

## MANUSCRIPT ORGANIZATION

Manuscript preparation is crucial for the success of your article. Along with evaluating the novelty and technical quality of your results, the editor and reviewers judge your manuscript based on language, overall clarity and intelligibility. Poorly and sloppily written articles, as well as spelling and grammatical mistakes, may ultimately lead to the rejection of your article, even though the scientific quality would warrant publication. Manuscripts should be organized as follows. Instructions for each element appear below the list.

### *Beginning section*

The following elements are required, in order:

- Title page: List title, authors, and affiliations as first page of manuscript
- Abstract
- Introduction

### *Middle section*

The following elements can be renamed as needed and presented in any order:

- Materials and Methods
- Results
- Discussion
- Conclusions (optional)

### *Ending section*

The following elements are required, in order:

- Acknowledgments
- References
- Supporting information captions (if applicable)

### *Other elements*

- Figure captions are inserted immediately after the first paragraph in which the figure is cited. Figure files are uploaded separately.
- Tables are inserted immediately after the first paragraph in which they are cited.
- Supporting information files are uploaded separately.

### *Title page*

The title, authors, and affiliations should all be included on a title page as the first page of the manuscript file.

## ***Abstract***

The Abstract comes after the title page in the manuscript file. The abstract text is also entered in a separate field in the submission system.

The Abstract should:

- Describe the main objective(s) of the study
- Explain how the study was done, including any model organisms used, without methodological detail
- Summarize the most important results and their significance
- Not exceed 300 words

Abstracts should not include:

- Citations
- Abbreviations, if possible

## ***Introduction***

The introduction should:

- Provide background that puts the manuscript into context and allows readers outside the field to understand the purpose and significance of the study
- Define the problem addressed and why it is important
- Include a brief review of the key literature
- Note any relevant controversies or disagreements in the field
- Conclude with a brief statement of the overall aim of the work and a comment about whether that aim was achieved

## ***Materials and Methods***

The Materials and Methods section should provide enough detail to allow suitably skilled investigators to fully replicate your study. Specific information and/or protocols for new methods should be included in detail. If materials, methods, and protocols are well established, authors may cite articles where those protocols are described in detail, but the submission should include sufficient information to be understood independent of these references.

## ***Results, Discussion, Conclusions***

These sections may all be separate, or may be combined to create a mixed Results/Discussion section (commonly labeled “Results and Discussion”) or a mixed Discussion/Conclusions section (commonly labeled “Discussion”). These sections may be further divided into subsections, each with a concise subheading, as appropriate. These sections have no word limit, but the language should be clear and concise.

Together, these sections should describe the results of the experiments, the interpretation of these results, and the conclusions that can be drawn. Authors should explain how the results relate to the hypothesis presented as the basis of the study and provide a succinct explanation

of the implications of the findings, particularly in relation to previous related studies and potential future directions for research.

### ***Acknowledgments***

Those who contributed to the work but do not meet our authorship criteria should be listed in the Acknowledgments with a description of the contribution. Authors are responsible for ensuring that anyone named in the Acknowledgments agrees to be named.

### ***References***

Any and all available works can be cited in the reference list. Acceptable sources include:

- Published or accepted manuscripts
- Manuscripts on preprint servers, providing the manuscript has a citable DOI or arXiv URL.

Do not cite the following sources in the reference list:

- Unavailable and unpublished work, including manuscripts that have been submitted but not yet accepted (e.g., “unpublished work,” “data not shown”). Instead, include those data as supplementary material or deposit the data in a publicly available database.
- Personal communications (these should be supported by a letter from the relevant authors but not included in the reference list)

References are listed at the end of the manuscript and numbered in the order that they appear in the text. In the text, cite the reference number in square brackets (e.g., “We used the techniques developed by our colleagues [19] to analyze the data”). PLOS uses the numbered citation (citation-sequence) method and first six authors, et al. Do not include citations in abstracts or author summaries.

### ***Source Format***

#### ***Published articles***

[1] S.J. Randolph, J.D. Fowlkes, P.D. Rack, Focused, Nanoscale electron-beam-induced deposition and etching, *Crit. Rev. Solid State Mater. Sci.* 31 (3) (2006)55–89.

[2] I. Utke, P. Hoffmann, J. Melngailis, Gas-assisted focused electron beam and ion beam processing and fabrication, *J. Vac. Sci. Technol., B: Microelectron. Nanometer Struct. Process., Meas., Phenom.* 26 (4) (2008) 1197–1276.

