

## Materials Science and Technology

Impact Factor: 1.8

5-Year Impact Factor: 2.0

### Submission guidelines



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## Key information

**Access:** Subscription

**Accepts preprints?** Yes

**Identity transparency:** Single anonymized

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## Preparing your manuscript for submission

Your article must be within the scope of the journal and be of sufficient quality. If not, it will not be reviewed. Please read the journal's [Aims and Scope](#) to see if your article is appropriate.

The manuscript must be your original work, you must have the rights to the work, and you must have obtained and be able to supply all necessary permissions for the

reproduction of any copyright works not owned by you, including figures, illustrations, tables, lengthy quotations, or other material previously published elsewhere.

## Article types

### Research Article

**Common name variations:** Research Article; Article

**Word Count:** STM: 4000-6000; HSS: 4000-8000

**Word count includes abstract/references:** Includes keywords

**Abstract structure:** Structured increasingly preferred, particularly in STM

**Reference limit:** Approx. 100 (or number as appropriate based on literature search)

#### Description:

Research Articles should present novel work within the scope of the journal which represents an important advancement in knowledge or understanding. Research articles need to include an introduction, a well-reported methodology, results, and a discussion of the results in the context of the published literature.

#### Notes:

Word count is advised but flexible.

### Critical Assessment

- Critical assessments are short but profusely referenced articles that represent the current state of a field with a view to its future, selecting important current issues and indicating how the field may develop and the progress required to facilitate this. Informed speculation and well-argued unconventional views are encouraged, with the aim of stimulating discussion. Should be between 2000 and 4000 words, inclusive of:
  - Abstract
  - Tables
  - Footnotes
  - Endnotes
- Should contain an unstructured abstract of 120 words.
- Should contain no more than 8 **keywords**.
- Authors wishing to contribute critical assessments or reviews should contact the editor to discuss their proposal before submitting. The journal publishes special issues focusing on topics of current interest. Proposals for special issues are welcome and should be addressed to the editor. Please note, articles may be returned or rejected at the point of submission if the quality of presentation or the written quality of the English does not meet the required standard.
- The word count excludes references.

### Short Communication

**Common name variations:** Short Report

**Word Count:** 4000

**Word count includes abstract/references:** No

**Abstract structure:** Structured

**Reference limit:** 50

**Table limit:** 4

**Figure limit:** 5

**Description:**

Short Communications are aimed at publishing short, but important, breakthrough data not embedded within a complex story. This can be reporting on the reliability or unreliability of research or informing readers of new factors that may influence the outcome of the study. Authors must acknowledge the work they build upon including any unpublished sources.

**Review Article**

**Common name variations:** Narrative/literature review (See note)

**Word Count:** 8000

**Word count includes abstract/references:** Yes

**Abstract structure:** Journal preference

**Reference limit:** No

**Table limit:** 6 to 15 combined figures and tables

**Figure limit:** 6 to 15 combined figures and tables

**Description:**

A critical and comprehensive review of current relevant literature, identifying limitations in knowledge and a rationale for the study. The main aim of having such pieces is to offer readers an opportunity to understand the significance of developments in areas of the discipline of which they might otherwise be unaware.

**Notes:**

Most word counts are around 8000 but did range from 4000 to 15,000.

Review is a generic term and generally refers to narrative or literature reviews (see below for Literature Review). Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses will always specifically be called that.

**Letter to the Editor**

**Common name variations:**

Viewpoint, Comment (some journals distinguish between Letters and Comments based on how old the article being written about is).

**Word Count:** 500 max

**Word count includes abstract/references:** No

**Abstract structure:** Unstructured and no more than 100 words, if even present at all

**Reference limit: 5**

**Table limit: 2**

**Figure limit: 3**

**Description:**

[Several options below that can be mixed and matched as desired]

Letters to the Editor should consist of one or two paragraphs totaling no more than 500 words, no abstract, no subheadings and fewer than 8 references (one author, et al., no titles). If an abstract is included, it will automatically be made the first paragraph. Letters should not include figures or research material.

Letters to the Editor should be submitted through our usual submission process.

A letter to the editor is a brief communication that addresses the contents of a published article. Its purpose is to make corrections, provide alternative viewpoints, or offer counter arguments. Avoid logical fallacies and ad hominem attacks. Letters to the editor must be written in a professional tone and include references to support all claims if appropriate.

Letters to the Editor commenting on a previously published paper in the journal may be shared with the original authors, and they will be allowed a response to the submitted Letter to the Editor, if they desire.

**Notes:**

Where the LTE is addressing a previously published article, it is standard practice to send the LTE to the author of the article in question, allow them to write a response, and publish both letters together.

