



# INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH

See also [Elsevier Educational Research Programme home](#)

## AUTHOR INFORMATION PACK

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

●	<b>Description</b>	<b>p.1</b>
●	<b>Audience</b>	<b>p.2</b>
●	<b>Impact Factor</b>	<b>p.2</b>
●	<b>Abstracting and Indexing</b>	<b>p.3</b>
●	<b>Editorial Board</b>	<b>p.3</b>
●	<b>Guide for Authors</b>	<b>p.4</b>



ISSN: 0883-0355

### DESCRIPTION

The *International Journal of Educational Research* publishes research manuscripts in the field of **education**. Work must be of a quality and context that the [Editorial Board](#) think would be of interest to an international readership. The aims and scope of the journals are to:

- Provide a journal that reports research on topics that are of international significance across educational contexts
- Publish high quality manuscripts that are of international significance in terms of design and/or findings
- Encourage collaboration by international teams of researchers to create special issues on these topics

#### What can papers/special issues be about?

Proposals for special issues and individual papers can be on any contemporary educational topic of international interest. Reports of high quality **educational research** involving any discipline and methodology will be welcome. However, the journal's aim and scope is to ensure it publishes high quality research that could potentially inform research, policy and practice beyond the context of that in which the original work is undertaken.

The research reported does not have to be comparative (in the sense of comparing aspects of education in different countries or cultures); a paper may report research carried out in just one location or cultural setting. Work can be drawn from any context or research paradigm. However, the Journal tends to publish empirical research studies that have clear significance to an international readership. Therefore, work must have the following features:

- A strong theoretical framework
- Clear understanding of how literature critically relates to the topic researched
- Strong design and analysis
- Critical analysis and recommendations for further research, policy and practice in an international context
- It must follow the 'Instructions for Authors' advice given

As well as papers, which report the findings of empirical research, papers, which provide critical literature reviews of research on specific educational topics of international interest, will also be welcome.

## **Types of publication**

The *International Journal of Educational Research* publishes regular papers and special issues on specific topics of interest to international audiences of educational researchers. Regular issues have an open call for manuscripts. Strong manuscripts will be reviewed. There is an Editorial Board policy that weaker manuscripts or manuscripts that do not follow the [Guidelines for Authors](#) will be rejected before review.

Special issues are usually composed of individually invited manuscripts handled by a guest editor. Guest editors have responsibility for putting together the author team and handling the peer review process. Examples of recent Special Issues published in the journal illustrate the breadth of topics that have been included in the journal: 'Representing Diversity', 'Cross Curricularity', and 'Classroom Based Talk'. Please note that proposals for special issues must be in the format described in the Guide for Authors.

## **How are papers assessed?**

Papers (including those in special issues) are subject to a peer review process, using an international panel of researchers who are expert in relevant fields. Referees are asked to judge the quality of research and also the relevance and accessibility of a paper for an international audience. The journal uses single blind review, meaning any reviewers are able to establish the author(s) of a manuscript. Authors must propose three reviewers for their manuscripts. These reviewers should be international in scope and at least one of them should be from an English language speaking country. Authors should not suggest reviewers from their own institution or reviewers where a conflict of interest may arise for the reviewer. For special issues, referees are asked first to judge the quality of a proposal, and then to judge the entire contents of a draft issue. *[More detailed information on this process is provided under Guide for Authors: follow link from this page]*

## **Ethical guidelines**

Work must be undertaken in an ethical manner. Research must have been undertaken in accordance with Elsevier's guidelines on ethical research available at: <http://www.ethics.elsevier.com/>

## **AUDIENCE**

---

The journal reaches a global audience of educational researchers, teacher trainers, students and researchers in associated fields (e.g. psychology, sociology, social anthropology, politics and economics) who have an international perspective on education.

## **IMPACT FACTOR**

---

2016: 0.930 © Thomson Reuters Journal Citation Reports 2017

## ABSTRACTING AND INDEXING

---

Australian Educational Index  
British Education Index  
Contents Pages in Education  
Education Research Index  
ERIC  
Education Technology Abstracts  
Research into Higher Education Abstracts  
Special Education Needs Abstracts  
Educational Management Abstracts  
Multicultural Education Abstracts  
Sociology of Education Abstracts  
Technical Education & Training Abstracts  
ERA (Educational Research Abstracts Online)  
Scopus  
MathEduc

## EDITORIAL BOARD

---

### *Editor-in-Chief*

**Allen Thurston**, Centre for Effective Education, School of Education, Queen's University Belfast, 69-71 University Street, BT7 1HL, Belfast, Northern Ireland, UK

