typeset configuration that can be imported into a .tex document; it is used for storing templates for articles, forms, and other types of documents. **YOU DO NOT NEED TO EDIT THESE FILES**
.cfg files are the configuration files. They set the parameters and settings for the poster template. You do not need to edit the .cfg files, these are ready to go. **YOU DO NOT NEED TO EDIT THESE FILES**

Step 3: When in one of the .tex files you can see the editor panel on the left and the poster on the right hand side of the screen. For editing the posters note it is not possible to use the rich text mode because of the formatting so leave the editing panel in the source mode. In the editor panel the writing in blue font is the programming, and the codelines starting with %%% in green font provides the instructions on how to customize the poster to your specification.

Step 4: Edit each file as you need (see later sections for more details), then click on "↻ Recompile" to update the preview.

Step 5: When you've finished editing the template and happy with how your work looks in the preview panel, you can download a PDF by clicking on the "Download PDF" 📥 icon above the preview.

Each section below is a one pager explaining the edits that can be made for each .tex file and an image of the file affiliated with each of the .tex files in the Pint of Science template.

3.1 Edits for main.tex

Possible edits:

- day/month/year
- Number of venues, talks and timeslot
- Note that edits in this file amend the same info in each of the additional .tex files

  ```
  \PoSdate{22-24}{MAY 2026}
  \PoSoverview{7}{42}{19:30-21:30}
  ```

- You can delete the .tex files from the template that you do not need. For example if you are hosting an event with three themes you can delete the .tex files two-themes, four-themes, five-themes and six-themes.

Example title page generated for Pint of Science 2026

Example Code (Possible edits are in black):

```
%% By default, this template generates
%% A4-sized posters
\documentclass{pint-of-science-poster}

% For A5-sized poster add [small] between
%\documentlass and
% {pint-of-science-poster}, e.g.
%\documentclass[small]{pint-of-science-poster}

\begin{document}  %% DO NOT CHANGE
%% The \PoSdate and \PoSoverview are used
%% on the "main event poster" with
%% \maketitle'
%% Day in teal; month year in white
%% \PoSdate{date}{MON YEAR}
%% YOU CAN CHANGE YOUR EVENT DETAILS HERE
\PoSdate{11-13}{MAY 2026}

%% \PoSoverview{# venues}{# talks}{time}
%% YOU CAN CHANGE YOUR EVENT DETAILS HERE
\PoSoverview{7}{42}{19:30-21:30}

%%%%%% This generates the canonical "main
%% event" poster; DO NOT DELETE NOR EDIT
%%%%%%
\maketitle
%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%

...
```

3.2 Changing the background image

Backgrounds used in previous years can be achieved by adding an option to your `\documentclass` declaration.

Tree
- For A4-sized posters: `\documentclass[tree]{pint-of-science-poster}`
- For A5-sized posters: `\documentclass[small,tree]{pint-of-science-poster}`

Tardigrade
- For A4-sized posters: `\documentclass[tardigrade]{pint-of-science-poster}`
- For A5-sized posters: `\documentclass[small,tardigrade]{pint-of-science-poster}`

Cat
- For A4-sized posters: `\documentclass[cat]{pint-of-science-poster}`
- For A5-sized posters: `\documentclass[small,cat]{pint-of-science-poster}`

Robot
- For A4-sized posters: `\documentclass[robot]{pint-of-science-poster}`
- For A5-sized posters: `\documentclass[small,robot]{pint-of-science-poster}`

3.3 Edits for talks-overview.tex

Possible edits (these are in black in the example code section below):

- Title of talks
- Short summary of talks (each limited to 380 characters)
- Date of talk
- Venue
- Doors
- Start/End of Event

Example Code (Possible edits are in black):

```
%%%%%% "Talks Overview" page with
%%%%%% 3 "abstracts"
\begin{talksoverview} %% DON'T CHANGE
  {RED LION PUB\\   %% VENUE
   PINT STREET,\\   %% \\ for line breaks
   PUBLAND, P1NT 5C1}
  {18:30}           %% DOORS
  {19:30-21:30}     %% START/END

\talk{PAIN AND PLEASURE}{11 MAY 2026}
Our lives are spent avoiding emotional
and physical pain ...

\talk{MUSIC TO\\YOUR EARS}{12 MAY 2026}
With our ears so tuned to music, one
false note can ...

\talk{ROBOTS\\TAKING OVER}{13 MAY 2026}
Scientists are continually trying to ...

\end{talksoverview} %% DON'T CHANGE THIS
\end{themes}
```