[3] M. Huth, F. Porrati, C. Schwalb, M. Winhold, R. Sachser, M. Dukic, J. Adams, G. Fantner, Focused electron beam induced deposition: a perspective, *Beilstein J. Nanotechnol.* 3 (2012) 597–619

**Note:** A DOI number for the full-text article is acceptable as an alternative to or in addition to traditional volume and page numbers. When providing a DOI, adhere to the format in the

example above with both the label and full DOI included at the end of the reference (doi: 10.1016/j.molimm.2014.11.005). Do not provide a shortened DOI or the URL.

### ***Online articles***

[8] M.R. Gilbert, J.-C.H. Sublet, R.A. Forrest, Handbook of Activation, Transmutation, and Radiation Damage Properties of the Elements Simulated Using FISPACT-II & TENDL-2014; Magnetic Fusion Plants, Tech. Rep. CCFE-R(15)26, CCFE, 2015 [Internet]. Available from: <http://fispact.ukaea.uk>.

### ***Books***

[23] Nanofabrication using focused ion and electron beams: principles and applications, in: I. Utke, S. Moshkalev, P. Russell (Eds.), Oxford Series in Nanomanufacturing.2012.

### ***Book chapters***

[31] Ziegler H. Some extremum principles in irreversible thermodynamics with applications to continuum mechanics. In: Sneddon IN, Hill R, editors. Progress in solid mechanics. Amsterdam: North-Holland;1963 [chapter 2].

### ***Masters' theses or doctoral dissertations***

Wells A. Exploring the development of the independent, electronic, scholarly journal. M.Sc. Thesis, The University of Sheffield. 1999. Available from: <http://cumincad.scix.net/cgi-bin/works/Show?2e09>

### ***Submission checklist***

- All manuscript and supplementary material files have been uploaded.
- Author names and their affiliations have been provided.
- One author has been designated as corresponding author.
- The manuscript title is short and informative.
- The abstract can be read as stand-alone text, and does not exceed 250 words.
- The manuscript file contains all essential sections (the order can vary): Title, Abstract, Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, Discussion, References, Figure Captions, Tables.
- Manuscript has been checked for spelling and grammar.
- All references mentioned in the References list are cited in the text, and vice versa.
- Artwork source files have been provided at the appropriate size and resolution.
- Permission has been obtained for use of copyrighted material from other sources including the Web.
- Relevant subject areas have been selected and keywords describing the article have been provided.
- All necessary declarations have been made.

## **Manuscript submission**

### ***Cover letter***

A cover letter should accompany the submitted article. This letter should briefly explain the main point of the paper, the significance of the findings and how they satisfy the QR Aims and Scope. Note the type of paper (Research, Review, Forum, Comment, Reply) and explain its relation to previously published work on the same or similar topic, including other papers by the same author(s) or prior manuscripts that were not accepted for publication. It should address any other unusual or extenuating circumstances surrounding the article and its submission, including its past submission/review history. Papers in press that provide data or interpretations critical to the submitted manuscript, or that could raise a question regarding duplicative publications, should be appended in full to the cover letter to avoid misunderstandings by editors or reviewers.

### ***Electronic submission***

QR uses a Web-based online manuscript submission and review system. Please submit your manuscript electronically. The Web site guides authors stepwise through the creation and uploading of the various files. Original text source files are required (.doc or .docx are best), not PDF files. Figures should be submitted as separate files; tables should also be submitted separately. Once the submission files are uploaded, the system automatically generates an electronic (PDF) proof, which is then used for reviewing. All correspondence, including the editor's decision and request for revisions, will be by e-mail.

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### ***Review***

All manuscripts will be reviewed by at least two referees, an Associate Editor, and one Senior Editor. They will be evaluated for whether they are interdisciplinary in content and of broad interest, are scientifically sound, and present evidence that is sufficient to support the conclusions. They are also evaluated for organization, clarity, and conciseness. The editors' decision is sent to the corresponding author, together with the referees' comments and evaluations as soon as the file is complete. More than one round of review and revision is typical for most manuscripts; the average duration from first submission to final decision for the journal in 2018 was 14 weeks.

### ***Revisions***

If your manuscript has been reviewed and the editor invites you to submit a revised version of your manuscript, please carefully consider all editor and reviewer comments. If you are able to suitably address these comments, we ask that you submit a response to each comment

alongside your revised manuscript. Please either outline how the criticism was addressed in the revised manuscript or provide a rebuttal to the criticism. Your manuscript and the response to the comments and criticisms will be assessed by the original editor whenever possible and, if required, by the original reviewers.