### *Associate Editor*

**C. Dewhirst**, Queen's University Belfast, Belfast, Northern Ireland

**K. Wall**, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, UK

### *Editorial Board Members:*

**N. Beckmann**, Durham University, Durham, UK

**B. Csapo**, University of Szeged, Szeged, Hungary

**M. de Haan**, Utrecht University, Utrecht, Netherlands

**L. Dunne**, Queen's University Belfast, Belfast, Northern Ireland, UK

**R. Gillies**, University of Queensland, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia

**H. Goldstein**, University of Bristol, Bristol, UK

**E. Hall**, Newcastle University, Newcastle, UK

**S. Hennessy**, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK

**E.K. Hyry-Beihammer**, University of Education Upper Austria, Linz, Austria

**D. Jones**, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas, USA

**K. Kumpulainen**, University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland

**S. Miller**, Queen's University Belfast, Belfast, Northern Ireland, UK

**C. Robinson**, University of Brighton, Brighton, UK

**S. Rojas-Drummond**, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), Delegación Coyoacán, Mexico

**C.J. Roseth**, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan, USA

**R. Säljö**, Göteborgs Universitet, Mölndal, Sweden

**D. Sears**, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana, USA

**G.J. Stylianides**, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK

**A. Sullivan Palinscar**, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA

**H. Torrance**, Manchester Metropolitan University, Didsbury, Manchester, UK

**J. Wertsch**, Washington University in St. Louis, St Louis, Missouri, USA

## GUIDE FOR AUTHORS

---

### *Your Paper Your Way*

We now differentiate between the requirements for new and revised submissions. You may choose to submit your manuscript as a single Word or PDF file to be used in the refereeing process. Only when your paper is at the revision stage, will you be requested to put your paper in to a 'correct format' for acceptance and provide the items required for the publication of your article.

**To find out more, please visit the Preparation section below.**

IJER are pleased to announce that from March 2014 they will be publishing "Research Protocols" for projects with an education focus. This will afford educational researchers involved in Randomized Controlled Trials, Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses the opportunity to publish their research protocols prior to undertaking work. We look forward to hearing from interested researchers. Submit these via the [submission system](#).

### *INTRODUCTION*

The *International Journal of Educational Research* publishes regular papers and special issues on specific topics of interest to international audiences of educational researchers. Examples of recent Special Issues published in the journal illustrate the breadth of topics that have been included in the journal: 'Students' Perspectives on Learning Environments', 'Social, Motivational and Emotional Aspects of Learning Disabilities', 'Epistemological Beliefs and Domain', 'Analyzing Mathematics Classroom Cultures and Practices', and 'Music Education: A site for collaborative creativity.'

Please note that proposals for special issues must be in the format described in the Guide for Authors.

### *Contact details for submission*

Authors are requested to submit their papers electronically by using the *International Journal of Educational Research* online submission and review web site (<https://www.evise.com/profile/api/navigate/IJER>). This site will guide authors stepwise through the submission process. Authors are requested to submit the text, tables, and artwork in electronic form to this address. Authors who are unable to provide an electronic version or have other circumstances that prevent online submission or wish to discuss Special Issue proposals must contact the Editor prior to submission to discuss alternative options; email: [a.thurston@qub.ac.uk](mailto:a.thurston@qub.ac.uk). The Publisher and Editor regret that they are not able to consider submissions that do not follow these procedures.

### *Submission checklist*

You can use this list to carry out a final check of your submission before you send it to the journal for review. Please check the relevant section in this Guide for Authors for more details.

#### **Ensure that the following items are present:**

One author has been designated as the corresponding author with contact details:

- E-mail address
- Full postal address

All necessary files have been uploaded:

*Manuscript:*

- Include keywords
- All figures (include relevant captions)
- All tables (including titles, description, footnotes)
- Ensure all figure and table citations in the text match the files provided
- Indicate clearly if color should be used for any figures in print

*Graphical Abstracts / Highlights files* (where applicable)

*Supplemental files* (where applicable)

Further considerations

- Manuscript has been 'spell checked' and 'grammar checked'
- All references mentioned in the Reference List are cited in the text, and vice versa
- Permission has been obtained for use of copyrighted material from other sources (including the Internet)

- A competing interests statement is provided, even if the authors have no competing interests to declare
- Journal policies detailed in this guide have been reviewed
- Referee suggestions and contact details provided, based on journal requirements

For further information, visit our [Support Center](#).

## BEFORE YOU BEGIN

### *Ethics in publishing*

Please see our information pages on [Ethics in publishing](#) and [Ethical guidelines for journal publication](#).

If you have ethical concerns on a paper, whether published or in review, please contact the editor in the first instance. The editor will then follow the COPE guidelines as explained here <https://www.elsevier.com/editors/publishing-ethics/perk/about-cope>.

### *Declaration of interest*

All authors must disclose any financial and personal relationships with other people or organizations that could inappropriately influence (bias) their work. Examples of potential conflicts of interest include employment, consultancies, stock ownership, honoraria, paid expert testimony, patent applications/registrations, and grants or other funding. If there are no conflicts of interest then please state this: 'Conflicts of interest: none'. [More information](#).

### *Submission Declaration*

Submission of an article implies that the work described has not been published previously (except in the form of an abstract or as part of a published lecture or academic thesis or as an electronic preprint, see <http://www.elsevier.com/postingpolicy>), that it is not under consideration for publication elsewhere, that its publication is approved by all authors and tacitly or explicitly by the responsible authorities where the work was carried out, and that, if accepted, it will not be published elsewhere including electronically in the same form, in English or in any other language, without the written consent of the copyright-holder.