3.4 Edits for two-themes.tex

When to use: Use this .tex file if you are hosting an event with two themes

Possible edits:

- Wording below "What's on"
- Prizes to be won
- The Event time
- Category of talk (note make sure you use one of the following: "**our-body**, **atoms-to-galaxies**, **beautiful-mind**, **tech-me-out**, **planet-earth**, **our-society**, **creative-reactions**". Note that each of these categories is associated with a specific icon that is pre-programmed. For example: "our-body" will be printed as "OUR BODY" in the output PDF, and use the image file assets/our-body.pdf as icon.
- The location of the talk

Example Code (Possible edits are in black):

```
%% Please specify the number of themes
%% on this page
\begin{themes}{2}
  {We'll have talks about the latest...}
  {PRIZES TO BE WON!}
  {19:30-21:30}


%% Each theme name should be lower-cased;
%% words separated by hyphens; and have
%% an icon image file with the same name
%% in the assets/ folder.
%% For example: "our-body" will be
%% printed as "OUR BODY" in the output
%% PDF, and use the  image file
%% assets/our-body.pdf as icon.

\theme{our-body}
  {20 Mill End Rd,\\Cambridge,\\CB1 9JP}

\theme{atoms-to-galaxies}
  {22 Mill End Rd,\\Cambridge,\\CB1 9JP}

\end{themes}
```

3.5 Edits for three-themes.tex

When to use: Use this .tex file if you are hosting an event with three themes

Possible edits:

- Wording below "What's on"
- Prizes to be won
- The Event time
- Category of talk (note make sure you use one of the following: "**our-body**, **atoms-to-galaxies**, **beautiful-mind**, **tech-me-out**, **planet-earth**, **our-society**, **creative-reactions**". Note that each of these categories is associated with a specific icon that is pre-programmed. For example: "our-body" will be printed as "OUR BODY" in the output PDF, and use the image file assets/our-body.pdf as icon.
- The location of the talk

Example Code (Possible edits are in black):

```
%% Please specify the number of themes
%% on this page
\begin{themes}{3}
  {We'll have talks about the latest...}
  {PRIZES TO BE WON!}
  {19:30-21:30}


%% Each theme name should be lower-cased;
%% words separated by hyphens; and have
%% an icon image file with the same name
%% in the assets/ folder.
%% For example: "our-body" will be
%% printed as "OUR BODY" in the output
%% PDF, and use the  image file
%% assets/our-body.pdf as icon.

\theme{our-body}
  {20 Mill End Rd,\\Cambridge,\\CB1 9JP}

\theme{atoms-to-galaxies}
  {22 Mill End Rd,\\Cambridge,\\CB1 9JP}

\theme{beautiful-mind}
  {20 Mill End Rd,\\Cambridge,\\CB1 9JP}

\end{themes}
```

3.6 Edits for four-themes.tex

When to use: Use this .tex file if you are hosting an event with four themes

Possible edits:

- Wording below "What's on"
- Prizes to be won
- The Event time
- Category of talk (note make sure you use one of the following: "**our-body**, **atoms-to-galaxies**, **beautiful-mind**, **tech-me-out**, **planet-earth**, **our-society**, **creative-reactions**". Note that each of these categories is associated with a specific icon that is pre-programmed. For example: "our-body" will be printed as "OUR BODY" in the output PDF, and use the image file assets/our-body.pdf as icon.
- The location of the talk

Example Code (Possible edits are in black):

```
%% Please specify the number of themes
%% on this page
\begin{themes}{4}
  {We'll have talks about the latest...}
  {PRIZES TO BE WON!}
  {19:30-21:30}


%% Each theme name should be lower-cased;
%% words separated by hyphens; and have
%% an icon image file with the same name
%% in the assets/ folder.
%% For example: "our-body" will be
%% printed as "OUR BODY" in the output
%% PDF, and use the  image file
%% assets/our-body.pdf as icon.

\theme{our-body}
  {20 Mill End Rd,\\Cambridge,\\CB1 9JP}

\theme{atoms-to-galaxies}
  {22 Mill End Rd,\\Cambridge,\\CB1 9JP}

\theme{beautiful-mind}
  {20 Mill End Rd,\\Cambridge,\\CB1 9JP}

\theme{planet-earth}
  {20 Mill End Rd,\\Cambridge,\\CB1 9JP}

\end{themes}
```

