Understanding peer review

Every article published in a Taylor & Francis journal goes through rigorous peer review.

Why?
Peer review allows your research to be evaluated and commented upon by independent experts (your ‘peers’) who work within the same academic field as you. Its aims are to:
- Ensure submitted articles are suitable for the journal and its readers.
- Give you detailed and constructive feedback on your work from experts in the field.
- Alert you to any errors or gaps in literature you may have overlooked.
- Create a discussion between the author, reviewers, and editor around a research field or topic.

Before you submit your paper:
1. Check your chosen journal’s Instructions for Authors on Taylor & Francis Online.
2. Understand what type of peer review your article will go through (single-, double-blind or open peer review).
3. Know what to expect.

The peer review process

Step 1: Editor receives a paper.
Step 2: The editor checks the paper fits the journal’s aims and scope (on Taylor & Francis Online).
Step 3: The editor selects reviewers (usually 2–3 of your peers) and they are sent the paper.
Step 4: The reviewers review the paper and provide the editor with comments, suggestions and a recommendation (reject, revise or accept).
Step 5: The editor checks the reviews and sends them to the author(s), with any additional guidance. If there are revisions the author(s) decide whether to make these and re-submit.
Step 6: Amendments are made and the paper is re-submitted.
Step 7: The paper is accepted, moves into production and is published.

72% of authors rate their satisfaction with the refereeing process at Taylor & Francis as 8 or above.*

* On a scale of 1–10, 1 being the lowest, 10 the highest

More resources
- Peer Review: the Nuts and Bolts (a guide for early career researchers) from Sense about Science
- The Committee of Publishing Ethics (COPE)
- Ethical Guidelines for Reviewers
- About to review? Read our editors’ step-by-step guide to writing a review.

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