### *Ethical research*

All submissions must conform to the American Educational Research Association 'Code of Ethics' on research.

### *Changes to authorship*

Authors are expected to consider carefully the list and order of authors **before** submitting their manuscript and provide the definitive list of authors at the time of the original submission. Any addition, deletion or rearrangement of author names in the authorship list should be made only **before** the manuscript has been accepted and only if approved by the journal Editor. To request such a change, the Editor must receive the following from the **corresponding author**: (a) the reason for the change in author list and (b) written confirmation (e-mail, letter) from all authors that they agree with the addition, removal or rearrangement. In the case of addition or removal of authors, this includes confirmation from the author being added or removed.

Only in exceptional circumstances will the Editor consider the addition, deletion or rearrangement of authors **after** the manuscript has been accepted. While the Editor considers the request, publication of the manuscript will be suspended. If the manuscript has already been published in an online issue, any requests approved by the Editor will result in a corrigendum.

### *Copyright*

Upon acceptance of an article, authors will be asked to complete a 'Journal Publishing Agreement' (see [more information](#) on this). An e-mail will be sent to the corresponding author confirming receipt of the manuscript together with a 'Journal Publishing Agreement' form or a link to the online version of this agreement.

Subscribers may reproduce tables of contents or prepare lists of articles including abstracts for internal circulation within their institutions. [Permission](#) of the Publisher is required for resale or distribution outside the institution and for all other derivative works, including compilations and translations. If excerpts from other copyrighted works are included, the author(s) must obtain written permission from the copyright owners and credit the source(s) in the article. Elsevier has [preprinted forms](#) for use by authors in these cases.

For open access articles: Upon acceptance of an article, authors will be asked to complete an 'Exclusive License Agreement' ([more information](#)). Permitted third party reuse of open access articles is determined by the author's choice of [user license](#).

### **Author rights**

As an author you (or your employer or institution) have certain rights to reuse your work. [More information](#).

*Elsevier supports responsible sharing*

Find out how you can [share your research](#) published in Elsevier journals.

### **Role of the funding source**

You are requested to identify who provided financial support for the conduct of the research and/or preparation of the article and to briefly describe the role of the sponsor(s), if any, in study design; in the collection, analysis and interpretation of data; in the writing of the report; and in the decision to submit the article for publication. If the funding source(s) had no such involvement then this should be stated.

*Funding body agreements and policies*

Elsevier has established a number of agreements with funding bodies which allow authors to comply with their funder's open access policies. Some funding bodies will reimburse the author for the Open Access Publication Fee. Details of [existing agreements](#) are available online.

### **Open access**

This journal offers authors a choice in publishing their research:

#### **Subscription**

- Articles are made available to subscribers as well as developing countries and patient groups through our [universal access programs](#).
- No open access publication fee payable by authors.

#### **Open access**

- Articles are freely available to both subscribers and the wider public with permitted reuse.
- An open access publication fee is payable by authors or on their behalf, e.g. by their research funder or institution.

Regardless of how you choose to publish your article, the journal will apply the same peer review criteria and acceptance standards.

For open access articles, permitted third party (re)use is defined by the following [Creative Commons user licenses](#):

*Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY)*

Lets others distribute and copy the article, create extracts, abstracts, and other revised versions, adaptations or derivative works of or from an article (such as a translation), include in a collective work (such as an anthology), text or data mine the article, even for commercial purposes, as long as they credit the author(s), do not represent the author as endorsing their adaptation of the article, and do not modify the article in such a way as to damage the author's honor or reputation.

*Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs (CC BY-NC-ND)*

For non-commercial purposes, lets others distribute and copy the article, and to include in a collective work (such as an anthology), as long as they credit the author(s) and provided they do not alter or modify the article.

The open access publication fee for this journal is **USD 1100**, excluding taxes. Learn more about Elsevier's pricing policy: <http://www.elsevier.com/openaccesspricing>.



### *Green open access*

Authors can share their research in a variety of different ways and Elsevier has a number of green open access options available. We recommend authors see our [green open access page](#) for further information. Authors can also self-archive their manuscripts immediately and enable public access from their institution's repository after an embargo period. This is the version that has been accepted for publication and which typically includes author-incorporated changes suggested during submission, peer review and in editor-author communications. Embargo period: For subscription articles, an appropriate amount of time is needed for journals to deliver value to subscribing customers before an article becomes freely available to the public. This is the embargo period and it begins from the date the article is formally published online in its final and fully citable form. [Find out more.](#)

This journal has an embargo period of 24 months.

### *Elsevier Publishing Campus*

The Elsevier Publishing Campus ([www.publishingcampus.com](http://www.publishingcampus.com)) is an online platform offering free lectures, interactive training and professional advice to support you in publishing your research. The College of Skills training offers modules on how to prepare, write and structure your article and explains how editors will look at your paper when it is submitted for publication. Use these resources, and more, to ensure that your submission will be the best that you can make it.

### *Language and language services*

Please write your text in good English (American or British usage is accepted, but not a mixture of these). Authors who require information about language editing and copyediting services pre- and post-submission please visit <http://www.elsevier.com/languageediting> or our customer support site at [service.elsevier.com](http://service.elsevier.com) for more information.