3.7 Edits for five-themes.tex

When to use: Use this .tex file if you are hosting an event with five themes

Possible edits:

- Wording below "What's on"
- Prizes to be won
- The Event time
- Category of talk (note make sure you use one of the following: "**our-body**, **atoms-to-galaxies**, **beautiful-mind**, **tech-me-out**, **planet-earth**, **our-society**, **creative-reactions**". Note that each of these categories is associated with a specific icon that is pre-programmed. For example: "our-body" will be printed as "OUR BODY" in the output PDF, and use the image file assets/our-body.pdf as icon.
- The location of the talk

Example Code (Possible edits are in black):

```
%% Please specify the number of themes
%% on this page
\begin{themes}{5}
  {We'll have talks about the latest...}
  {PRIZES TO BE WON!}
  {19:30-21:30}

%% Each theme name should be lower-cased;
%% words separated by hyphens; and have
%% an icon image file with the same name
%% in the assets/ folder.
%% For example: "our-body" will be
%% printed as "OUR BODY" in the output
%% PDF, and use the  image file
%% assets/our-body.pdf as icon.

\theme{our-body}
  {20 Mill End Rd,\\Cambridge,\\CB1 9JP}

\theme{atoms-to-galaxies}
  {22 Mill End Rd,\\Cambridge,\\CB1 9JP}

\theme{beautiful-mind}
  {20 Mill End Rd,\\Cambridge,\\CB1 9JP}

\theme{planet-earth}
  20 Mill End Rd,\\Cambridge,\\CB1 9JP}

\theme{tech-me-out}
  {20 Mill End Rd,\\Cambridge,\\CB1 9JP}

\end{themes}
```
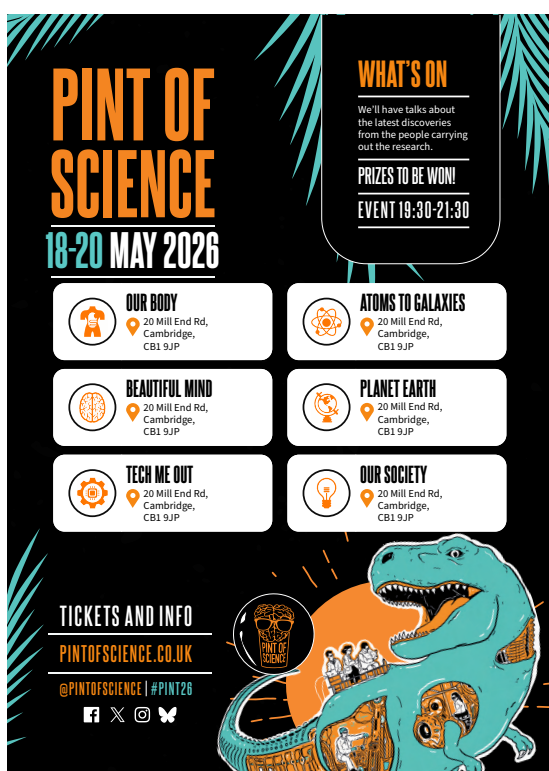
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3.8 Edits for six-themes.tex

When to use: Use this .tex file if you are hosting an event with six themes

Possible edits:

- Wording below "What's on"
- Prizes to be won
- The Event time
- Category of talk (note make sure you use one of the following: "**our-body**, **atoms-to-galaxies**, **beautiful-mind**, **tech-me-out**, **planet-earth**, **our-society**, **creative-reactions**". Note that each of these categories is associated with a specific icon that is pre-programmed. For example: "our-body" will be printed as "OUR BODY" in the output PDF, and use the image file assets/our-body.pdf as icon.
- The location of the talk

