

# Science and Engineering of Composite Materials – Instructions for Authors

## I. Editorial policy

*Science and Engineering of Composite Materials (SECM)* is a peer-reviewed journal that publishes high-quality reviews, original basic and applied research contributions as well as recent technological developments in composite materials science and engineering.

The publication provides a forum for discussion of all aspects related to the structure and performance under simulated and actual service conditions of composites. It covers a variety of subjects, such as macro and micro and nano structure of materials, their mechanics and nanomechanics, the interphase, physical and chemical aging, fatigue, environmental interactions, and process modeling. The interdisciplinary character of the subject as well as the possible development and use of composites for novel and specific applications receives special attention. Manuscripts are independently reviewed by peers selected by the Editors. Decisions are reached as quickly as possible. *SECM* aspires to notify authors within six weeks from submission date. When manuscripts are accepted subject to revision, the revised manuscript should be returned within approx. one month. Accepted papers are promptly published online ahead-of-print as soon as they have been finally processed.

**Reviewers:** The authors should provide the names, institutions, countries and e-mail addresses of up to 3 potential reviewers from at least 2 different countries (excluding the authors' institutions). Authors may also indicate names of reviewers whom they wish to be excluded from reviewing their manuscripts.

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## II. Submission of manuscripts

Manuscripts should be submitted online at:  
<http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/secm>.

### Preparation of manuscripts

#### Language

Manuscripts should be written in clear and concise English. Please have your text proofread by a native English speaker before you submit it for consideration. At the proof stage, only minor changes other than corrections of printers' errors are allowed.

#### General format and length

Formatting should be kept to a minimum. Do not create headers or footers, page breaks or arrange your text with the space key. Include page numbers. Please avoid footnotes in the text, use parentheses instead. There is no page limit on *Reviews*.

#### Nomenclature and units

Please refer to the IUPAC Nomenclature for Organic Chemistry ([www.iupac.org](http://www.iupac.org)). Chemical names, abbreviations and acronyms should be given in parentheses at the first appearance in the text. Well-known procedures/reactions should be designated by name, and appropriate literature references should be given.

Please use the International System of Units (SI). Temperatures should be given in °C. The unit 'billion' ( $10^9$  in America,  $10^{12}$  in Europe) is ambiguous and should be avoided. Axes for graphs and headings for tables should be given in quantity calculus form, e.g. times as  $t$  (s), potential as  $E$  (mV vs. SHE), current density as  $i$  (mA/cm<sup>2</sup>).

#### Ethical approval

Work involving humans and/or animals must comply with the principles laid down in the WMA Declaration of Helsinki. In the Materials and methods section, or in a separate section, the manuscript must contain a statement that the study has been approved by the Ethical Committee of the institution where the study was performed and that the study subjects/patients, or their legal guardians, gave informed consent for participation in the study.

The authors must declare if there is a conflict of financial, or other, interest.

#### Cover letter

Each manuscript should be accompanied by a cover letter containing a brief statement by the authors as to the focus and novelty of their article. The name and complete contact information of the corresponding author should be given.

#### Articles

*Reviews* may be of a theoretical, experimental or practical nature, provided that they make a significant contribution to knowledge in the field; they may be invited either by the Editors or by members of the Editorial Board. In addition, unsolicited reviews may be submitted, contingent pre-approval of the outline by the Editors. *Original Papers* must present an accurate description of the research conducted and an objective discussion of the results.

The structure of a submission should follow this order: Title, authors, affiliations, abstract (50-200 words), keywords (maximum 5), list of abbreviations, main text, acknowledgements, appendices, references, figure captions, and tables. Equations must be clearly printed and numbered sequentially with Arabic numbers enclosed with round parentheses at the right-hand margin.

#### References

References should be numbered consecutively in the order in which they are first mentioned in the text. Each article cited in a manuscript should receive its own numeral in square brackets, e.g., [1], [2] etc.

Journal names should be abbreviated, following the Chemical Abstracts Service Source Index (CASSI) scheme, which can be found at: <http://www.cas.org/products/print/cassipr/index.html>.

References in the reference list should be given in the following format:

- Articles in journals: [1] Balsara NP, Fetters LJ, Hadjichristidis N, Lohse DJ, Han CC, Graessley WW, Krishnamoorti R. *Macromolecules* 1999, 32, 6137–6147.
- Articles ahead of print (doi): [2] McCann MTP, Mooney DA, Rahman M, Dowling DP, MacElroy JMD: *ACS Appl. Mater. Interfaces*, doi: 10.1021/am100904w
- Books and Monographs: [3] Mark, HF, Bikales, NM, Overberger, CC, Menges, G, Eds., *Encyclopedia of Polymer Science and Engineering*, 2nd ed., Wiley-Interscience: New York, 1999.
- Chapters and Papers in edited books: [4] Wignall, GD. In *Encyclopedia of Polymer Science and Engineering*, 2nd ed., Mark, HF, Bikales, NM, Overberger, CC, Menges, G, Eds., Wiley-Interscience: New York, 1999, Vol. 10, p 112.

#### Tables

Submit tables on separate pages and number them consecutively using Arabic numerals.

Provide a short descriptive title, column headings, and (if necessary) footnotes to make each table self-explanatory. Refer to tables in the text as Table 1, etc. Use Table 1, etc. in the table legends.

## Figures

**General requirements:** Do not embed figures within the text body of the manuscript; submit figures in separate files. All illustrations must be of reproduction-ready quality. They will be reduced in size to fit, whenever possible, the width of a single column. Lettering of all figures within the article should be uniform in style (preferably a sans serif typeface like Helvetica) and of sufficient size (ca. 8 pt.). Uppercase letters A, B, C, etc. should be used to identify parts of multi-part figures. Cite all figures in the text in numerical order. Indicate the approximate placement of each figure.

**Halftone figures (grayscale and color)** should have a minimum resolution of 300 dpi and be of good contrast. Authors are encouraged to submit illustrations in color if necessary for conveying their scientific content. Publication of color figures is provided free of charge both in online and print editions.

**Line drawings** must be of reproduction-ready quality. Please note that faint shading may be lost upon reproduction. When drawing bar graphs, use patterning instead of grayscales. Lettering of all figures should be uniform in style. A resolution of 1200 dpi is recommended.

**Figure legends:** Provide a short descriptive title and a legend to make each figure self-explanatory on separate pages. Explain all symbols used in the figures. Remember to use the same abbreviations as in the text body.

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