### *Use of language*

Authors should note that they are writing for an international audience. National colloquialisms and idiomatic use of language should be avoided to the extent possible. Word choices and sentence constructions that might imply bias against persons on the basis of gender, racial or ethnic group membership, disability, sexual orientation, or age should be avoided.

### *Submission*

Submission to this journal proceeds totally online, via <https://www.evis.com/profile/api/navigate/IJER>, and you will be guided stepwise through the creation and uploading of your files. The system automatically converts source files to a single PDF file of the article, which is used in the peer-review process. Please note that even though manuscript source files are converted to PDF files at submission for the review process, these source files are needed for further processing after acceptance. All correspondence, including notification of the Editor's decision and requests for revision, takes place by e-mail removing the need for a paper trail.

## **PREPARATION**

### *Length*

For individual papers, a length of between **4,000 - 8,000 words** is acceptable. This excludes tables, figures and references. The word count limit is not applicable for "Research Protocols"

### **NEW SUBMISSIONS**

Submission to this journal proceeds totally online and you will be guided stepwise through the creation and uploading of your files. The system automatically converts your files to a single PDF file, which is used in the peer-review process.

As part of the Your Paper Your Way service, you may choose to submit your manuscript as a single file to be used in the refereeing process. This can be a PDF file or a Word document, in any format or layout that can be used by referees to evaluate your manuscript. It should contain high enough quality figures for refereeing. If you prefer to do so, you may still provide all or some of the source files at the initial submission. Please note that individual figure files larger than 10 MB must be uploaded separately.

### *References*

There are no strict requirements on reference formatting at submission. References can be in any style or format as long as the style is consistent. Where applicable, author(s) name(s), journal title/book title, chapter title/article title, year of publication, volume number/book chapter and the pagination

must be present. Use of DOI is highly encouraged. The reference style used by the journal will be applied to the accepted article by Elsevier at the proof stage. Note that missing data will be highlighted at proof stage for the author to correct.

#### *Formatting requirements*

There are no strict formatting requirements but all manuscripts must contain the essential elements needed to convey your manuscript, for example Abstract, Keywords, Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, Conclusions, Artwork and Tables with Captions.

If your article includes any Videos and/or other Supplementary material, this should be included in your initial submission for peer review purposes.

Divide the article into clearly defined sections.

#### *Figures and tables embedded in text*

Please ensure the figures and the tables included in the single file are placed next to the relevant text in the manuscript, rather than at the bottom or the top of the file. The corresponding caption should be placed directly below the figure or table.

#### **Peer review**

This journal operates a double blind review process. All contributions will be initially assessed by the editor for suitability for the journal. Papers deemed suitable are then typically sent to a minimum of two independent expert reviewers to assess the scientific quality of the paper. The Editor is responsible for the final decision regarding acceptance or rejection of articles. The Editor's decision is final. [More information on types of peer review.](#)

#### **Double-blind review**

This journal uses double-blind review, which means the identities of the authors are concealed from the reviewers, and vice versa. [More information](#) is available on our website. To facilitate this, please include the following separately:

*Title page (with author details):* This should include the title, authors' names, affiliations, acknowledgements and any Declaration of Interest statement, and a complete address for the corresponding author including an e-mail address.

*Blinded manuscript (no author details):* The main body of the paper (including the references, figures, tables and any acknowledgements) should not include any identifying information, such as the authors' names or affiliations.

#### **REVISED SUBMISSIONS**

##### *Use of word processing software*

Regardless of the file format of the original submission, at revision you must provide us with an editable file of the entire article. Keep the layout of the text as simple as possible. Most formatting codes will be removed and replaced on processing the article. The electronic text should be prepared in a way very similar to that of conventional manuscripts (see also the [Guide to Publishing with Elsevier](#)). See also the section on Electronic artwork.

To avoid unnecessary errors you are strongly advised to use the 'spell-check' and 'grammar-check' functions of your word processor.

#### **INFORMATION ON PROTOCOLS**

##### *IJER Evaluation Protocol Publishing Guidelines*

Authors wishing to publish an evaluation/research protocol should report it with at least the following information:

Background

##### *Significance*

•"An explanation of the scientific background, policy context and rationale for the research being undertaken.

##### *Intervention*

•"Details of the intervention being tested.

Research Plan



### *Research questions*

- "Questions the research is designed to answer. This should include both primary and secondary outcomes.

### *Design*

- "The design should be carefully explained and the unit of randomization explained (i.e. school, class, individual).
- "The method used to allocate to condition should be indicated.

### *Participants*

- "A clear statement should be given of eligibility and exclusion criteria during the recruitment process.

### *Outcome Measures*

- "Clearly defined primary and secondary outcomes and how they are administered and measured. The validity and reliability of the measures should be discussed.
- "Details of plans to ensure validity in the testing process (eg, administered blind at pre/post test, data to be analysed blind to condition).

### *Sample size calculations*

- "A sample size calculation should be included and statements about assumptions of Effect Size and Power justified.