Example Code (Possible edits are in black):

```
%% Please specify the number of themes
%% on this page
\begin{themes}{6}
  {We'll have talks about the latest...}
  {PRIZES TO BE WON!}
  {19:30-21:30}

%% Each theme name should be lower-cased;
%% words separated by hyphens; and have
%% an icon image file with the same name
%% in the assets/ folder.
%% For example: "our-body" will be
%% printed as "OUR BODY" in the output
%% PDF, and use the  image file
%% assets/our-body.pdf as icon.

\theme{our-body}
  {20 Mill End Rd,\\Cambridge,\\CB1 9JP}

\theme{atoms-to-galaxies}
  {22 Mill End Rd,\\Cambridge,\\CB1 9JP}

\theme{beautiful-mind}
  {20 Mill End Rd,\\Cambridge,\\CB1 9JP}

\theme{planet-earth}
  {20 Mill End Rd,\\Cambridge,\\CB1 9JP}

\theme{tech-me-out}
  {20 Mill End Rd,\\Cambridge,\\CB1 9JP}

\theme{our-society}
  {20 Mill End Rd,\\Cambridge,\\CB1 9JP}
\end{themes}
```

4 Useful Tips

If there is a **% symbol** at the beginning of the line in the source code, it means that the writing is notes rather than anything that affects the look of the output pdf or poster in this case.

\\ provides a line break. Note, in the talks-overview.tex you may need to use a double backslash in your headings to make sure they fit in the box.

The text in the `{curly brackets}` are arguments passed to LaTeX commands. In most cases the words you insert will amend the correct field in the poster. ONLY CHANGE CONTENT *INSIDE* CURLY BRACKETS WHERE INSTRUCTIONS ARE GIVEN ABOVE IN GREEN; don't delete the curly brackets themselves!

A4 or A5 — At the top of the main.tex file if you can edit the posters depending on the size you plan to print them. For A5 (210×148 mm or 8.27×5.83 inches) you need to add the word small in square brackets. For A4 (210×297 mm or 8.27×11.69 inches) you should remove the `[small]` from this section: `\documentclass[small]{pint-of-science-poster}`

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5 How to Customise your Pint of Science Poster for non-English Languages

5.1 Dates, website and social media

The date, URL and social media information on the "title poster" can be changed using the following commands **before the** `\maketitle`, especially if your event's website and social media handles aren't the main organiser's:

```
\PoSdate{days}{MON YYYY}
\PoSurl{url}
\PoStwitter{handle}  %without leading @; will be added automatically
\PoShashtag{campaign} %without leading #; will be added automatically
```

These will take effect on all subsequent pages.

> If you need to put different dates for each poster page, you can re-issue `\PoSdate{...}{...}` multiple times throughout your poster, before each page.

5.2 Pre-defined text

There are certain pre-defined text snippets on the posters, which were originally designed for an English-speaking audience. If you are designing posters for an non-English speaking audience, you can re-define these text snippets using the following syntax;
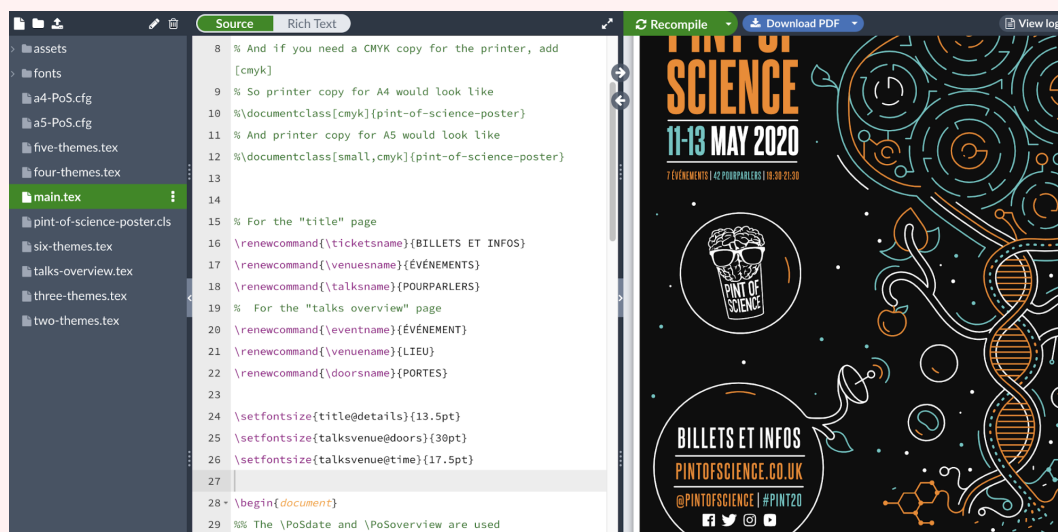
Last Updated January 14, 2026.

```latex
\renewcommand{\snippetname}{your translation}
```

