INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF NURSING STUDIES

AUTHOR INFORMATION PACK

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Description p.1
- Audience p.2
- Impact Factor p.2
- Abstracting and Indexing p.2
- Editorial Board p.2
- Guide for Authors p.4

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DESCRIPTION

The International Journal of Nursing Studies (IINS) provides a forum for original research and scholarship about health care delivery, organisation, management, workforce, policy and research methods relevant to nursing, midwifery and other health related professions. The IINS aims to support evidence informed policy and practice by publishing research, systematic and other scholarly reviews, critical discussion, and commentary of the highest standard.

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INTRODUCTION
The International Journal of Nursing Studies (IJNS) provides a forum for publication of scholarly papers that report research findings, research-based reviews, discussion papers and commentaries which are of interest to an international readership of practitioners, educators, administrators and researchers in all areas of nursing, midwifery and the caring sciences.

Papers should address issues of international interest and concern and present the study in the context of the existing international research base on the topic. Those which focus on a single country should identify how the material presented might be relevant to a wider audience and how it contributes to the international knowledge base. Selection of papers for publication is based on their scientific excellence, distinctive contribution to knowledge (including methodological development) and their importance to contemporary nursing, midwifery or related professions.

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Amongst the many submissions received we recognise that some will have been previously formatted for another journal. The Your Paper Your Way service (described later) means that authors can submit these papers to the IJNS without worrying about formatting the manuscript again to exacting specifications.

The IJNS also offers a rapid review service for newsworthy papers under our 4* submission service.

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The IJNS publishes original research, reviews, and discussion papers. In addition we publish editorials and letters. Where a case is made we will also publish protocols of trials which meet our general criteria for interest and significance.

Editorials — 1,000–2,000 words
Authors who have ideas for editorials which address issues of substantive concern to the discipline, particularly those of a controversial nature or linked directly to current/forthcoming content in the journal, should contact the Editor in Chief (ijns@kcl.ac.uk).

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Full papers reporting original research can be a maximum of 7000 words in length, although shorter papers are preferred. Research papers should adhere to recognised standards for reporting (see guidance below and the Author Checklist).

Reviews and Discussion Papers — 2,000–7,000 words
- Reviews, including:
  - systematic reviews, which address focused practice questions;
  - literature reviews (scoping reviews, narrative reviews), which provide a thorough analysis of the literature on a broad topic;
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- Discussion Papers, i.e. scholarly articles of a debating or discursive nature.

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Designed to stimulate academic debate and discussion, the Editor invites readers to submit letters which should refer to and comment on recent content in the journal, introduce new comment and discussion of clear and direct relevance to the journal's aim and scope or briefly report data or research findings that may not warrant a full paper. Contributions that are of general interest, stimulating and meet the standards of scholarship associated with the Journal may be selected for publication. Contributions should be submitted as in the usual way.

**BEFORE YOU BEGIN**

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- **Systematic Review of Controlled Trials** - PRISMA
- **Systematic Review of Observational Studies** - MOOSE

Where relevant, more specific extensions to the generic guide should be used, for example:

- **Cluster Randomised Controlled Trials** (where participants are randomised in groups, rather than as individuals)-Consort 2010 statement: extension to cluster randomised trials [http://www.equator-network.org/reporting-guidelines/consort-cluster/](http://www.equator-network.org/reporting-guidelines/consort-cluster/)
- **Observational studies using routine data** - RECORD

You are required to adhere to these guidelines (or a suitable recognized alternative) and to submit a completed checklist from the reporting guideline to assist the editors and reviewers of your paper. You can search for the correct guideline for your study using the tools provided by the EQUATOR network: [http://www.equator-network.org/](http://www.equator-network.org/) The guideline used must be indicated in the Author Checklist.

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All research papers whose primary purpose is reporting the development or testing of scales / measures / questionnaires must include a copy of the full instrument as a supplementary file at submission stage so it can be published as an appendix online. *The IJNS does not accept instrument development papers which are not accompanied by a copy. We are unlikely to consider papers where there is no validation against a robust criterion, where findings indicate that the version published requires further development or where the underlying constructs are not well established.*

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We aim to complete the review process within 8 weeks of the decision to review although occasionally delays do happen and authors should allow at least 12 weeks from submissions before contacting the journal. The Editor-in-Chief reserves the right to the final decision regarding acceptance.

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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.
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Covering letter – to the editor in which you detail authorship contributions and other matters you wish the editors to consider.

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Do not give general statements in what is known, instead focus on the results of research addressing the same question(s). Do NOT give process statements of what the paper does. eg. “This review demonstrates that nurse-led intermediate care reduces hospital stay but increases total inpatient stay” (outcome) NOT “This review considers the impact of nurse-led intermediate care on acute stay and total inpatient stay” (process).

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• a revised blinded manuscript with changes clearly highlighted.

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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.
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