### *Analysis plan*

- "The proposed analysis plan should be detailed. If appropriate models should be stated and clearly indicate how the primary/secondary measures will be analysed for effect.

### *Personnel*

- "Names and affiliations of each co-investigator should be included.

### *Timeline*

- "Timetable including specification of who completes each task.

### *Ethics*

- "Ethical permissions should be details and any conflict of interest reported.

Protocols should normally have been peer reviewed by the funding body during the funding process. The fact that protocols have been previously reviewed by a funding body should be stated clearly. As such protocols will only be subject to editorial review. This review will be limited to checking that all relevant information is presented clearly and accurately and that protocols adhere to appropriate standards in ethical practice.

## **Article structure**

### *Subdivision - numbered sections*

Divide your article into clearly defined and numbered sections. Subsections should be numbered 1.1 (then 1.1.1, 1.1.2, ...), 1.2, etc. (the abstract is not included in section numbering). Use this numbering also for internal cross-referencing: do not just refer to 'the text'. Any subsection may be given a brief heading. Each heading should appear on its own separate line.

### *Introduction*

State the objectives of the work and provide an adequate background, avoiding a detailed literature survey or a summary of the results.

### *Experimental/Materials and methods:*

Provide sufficient detail to allow the work to be reproduced. Methods already published should be indicated by a reference: only relevant modifications should be described.

### *Theory:*

A Theory section should extend, not repeat, the background to the article already dealt with in the Introduction and lay the foundation for further work.

### *Results:*

Results should be clear and concise.

*Discussion:*

This should explore the significance of the results of the work, not repeat them. A combined Results and Discussion section is often appropriate. Avoid extensive citations and discussion of published literature.

*Conclusions:*

The main conclusions of the study may be presented in a short Conclusions section, which may stand alone or form a subsection of a Discussion or Results and Discussion section.

*Acknowledgements:*

Place acknowledgements before the references, in a separate section, and not as a footnote on the title page.

*Appendices:*

If there is more than one appendix, they should be identified as A, B, etc.

*References:*

See separate section, below.

Figure captions, tables, figures, schemes. Present these, in this order, at the end of the article. They are described in more detail below. High-resolution graphics files must always be provided separate from the main text file (see the section below about the preparation of illustrations).

*Essential title page information*

- **Title.** Concise and informative. Titles are often used in information-retrieval systems. Avoid abbreviations and formulae where possible.
- **Author names and affiliations.** Where the family name may be ambiguous (e.g., a double name), please indicate this clearly. Present the authors' affiliation addresses (where the actual work was done) below the names. Indicate all affiliations with a lower-case superscript letter immediately after the author's name and in front of the appropriate address. Provide the full postal address of each affiliation, including the country name, and, if available, the e-mail address of each author.
- **Corresponding author.** Clearly indicate who will handle correspondence at all stages of refereeing and publication, also post-publication. **Ensure that telephone and fax numbers (with country and area code) are provided in addition to the e-mail address and the complete postal address.**
- **Present/permanent address.** If an author has moved since the work described in the article was done, or was visiting at the time, a "Present address" (or "Permanent address") may be indicated as a footnote to that author's name. The address at which the author actually did the work must be retained as the main, affiliation address. Superscript Arabic numerals are used for such footnotes.

Authors are requested to provide the contact details of 2-3 possible reviewers for their paper when they submit.

*Abstract*

A concise and factual abstract is required (of no more than 120 words). The abstract should state briefly the purpose of the research, the principal results and major conclusions. An abstract is often presented separately from the article, so it must be able to stand alone. For this reason, References should be avoided, but if essential, then cite the author(s) and year(s). Also, non-standard or uncommon abbreviations should be avoided, but if essential they must be defined at their first mention in the abstract itself.

*Graphical abstract*

Although a graphical abstract is optional, its use is encouraged as it draws more attention to the online article. The graphical abstract should summarize the contents of the article in a concise, pictorial form designed to capture the attention of a wide readership. Graphical abstracts should be submitted as a separate file in the online submission system. Image size: Please provide an image with a minimum of 531 × 1328 pixels (h × w) or proportionally more. The image should be readable at a size of 5 × 13 cm using a regular screen resolution of 96 dpi. Preferred file types: TIFF, EPS, PDF or MS Office files. You can view [Example Graphical Abstracts](#) on our information site.

Authors can make use of Elsevier's [Illustration Services](#) to ensure the best presentation of their images and in accordance with all technical requirements.

### *Highlights*

Highlights are mandatory for this journal. They consist of a short collection of bullet points that convey the core findings of the article and should be submitted in a separate editable file in the online submission system. Please use 'Highlights' in the file name and include 3 to 5 bullet points (maximum 85 characters, including spaces, per bullet point). You can view [example Highlights](#) on our information site.

### *Keywords*

Immediately after the abstract, provide a maximum of 6 keywords, using British or American spelling, but not a mixture of these, and avoiding general and plural terms and multiple concepts (avoid, for example, "and", "of"). Be sparing with abbreviations: only abbreviations firmly established in the field may be eligible. These keywords will be used for indexing purposes.