For example, to change the "VENUES", "TALKS" and "TICKETS AND INFO" on the main title poster, you can add the following lines **before your title page**:
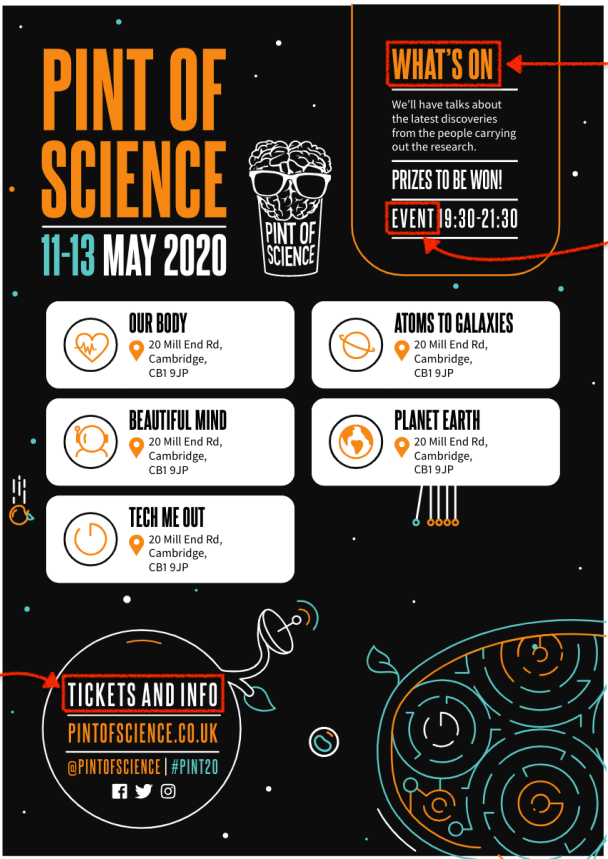
```latex
\renewcommand{\venuesname}{ÉVÉNEMENTS}
\renewcommand{\talksname}{POURPARLERS}
\renewcommand{\ticketsname}{BILLETS ET INFOS}
```


All code snippets like these, described in this and the following sections, can be added before `\begin{document}`. For example:
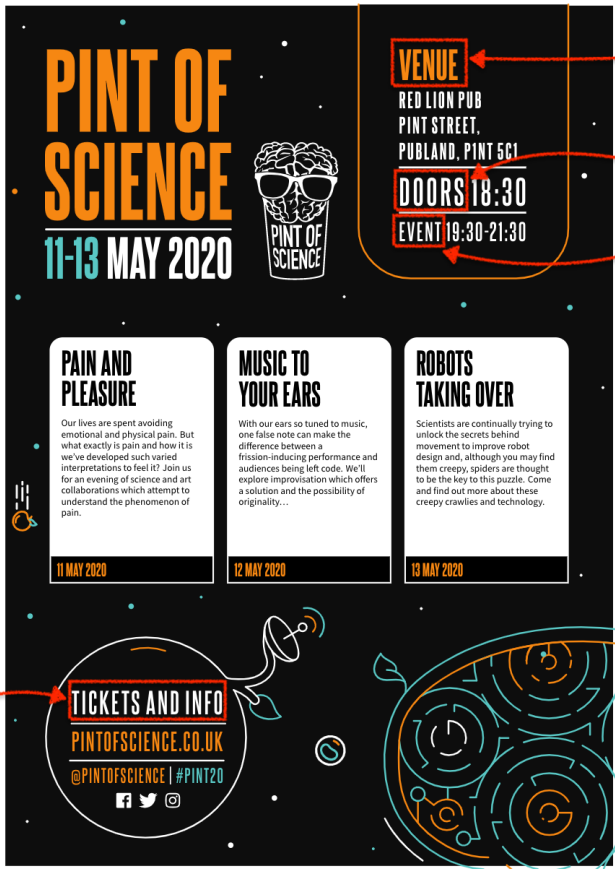
Here are the pre-defined text snippet names for the "talks overview" and "themes" poster pages.

