Registered Reports – Guide for Authors

Default submission via Peer Community in Registered Reports

Cortex is pleased to support the *[Peer Community in Registered Reports](#)* (PCI RR). PCI RR is a free non-commercial platform that performs peer review of Registered Report preprints, co-founded in 2021 by members of the *Cortex* editorial board. Unless special circumstances apply (see below), authors who wish to publish a Registered Report at *Cortex* should submit via PCI RR rather than directly to the journal.

As a "PCI RR-friendly" journal, *Cortex* will automatically offer Stage 1 in-principle acceptance (IPA) to any quantitative Stage 1 RR within the journal's disciplinary scope that receives IPA at PCI RR, and will accept without further peer review any Stage 2 RR that has been recommended by PCI RR, subject to the manuscript meeting the applicable journal requirements concerning statistical thresholds, bias control, and formatting (see [here](#) for the specific conditions). The evaluation criteria for Registered Reports at *Cortex* and PCI RR are otherwise identical.

Authors intending to publish a Registered Report in *Cortex* should following the following steps:

1. Read the [PCI RR Guide for Authors](#) and observe the additional [requirements for publishing in *Cortex*](#). Take particular note of the requirements concerning statistical thresholds (including alpha =.02 and power > 0.90, where applicable) and the minimum requirement of [Level 2](#) for RRs proposing analyses of existing data.

2. [Submit the manuscript to PCI RR](#) for Stage 1 review. Following Stage 1 IPA and completion of the research, submit a completed manuscript to PCI RR for Stage 2 review.

3. Once the manuscript achieves a final positive Stage 2 recommendation from PCI RR, authors receive a list of eligible PCI RR-friendly journals that will accept the Stage 2 manuscript without further peer review. If *Cortex* is included in this list, and the authors wish to publish in *Cortex*, then they should now submit the manuscript to the journal as a Stage 2 Registered Report using [Editorial Manager](#). The manuscript should be unchanged from its final recommended state, apart from now including the public URL to the Stage 1 and Stage 2 recommendations on the PCI RR website. The submission should also be accompanied by a cover letter stating that the authors are submitting to *Cortex* following a positive Stage 2 recommendation at PCI RR.

4. Upon receipt at *Cortex*, the manuscript will be checked by the Registered Reports editor to confirm that the submission is the same as the Stage 2 manuscript approved by PCI RR. If so, the article will be accepted immediately without further peer review.

Direct track submissions for special circumstances

Please note that the direct submission track for Stage 1 Registered Reports at *Cortex* remains open *only* to:

1. Articles submitted as a part of a *Cortex* special issue
2. Revised Stage 1 manuscripts that were originally submitted before this policy came into effect
3. Individual cases where the authors have an important reason for submitting directly to *Cortex* rather than PCI RR. Such submissions will be considered by the RR editor on a case-by-case basis and should be clearly justified in the submission cover letter.

For further details about PCI RR, please see the main [About pages](#), [PCI RR Guide for Authors](#), and [Frequently Asked Questions](#). For additional information please contact the *Cortex* journal office (cortex@ed.ac.uk).