### *Abbreviations*

Define abbreviations that are not standard in this field in a footnote to be placed on the first page of the article. Such abbreviations that are unavoidable in the abstract must be defined at their first mention there, as well as in the footnote. Ensure consistency of abbreviations throughout the article.

### *Acknowledgements*

Collate acknowledgements in a separate section at the end of the article before the references and do not, therefore, include them on the title page, as a footnote to the title or otherwise. List here those individuals who provided help during the research (e.g., providing language help, writing assistance or proof reading the article, etc.).

### *Formatting of funding sources*

List funding sources in this standard way to facilitate compliance to funder's requirements:

Funding: This work was supported by the National Institutes of Health [grant numbers xxxx, yyyy]; the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Seattle, WA [grant number zzzz]; and the United States Institutes of Peace [grant number aaaa].

It is not necessary to include detailed descriptions on the program or type of grants and awards. When funding is from a block grant or other resources available to a university, college, or other research institution, submit the name of the institute or organization that provided the funding.

If no funding has been provided for the research, please include the following sentence:

This research did not receive any specific grant from funding agencies in the public, commercial, or not-for-profit sectors.

### *Footnotes*

Footnotes should be used sparingly. Number them consecutively throughout the article. Many word processors build footnotes into the text, and this feature may be used. Should this not be the case, indicate the position of footnotes in the text and present the footnotes themselves separately at the end of the article.

## **Artwork**

### *Electronic artwork*

#### *General points*

- Make sure you use uniform lettering and sizing of your original artwork.
- Preferred fonts: Arial (or Helvetica), Times New Roman (or Times), Symbol, Courier.
- Number the illustrations according to their sequence in the text.
- Use a logical naming convention for your artwork files.
- Indicate per figure if it is a single, 1.5 or 2-column fitting image.
- For Word submissions only, you may still provide figures and their captions, and tables within a single file at the revision stage.
- Please note that individual figure files larger than 10 MB must be provided in separate source files. A detailed [guide on electronic artwork](#) is available.

**You are urged to visit this site; some excerpts from the detailed information are given here.**

### *Formats*

Regardless of the application used, when your electronic artwork is finalized, please 'save as' or convert the images to one of the following formats (note the resolution requirements for line drawings, halftones, and line/halftone combinations given below):

EPS (or PDF): Vector drawings. Embed the font or save the text as 'graphics'.

TIFF (or JPG): Color or grayscale photographs (halftones): always use a minimum of 300 dpi.

TIFF (or JPG): Bitmapped line drawings: use a minimum of 1000 dpi.

TIFF (or JPG): Combinations bitmapped line/half-tone (color or grayscale): a minimum of 500 dpi is required.

**Please do not:**

- Supply files that are optimized for screen use (e.g., GIF, BMP, PICT, WPG); the resolution is too low.
- Supply files that are too low in resolution.
- Submit graphics that are disproportionately large for the content.

*Color artwork*

Please make sure that artwork files are in an acceptable format (TIFF (or JPEG), EPS (or PDF), or MS Office files) and with the correct resolution. If, together with your accepted article, you submit usable color figures then Elsevier will ensure, at no additional charge, that these figures will appear in color online (e.g., ScienceDirect and other sites) regardless of whether or not these illustrations are reproduced in color in the printed version. **For color reproduction in print, you will receive information regarding the costs from Elsevier after receipt of your accepted article.** Please indicate your preference for color: in print or online only. [Further information on the preparation of electronic artwork.](#)

*Figure captions*

Ensure that each illustration has a caption. A caption should comprise a brief title (**not** on the figure itself) and a description of the illustration. Keep text in the illustrations themselves to a minimum but explain all symbols and abbreviations used.

**Tables**

Please submit tables as editable text and not as images. Tables can be placed either next to the relevant text in the article, or on separate page(s) at the end. Number tables consecutively in accordance with their appearance in the text and place any table notes below the table body. Be sparing in the use of tables and ensure that the data presented in them do not duplicate results described elsewhere in the article. Please avoid using vertical rules and shading in table cells.

**References**

*Citation in text*

Please ensure that every reference cited in the text is also present in the reference list (and vice versa). Any references cited in the abstract must be given in full. Unpublished results and personal communications are not recommended in the reference list, but may be mentioned in the text. If these references are included in the reference list they should follow the standard reference style of the journal and should include a substitution of the publication date with either 'Unpublished results' or 'Personal communication'. Citation of a reference as 'in press' implies that the item has been accepted for publication.

*Web references*

As a minimum, the full URL should be given and the date when the reference was last accessed. Any further information, if known (DOI, author names, dates, reference to a source publication, etc.), should also be given. Web references can be listed separately (e.g., after the reference list) under a different heading if desired, or can be included in the reference list.

*Data references*

This journal encourages you to cite underlying or relevant datasets in your manuscript by citing them in your text and including a data reference in your Reference List. Data references should include the following elements: author name(s), dataset title, data repository, version (where available), year, and global persistent identifier. Add [dataset] immediately before the reference so we can properly identify it as a data reference. The [dataset] identifier will not appear in your published article.

