ROYAL SOCIETY OF CHEMISTRY

How to publish your research

This guide will help you create a high quality article that will be a valuable addition to the scientific record.

For more details and a selection of templates to help get your article ready for submission, visit our author resource centre: **rsc.li/journal-resources**

1 CHOOSE THE RIGHT JOURNAL

Considering these things will help you to adapt the way you write and format your article to suit the expectations of the journal's editors and readers.

Does the journal provide quality **peer review**, and does the policy suit your approach?

Does the journal have a strong **reputation**? Is it where your peers publish? Are the metrics good?

Does it give you **open access options** that comply with your funding agency?

Is the journal's **scope** broad, or specialist, designed to be read by a certain community?

Are **times to publication** important to you?

Will it **cost anything** to publish in this journal? Are there any extra charges?

Which **language** does the journal use? Most international journals use English

Is the journal likely to be **cited** by other researchers in your field?

Is it **indexed** in major online databases (Science Citation Index, PubMed, Scopus, MEDLINE)?

All Royal Society of Chemistry journals go through rigorous and fair peer review

Does the journal publish articles in the **best format** for your work (eg Communication, Full Paper)?

All of our journals have an open access option. Visit **rsc.li/oa** for details

2 READ THE AUTHOR GUIDELINES

Our journals have expected standards of conduct and provide guidance on good authorship and ethical practices. Always check the individual journal's guidelines as many journals have specific requirements. For more details visit **rsc.li/guidelines**

3 WRITE YOUR ARTICLE

Always emphasise the novelty of your findings

Build up a strong structure

Split your article up into recognisable sections. For each, think about who you are writing for and how your work compares to existing research.

Tell a story

Keep your writing clear, using consistent language and short paragraphs. Your reader will want an article that is concise, easy to read that makes a definite point.

Title	This should be short, straightforward, and emphasise the importance of your work. Think about the key words someone might use to search for this article, and stay general
Authorship	Authors should have made a significant contribution to the conception, design or execution of the work
Abstract	Summarise your findings, and their importance – potential readers will use this to decide if the rest of your article is of interest.
Introduction	Set the scene. Why is your work important? What has been done in this area before? What will you show in this article?
Results and discussion	Back up your claims with evidence, explain complex arguments, and demonstrate the impact of your work
Experimental section	There should be enough detail here for a skilled researcher to replicate your work
Conclusion	Include only the most significant results, their impact on the field, and plans for relevant future work
Acknowledgements	Here you should include funding agencies, and possibly individuals who could not be added as authors
References	Include previously published work that you have referenced in the article
Supplementary information	This is the section in which to include spectra, additional data and more detail on procedures

4 CHECK YOUR ARTICLE

Re-read thoroughly | **Check grammar** | **Check spelling**

If you would like a second opinion, our language editing service can provide professional guidance and a comprehensive proofread of your article. Visit **rsc.li/lang**

Double-check those guidelines

Is your authorship correct?

Could anything have been plagiarised?

Is any of the work fragmented?

Have you supported all of your claims?

Does the article meet ethical standards?

Don't forget to keep your co-authors up to date and make sure they are happy before you submit the final article.

5 YOUR SUBMISSION CHECKLIST

Your chosen journal will be looking for key information when you submit your article.

1 A cover letter which includes:

- A summary of your work
- Statement of importance (a chance to 'sell' your work to the editor – why is this article a good fit for the journal?)
- The impact of this research on the community
- Its future potential

2 Your graphical abstract

3 Any supplementary information files

4 Suggestions for suitable reviewers

5 Your article

Address your cover letter to the Editor or Associate Editor, and make sure you mention the correct journal. It's surprisingly common to name the wrong one

6 ARTICLE ASSESSMENT

Once your article arrives with the editorial team, it goes through a thorough assessment process in line with the journal's editorial policies.

An article might be rejected for a lot of different reasons, including if the subject makes it better suited to another journal. If this is the case, a transfer might be recommended.

Following peer review, hopefully your article will be accepted for publication (usually subject to some revisions).

7 REVISING YOUR ARTICLE

Revisions are a natural part of the publication process – generally all authors will be asked to make at least a few changes, to make sure that the article is of the highest possible quality.

DO	AVOID
Keep to any deadlines given, or ask for an extension if you need one	Including personal comments about the reviewer – focus on making direct responses
Read each report carefully, and ask if anything is unclear	Taking critical comments personally – they are provided to increase the quality of your article
Make sure that you address all reviewer comments, and if you have decided not to make a change, explain why	
Remember that reviewing is voluntary, and that the reviewer will have made all comments to help improve your work	

8 PROMOTING YOUR WORK

After publication, the next step is to get your work seen by the community.

What we can do:

Promote 'hot' articles via blogs, social media and Chemistry World

Send press releases to science websites and magazines

What you can do:

Contact your university press office to see how they can support you

Share a link to your article online via social media and online networking platforms

Present your work at conferences

For best practice when sharing work online, visit **rsc.li/promotion**

To find out more about publishing with the Royal Society of Chemistry, visit **rsc.li/publish**

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