



# INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH

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## AUTHOR INFORMATION PACK

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### 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]*

## How should papers or proposals for special issues be submitted?

All submissions should be made via <http://ees.elsevier.com/ijer/>

When preparing any proposals, it is important that authors consider the guidance provided under 'Guide for Authors'. Many manuscripts are 'desk rejected' because the author has failed to read and take account of these important guidelines.

## 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

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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.

## ABSTRACTING AND INDEXING

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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

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## GUIDE FOR AUTHORS

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### **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/evise/faces/pages/navigation/NavController.jspx?JRNL\\_ACR=IJER](https://www.evise.com/evise/faces/pages/navigation/NavController.jspx?JRNL_ACR=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.

### **BEFORE YOU BEGIN**

#### **Ethics in publishing**

For information on Ethics in publishing and Ethical guidelines for journal publication see <https://www.elsevier.com/publishingethics> and <https://www.elsevier.com/journal-authors/ethics>.

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 [http://www.elsevier.com/wps/find/intro.cws\\_home/publishing](http://www.elsevier.com/wps/find/intro.cws_home/publishing).

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All authors are requested to disclose any actual or potential conflict of interest including any financial, personal or other relationships with other people or organizations within three years of beginning the submitted work that could inappropriately influence, or be perceived to influence, their work. See also <https://www.elsevier.com/conflictsofinterest>. Further information and an example of a Conflict of Interest form can be found at: [http://service.elsevier.com/app/answers/detail/a\\_id/286/supporthub/publishing](http://service.elsevier.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/286/supporthub/publishing).

#### **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.

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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.

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This journal has an embargo period of 36 months.

#### *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 <http://epsupport.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/evis/faces/pages/navigation/NavController.jsp?JRNL\\_ACR=IJER](https://www.evis.com/evis/faces/pages/navigation/NavController.jsp?JRNL_ACR=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.

### **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: <https://www.elsevier.com/guidepublication>). 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.
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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. See <https://www.elsevier.com/graphicalabstracts> for examples.

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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). See <https://www.elsevier.com/highlights> for examples.

## 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.

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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.).

## 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.
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  - 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 on our website:

<https://www.elsevier.com/artworkinstructions>.

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

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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):

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- Supply files that are too low in resolution.
- Submit graphics that are disproportionately large for the content.

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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.

**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.

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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.

*References in a special issue*

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