*References in a special issue*

Please ensure that the words 'this issue' are added to any references in the list (and any citations in the text) to other articles in the same Special Issue.

### Reference management software

Most Elsevier journals have their reference template available in many of the most popular reference management software products. These include all products that support [Citation Style Language styles](#), such as [Mendeley](#) and [Zotero](#), as well as [EndNote](#). Using the word processor plug-ins from these products, authors only need to select the appropriate journal template when preparing their article, after which citations and bibliographies will be automatically formatted in the journal's style. If no template is yet available for this journal, please follow the format of the sample references and citations as shown in this Guide.

Users of Mendeley Desktop can easily install the reference style for this journal by clicking the following link:

<http://open.mendeley.com/use-citation-style/international-journal-of-educational-research>

When preparing your manuscript, you will then be able to select this style using the Mendeley plug-ins for Microsoft Word or LibreOffice.

### Reference formatting

There are no strict requirements on reference formatting at submission. References can be in any style or format as long as the style is consistent. Where applicable, author(s) name(s), journal title/book title, chapter title/article title, year of publication, volume number/book chapter and the pagination must be present. Use of DOI is highly encouraged. The reference style used by the journal will be applied to the accepted article by Elsevier at the proof stage. Note that missing data will be highlighted at proof stage for the author to correct. If you do wish to format the references yourself they should be arranged according to the following examples:

#### Reference style

**Text:** Citations in the text should follow the referencing style used by the American Psychological Association. You are referred to the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, Sixth Edition, ISBN 978-1-4338-0561-5, copies of which may be [ordered online](#) or APA Order Dept., P.O.B. 2710, Hyattsville, MD 20784, USA or APA, 3 Henrietta Street, London, WC3E 8LU, UK.

**List:** references should be arranged first alphabetically and then further sorted chronologically if necessary. More than one reference from the same author(s) in the same year must be identified by the letters 'a', 'b', 'c', etc., placed after the year of publication.

#### Examples:

Reference to a journal publication:

Van der Geer, J., Hanraads, J. A. J., & Lupton, R. A. (2010). The art of writing a scientific article. *Journal of Scientific Communications*, 163, 51–59.

Reference to a book:

Strunk, W., Jr., & White, E. B. (2000). *The elements of style*. (4th ed.). New York: Longman, (Chapter 4).

Reference to a chapter in an edited book:

Mettam, G. R., & Adams, L. B. (2009). How to prepare an electronic version of your article. In B. S. Jones, & R. Z. Smith (Eds.), *Introduction to the electronic age* (pp. 281–304). New York: E-Publishing Inc.

Reference to a website:

Cancer Research UK. Cancer statistics reports for the UK. (2003). <http://www.cancerresearchuk.org/aboutcancer/statistics/cancerstatsreport/> Accessed 13 March 2003.

Reference to a dataset:

[dataset] Oguro, M., Imahiro, S., Saito, S., Nakashizuka, T. (2015). *Mortality data for Japanese oak wilt disease and surrounding forest compositions*. Mendeley Data, v1. <https://doi.org/10.17632/xwj98nb39r.1>.

### Video

Elsevier accepts video material and animation sequences to support and enhance your scientific research. Authors who have video or animation files that they wish to submit with their article are strongly encouraged to include links to these within the body of the article. This can be done in the same way as a figure or table by referring to the video or animation content and noting in the body text where it should be placed. All submitted files should be properly labeled so that they directly relate to the video file's content. In order to ensure that your video or animation material is directly usable, please provide the files in one of our recommended file formats with a preferred maximum size of 150 MB in total. Any single file should not exceed 50 MB. Video and animation files supplied will be published online in the electronic version of your article in Elsevier Web products, including [ScienceDirect](#). Please supply 'stills' with your files: you can choose any frame from the video or

animation or make a separate image. These will be used instead of standard icons and will personalize the link to your video data. For more detailed instructions please visit our [video instruction pages](#). Note: since video and animation cannot be embedded in the print version of the journal, please provide text for both the electronic and the print version for the portions of the article that refer to this content.

### **Supplementary material**

Supplementary material such as applications, images and sound clips, can be published with your article to enhance it. Submitted supplementary items are published exactly as they are received (Excel or PowerPoint files will appear as such online). Please submit your material together with the article and supply a concise, descriptive caption for each supplementary file. If you wish to make changes to supplementary material during any stage of the process, please make sure to provide an updated file. Do not annotate any corrections on a previous version. Please switch off the 'Track Changes' option in Microsoft Office files as these will appear in the published version.

### **RESEARCH DATA**

This journal encourages and enables you to share data that supports your research publication where appropriate, and enables you to interlink the data with your published articles. Research data refers to the results of observations or experimentation that validate research findings. To facilitate reproducibility and data reuse, this journal also encourages you to share your software, code, models, algorithms, protocols, methods and other useful materials related to the project.

Below are a number of ways in which you can associate data with your article or make a statement about the availability of your data when submitting your manuscript. If you are sharing data in one of these ways, you are encouraged to cite the data in your manuscript and reference list. Please refer to the "References" section for more information about data citation. For more information on depositing, sharing and using research data and other relevant research materials, visit the [research data](#) page.

