

# Peer Review: Beyond the Researcher's Perspective



Peer review is the foundation for safeguarding the quality and integrity of scholarly research.

But did you know, getting involved in the peer review process can be a highly rewarding experience that can also improve your own research and help to further your career?

## How it makes you a better researcher



**Critical appraisal skills:** Participating in peer review enhances your ability to critically evaluate research manuscripts – refining your analytical skills and helping you to identify strengths and weaknesses in research.



**Stimulates new ideas:** Reviewing other colleagues' work helps spark new and fresh ideas that can enhance and support your own research. It also exposes you to alternative perspectives, broadening your understanding on the subject.



**Professional growth:** Participation provides you with the opportunity for a valuable learning experience, enhancing your profile in your research community.



**Improves your own writing:** The process encourages you to consider what makes an article and manuscript high quality and how to give constructive feedback. These insights can support you with your own writing and communication.



**Build relationships:** Engaging in the peer review process enables you to establish new connections with experts in your field of interest. These relationships could provide new research partnerships or collaborations.



**Contributes to the integrity of the research process:** Through peer review, you actively contribute to the research process. Your evaluations help maintain the quality and rigor of published research, ensuring its credibility and impact.

## Who can become a reviewer?



In short, anyone who is an expert in the manuscript's research field.

Editors might ask you to look at a specific aspect of a manuscript, even if the overall topic is outside of your specialist knowledge. They should outline in their invitation to review just what it is they would like you to assess.

All in all, you simply need enough specialist knowledge to evaluate the manuscript and provide constructive criticism to editors and authors. What's more, a good reviewer can be at any stage of their career.

## Interested in becoming a reviewer?

There is no one way to become a reviewer, but here are some suggestions. These include:

- Asking a colleague who already reviews for a journal to recommend you
- Networking with editors at professional conferences
- Becoming a member of a learned society and networking with other members in your area
- Contacting journals directly to enquire if they are seeking new reviewers
- Seeking mentorship from senior colleagues
- Working for senior researchers who may then delegate peer review duties to you



Find out more information here about our reviewer resources.