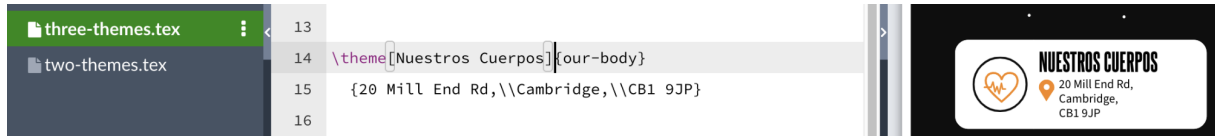## 5.3 Changing theme names

You can specify the non-English theme names in square brackets, like this:

`\theme[Nuestros Cuerpos]{our-body}`

The icon image will still be taken from `our-body`, but the theme name on the output poster is now displayed NUESTROS CUERPOS.

5.4 Changing font sizes

You may find that some elements are now too wide to fit into the designated areas, causing them to be split into multiple lines. For example, by adding these lines before `\begin{document}`

```
% For the "title" page
\renewcommand{\ticketsname}{BILLETS ET INFOS}
\renewcommand{\venuesname}{ÉVÉNEMENTS}
\renewcommand{\talksname}{POURPARLERS}
%  For the "talks overview" page
\renewcommand{\eventname}{ÉVÉNEMENT}
\renewcommand{\venuename}{LIEU}
\renewcommand{\doorsname}{PORTES}
```

you will observe the following output:

If you would like to make the over-long elements to fit on a single line for aesthestic reasons, you can change the font size of these elements by name, using the following syntax **before the affected page, or before `\begin{document}`**:
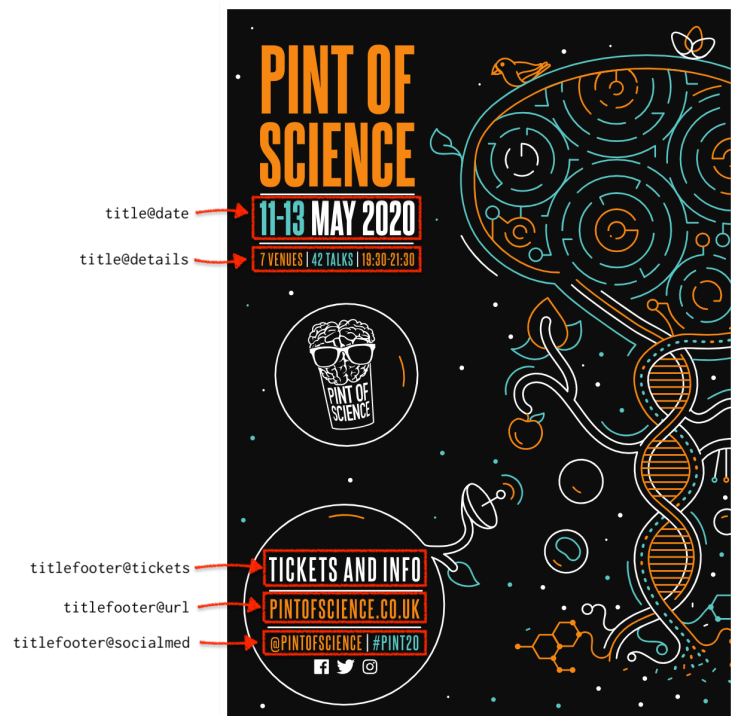
`\setfontsize{element-name}{font-size}`

For example:

```
\setfontsize{title@details}{13.5pt}
\setfontsize{talksvenue@doors}{30pt}
\setfontsize{talksvenue@time}{17.5pt}
```