#### *Data linking*

If you have made your research data available in a data repository, you can link your article directly to the dataset. Elsevier collaborates with a number of repositories to link articles on ScienceDirect with relevant repositories, giving readers access to underlying data that gives them a better understanding of the research described.

There are different ways to link your datasets to your article. When available, you can directly link your dataset to your article by providing the relevant information in the submission system. For more information, visit the [database linking page](#).

For [supported data repositories](#) a repository banner will automatically appear next to your published article on ScienceDirect.

In addition, you can link to relevant data or entities through identifiers within the text of your manuscript, using the following format: Database: xxxx (e.g., TAIR: AT1G01020; CCDC: 734053; PDB: 1XFN).

#### *Mendeley Data*

This journal supports Mendeley Data, enabling you to deposit any research data (including raw and processed data, video, code, software, algorithms, protocols, and methods) associated with your manuscript in a free-to-use, open access repository. During the submission process, after uploading your manuscript, you will have the opportunity to upload your relevant datasets directly to *Mendeley Data*. The datasets will be listed and directly accessible to readers next to your published article online.

For more information, visit the [Mendeley Data for journals page](#).

#### *Data statement*

To foster transparency, we encourage you to state the availability of your data in your submission. This may be a requirement of your funding body or institution. If your data is unavailable to access or unsuitable to post, you will have the opportunity to indicate why during the submission process, for example by stating that the research data is confidential. The statement will appear with your published article on ScienceDirect. For more information, visit the [Data Statement page](#).



### **AudioSlides**

The journal encourages authors to create an AudioSlides presentation with their published article. AudioSlides are brief, webinar-style presentations that are shown next to the online article on ScienceDirect. This gives authors the opportunity to summarize their research in their own words and to help readers understand what the paper is about. [More information and examples are available](#). Authors of this journal will automatically receive an invitation e-mail to create an AudioSlides presentation after acceptance of their paper.

### **Interactive plots**

This journal enables you to show an Interactive Plot with your article by simply submitting a data file. [Full instructions](#).

## **AFTER ACCEPTANCE**

### *Availability of accepted article*

This journal makes articles available online as soon as possible after acceptance. This concerns the accepted article (both in HTML and PDF format), which has not yet been copyedited, typeset or proofread. A Digital Object Identifier (DOI) is allocated, thereby making it fully citable and searchable by title, author name(s) and the full text. The article's PDF also carries a disclaimer stating that it is an unedited article. Subsequent production stages will simply replace this version.

### **Online proof correction**

Corresponding authors will receive an e-mail with a link to our online proofing system, allowing annotation and correction of proofs online. The environment is similar to MS Word: in addition to editing text, you can also comment on figures/tables and answer questions from the Copy Editor. Web-based proofing provides a faster and less error-prone process by allowing you to directly type your corrections, eliminating the potential introduction of errors.

If preferred, you can still choose to annotate and upload your edits on the PDF version. All instructions for proofing will be given in the e-mail we send to authors, including alternative methods to the online version and PDF.

We will do everything possible to get your article published quickly and accurately. Please use this proof only for checking the typesetting, editing, completeness and correctness of the text, tables and figures. Significant changes to the article as accepted for publication will only be considered at this stage with permission from the Editor. It is important to ensure that all corrections are sent back to us in one communication. Please check carefully before replying, as inclusion of any subsequent corrections cannot be guaranteed. Proofreading is solely your responsibility.

### **Offprints**

The corresponding author will, at no cost, receive a customized [Share Link](#) providing 50 days free access to the final published version of the article on [ScienceDirect](#). The Share Link can be used for sharing the article via any communication channel, including email and social media. For an extra charge, paper offprints can be ordered via the offprint order form which is sent once the article is accepted for publication. Both corresponding and co-authors may order offprints at any time via Elsevier's [Webshop](#). Corresponding authors who have published their article open access do not receive a Share Link as their final published version of the article is available open access on ScienceDirect and can be shared through the article DOI link.

### *Additional information*

#### *Discount*

Authors are entitled to a 30% discount on Elsevier books (excluding major reference works).

#### *Fast electronic publication*

Once the article has been proofed by the author, it will be published immediately on the journal's 'Articles in Press' section online, thus making it available to subscribers to read and cite. For more information, visit: <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/08830355> .

Authors should suggest three reviewers. These reviewers should comprise of: An Editorial Board member appearing in the list available on the Journal Homepage [Editorial board members](#) A reviewer from a country whose native language is English A third suggested reviewer with expertise in the domain area of the manuscript (note-this reviewer must be from a different institution to that in which you work and should not have any other ethical conflicts with reviewing your work) Please note that you must provide the full name and email address of each reviewer that you select.

## **AUTHOR INQUIRIES**

Visit the [Elsevier Support Center](#) to find the answers you need. Here you will find everything from Frequently Asked Questions to ways to get in touch.

You can also [check the status of your submitted article](#) or find out [when your accepted article will be published](#).

© Copyright 2014 Elsevier | <http://www.elsevier.com>