MST Undergraduate Research Article

- The initiative is designed to contribute and complement engineering and science education. Research has shown that undergraduate research can lead to improvements in academic performance, retention in academic programs and increases in self-efficacy. These experiences help inform student decisions about future education and career paths, often being a motivation to pursue Masters and Ph.D. level degrees and research careers in STEM fields.
- Should be written with the following elements in the following order: title page; abstract; keywords; main text introduction, materials and methods, results, discussion; acknowledgments; declaration of interest statement; references; appendices (as appropriate); table(s) with caption(s) (on individual pages); figures; figure captions (as a list)
- Should be no more than 2500 words, inclusive of:
  - Abstract
  - Tables

- Footnotes
- Endnotes
- Should contain an unstructured abstract of 120 words.
- The word count excludes references.
- The research should be *novel, high quality, original work* performed by the undergraduate researcher with support from the research team.
- The first author should be a current or previous undergraduate researcher within a year of graduation; in the latter case, the submitted work should be from recent work conducted when the author was an undergraduate. Documentary evidence should be submitted with the paper to indicate the undergraduate status of the first author.
- We are ***primarily seeking publications that convey a key result with a concise story*** in the format of a Short Communication as described in the Materials Science and Technology Instructions for Authors page. These articles will be published with a special designation as an undergraduate led research article. However, we also welcome submissions of any other paper format accepted by Materials Science and Technology (e.g. full papers, communication, review, etc.) if the research team has sufficient results.
- The papers should fall within the Aims and Scope of *Materials Science and Technology*
- Please refer to the Materials Science and Technology Instructions for Authors for preparing and submitting a manuscript.

### **Additional Note:**

- High quality assessments of undergraduate research programs led by someone other than an undergraduate, e.g. National Science Foundation Research Experience for Undergraduates programs, are also welcome using the same format described above.

### **Clinical trial registration**

The journal conforms to the [ICMJE requirement](#) that clinical trials are registered in a [WHO-approved public trials registry](#) at or before the time of first participant enrollment as a condition of consideration for publication. The trial registry name and URL, and registration number must be included at the end of the abstract.

### **Reporting guidelines**

Your manuscript **must** follow the relevant [EQUATOR Network reporting guidelines](#), depending on the type of study. The [EQUATOR wizard](#) can help identify the appropriate guideline. You will need to upload the appropriate checklist with your submission.

Other resources can be found at [NLM's Research Reporting Guidelines and Initiatives](#).

If your research involves animals, you will be asked to confirm that you have carefully read and adhered to the [ARRIVE guidelines](#).

### **Formatting your manuscript**

## Accepted file types

The preferred format for your manuscript is Word. You do not need to follow a template, but please ensure your heading levels are clear, and the sections clearly defined.

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## Title

Your manuscript's title should be concise, descriptive, unambiguous, accurate, and reflect the precise contents of the manuscript. A descriptive title that includes the topic of the manuscript makes an article more findable in the major indexing services.

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Please include a structured or unstructured abstract, depending on the instructions for that article type. If your research includes clinical trials, the trial registry name and URL, and registration number must be included at the end of the abstract. Submissions that do not meet this requirement will not be considered.

For clinical trials, the trial registry name and URL, and registration number must be included at the end of the abstract.

## Keywords

Please include a minimum of 5-10 keywords, listed after the abstract. Keywords should be as specific as possible to the research topic.

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- Acknowledgments section
- Declaration of conflicting interest
- Funding statement
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- Data availability statement
- Any other identifying information related to the authors and/or their institutions, funders, approval committees, etc, that might compromise anonymity.

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If you are including an Acknowledgements section, this will be published at the end of your article. The Acknowledgments section should include all contributors who do not meet the criteria for authorship. Per [ICMJE recommendations](#), it is best practice to obtain consent from non-author contributors who you are acknowledging in your manuscript.

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#### Statements and declarations

Please include a section with the heading 'Statements and Declarations' at the end of your submitted article, after the Acknowledgements section [and Author Contributions section if applicable] including each of the sub-headings listed below. If a declaration is not applicable to your submission, you must still include the heading and state 'Not applicable' underneath. Please note that you may be asked to justify why a declaration was not applicable to your submission by the Editorial Office.

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All papers reporting studies involving human participants, human data or human tissue must state that the relevant Ethics Committee or Institutional Review Board approved the study, or waived the requirement for approval, providing the full name and institution of the review committee in addition to the approval number. If applicable, please also include this information in the Methods section of your manuscript.

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Identity transparency: Single-anonymized

Reviewer interacts with: Editor

Review information published: None

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