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The following shows the names of elements that can be used with the `\setfontsize` command.
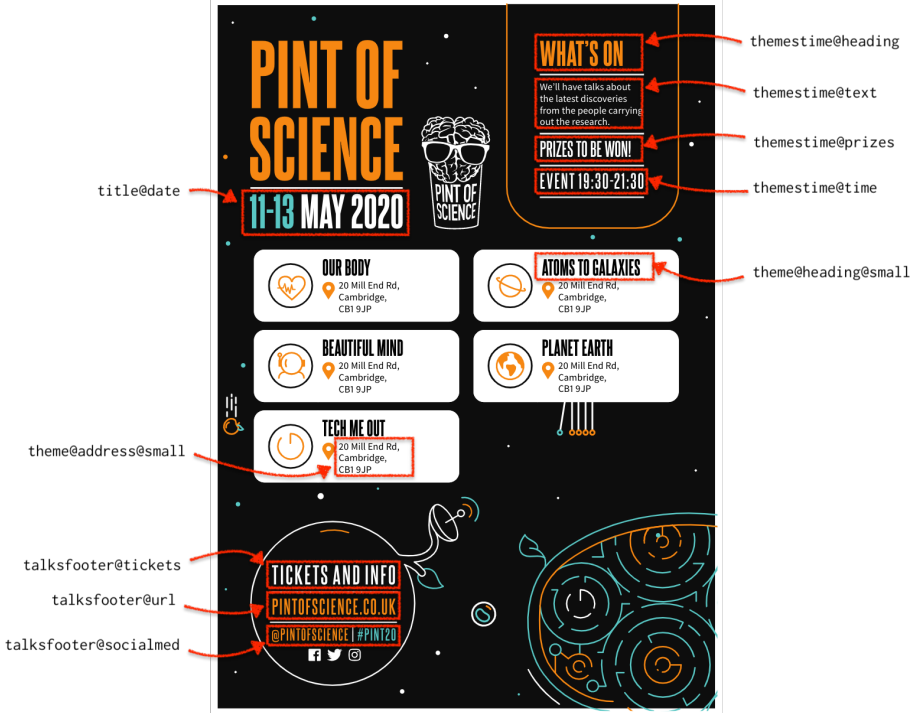
Title page:

"Talks overview" page:

Themes (2) page:

Themes (3–6) page:

For reference to aid customisation, Table 1 on the next page shows the default font sizes for each element in the normal-sized (A4) and small-sized (A5) poster templates.

Default font size of elements on different pages

Page	Element name	Font size in normal-sized poster (A4)	Font size in small-sized poster (A5)
Title; talks overview; themes	`title@date`	49.74pt	35pt
Title	`title@details`	18.6pt	13.25pt
Title	`titlefooter@tickets`	35pt	25pt
Title	`titlefooter@url`	28pt	20.5pt
Title	`titlefooter@socialmed`	21.65pt	16pt
Talks overview	`talksvenue@heading`	36.7pt	31pt
Talks overview	`talksvenue@address`	20pt	14pt
Talks overview	`talksvenue@doors`	33.4pt	24pt
Talks overview	`talksvenue@time`	22.9pt	15.9pt
Talks overview	`talksoverview@heading`	30pt	21pt
Talks overview	`talksoverview@body`	9.5pt	8pt
Talks overview	`talksoverview@date`	16pt	10pt
Talks overview; themes	`talksfooter@tickets`	28.2pt	20.5pt
Talks overview; themes	`talksfooter@url`	23.4pt	17pt
Talks overview; themes	`talksfooter@socialmed`	17.9pt	13pt
Themes	`themestime@heading`	36.7pt	31.4pt
Themes	`themestime@text`	12pt	8pt
Themes	`themestime@prizes`	23.4pt	16.7pt
Themes	`themestime@time`	23pt	16.3pt
Themes (only 2)	`theme@heading@large`	40pt	28pt
Themes (only 2)	`theme@address@large`	16pt	12pt
Themes (3–6)	`theme@heading@small`	24pt	17pt
Themes (3–6)	`theme@address@small`	12pt	8pt

5.5 Nudging positions

After modifying the pre-defined text and font sizes, you might want to nudge the positions of some elements. For example, after issuing the following lines before `\maketitle`:

```
\renewcommand{\venuesname}{ÉVÉNEMENTS}
\renewcommand{\talksname}{POURPARLERS}
\setfontsize{title@details}{13.5pt}
```

you would see something like this:

You may then want to nudge this element slightly upwards. This can be done as follows with the `\movevert` command:


```
\movevert{title@details}{5pt}
```

A **positive** length value (e.g., 5pt) will move an element **upwards** by 5pt; while a **negative** length value (e.g., -5pt) will move an element **downwards** by 5pt.

There is also the `\movehorz{element-name}{length}` command, to nudge an element *horizontally*. A **positive** length value will move an element to the **right**; while a **negative** length value will move it to the **left**.