

Physical Chemistry Chemical Physics

Guidelines for Authors†

Also see: www.rsc.org/authorguidelines

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1.0 General policy

Physical Chemistry Chemical Physics (PCCP) is an international journal for the publication of original research papers, Perspectives, Communications and Comments in the areas of physical chemistry, biophysical chemistry and chemical physics. The journal is published weekly. There is no page charge for articles published in *PCCP*.

PCCP publishes kinetic, dynamic, spectroscopic, computational and theoretical studies of molecules and systems in both gas and condensed phases; as well as studies in electrochemistry, catalysis, interfaces, materials: from nano- to macrostructures and polymers, and biophysical chemistry.

Papers must report very high quality new work which makes a significant contribution within the scope of the journal. Manuscripts reporting data or applications of data with no new physico-chemical insights are not suitable for publication in *PCCP*. Additionally, papers which contain insufficient information to ensure reproducibility or material which actively promotes the interest of a process, instrument, software or other intellectual property of actual or potential commercial value will not be considered suitable for publication in *PCCP*.

Fragmentation of a substantial body of work into a number of

short publications is strongly discouraged.

Further notes on RSC policy on the initial assessment of submissions, and details of criteria for publication, can be found on ReSource.‡

2.0 Article types

2.1 Research Papers

Full Research Papers contain original scientific work that has not been published previously. However, extension of work that has appeared in print in a short form such as a *PCCP* Communication or *Chemical Communication* is encouraged. There are no restrictions on the length of a paper.

Authors should include a brief discussion in the Introduction that sets the context for the novel work and gives their motivation for carrying out the study.

2.2 Perspectives

These are commissioned by the *PCCP* Editorial Board and Editorial Office; suggestions from readers for topics and authors of Perspectives are most welcome and should be directed to the Editor. Perspectives are intended to be high profile articles that present an authoritative state-of-the-art account of the selected research field. A Perspective may take the form of a personal account of research, or a critical analysis of a topic of current interest. In either form, some new unpublished research may be included. Perspectives manuscripts undergo a full and rigorous peer review procedure, in the same way as regular *PCCP* research papers. Notes on the preparation of Perspectives are available from the Editor.

2.3 Communications

These contain either a complete study or a preliminary report but in either case must contain original and highly significant work whose interest to the *PCCP* readership and high novelty warrants rapid publication. Authors should supply with their submission a justification of why the work merits urgent publication as a Communication. Referees will be asked to judge the work on these grounds. Communications are given high visibility within the journal as they are published at the front of an issue. Communications will not normally exceed the length of four printed journal pages, however, exceptions may be made at the Editor's discretion. Full papers based on Communications are encouraged provided that they represent a substantial extension of the original material.

† For more detailed information on this topic, including guidelines for article layout, preparation of illustrations, presentation of experimental data, and supplementary information deposition, as well as links to useful websites, templates and other software resources, and authoring tools, see: <http://www.rsc.org/authorguidelines>.

‡ See <http://www.rsc.org/resource>.

2.4 Comments

These are a medium for the discussion and exchange of scientific opinions, normally concerning material published in *PCCP*. Comments will normally be forwarded to the authors of the work being discussed, and these authors will be given the opportunity to submit a Reply for publication together with the Comment. For publication of a Comment or a Reply, they must be judged by the referees to present new insights and be of interest to the *PCCP* readership. Comments and Replies will be reviewed in the normal way, but additional referees will be consulted if there is an unresolved disagreement between correspondents, or where there is doubt as to the significance of the Comment or Reply. Comments will not normally exceed a length of one printed journal page. Publication will take place only when all parties have had an opportunity to respond appropriately.

3.0 Submission

3.1 Initial submission

Articles should be submitted using the RSC file upload service, ReSourCe.‡

If there are more than ten co-authors on the manuscript the corresponding author should provide a statement to specify the contribution of each co-author. On submitting their manuscripts, authors are encouraged to supply the names and addresses of 2–3 potential referees. Rapid publication is aided by careful preparation of text and illustrations. Also please note that figures should be cited in the text in numerical order. Particular attention is drawn to the use of (i) SI units and associated conventions, (ii) IUPAC nomenclature for compounds and (iii) standard methods of literature citation.

The RSC ReSourCe service allows any number of files to be uploaded. All files relating to a single manuscript should be uploaded simultaneously during one transaction. Files uploaded separately will result in more than one manuscript number being assigned and may subsequently be lost.

All authors submitting work for publication are required to agree a Licence to Publish. Authors submitting online will be asked to agree a Licence to Publish as part of the process. Alternatively, a downloadable PDF version is available,‡ which can be completed and forwarded to the Editorial Office.

After submission your file will be acknowledged by the Editorial Office as soon as possible. Authors should contact the Editorial Office if they have not received an acknowledgement within 4 working days. Authors should not forward more than one version of their manuscript or submit the manuscript by post or e-mail to avoid errors in manuscript handling by the Editorial Office.

3.2 Submission of revised articles and material for proof preparation

Revised manuscripts should be sent to the Editorial Office by file

upload *via* ReSourCe.‡

Please check the manuscript carefully for consistency, particularly in the representation of chemical formulae, compound names and words with alternative spellings.

Successful use of your electronic files should speed up the production process and avoid errors being introduced. Authors should ensure that files submitted at this stage contain the final version of their manuscript. They should submit a colour graphical abstract to appear in the printed and online contents lists and a sentence of text highlighting novel aspects of the work.

Authors are also encouraged to submit suggestions for covers for the journal with their manuscript. Authors who have their work featured on the covers receive hard copies of the cover and also the electronic file to use in presentations *etc.* In addition the covers are promoted widely on the *PCCP* web page.

Proof corrections should only correct errors from the Production process and should not be used to make general changes to the text.

We will try to use the supplied data in our production process, but mathematical equations and tables in particular may be re-keyed by the typesetter. It is imperative that authors check their proofs (including any tabulated data and figures) very carefully. Papers are published as Advance Articles on the web as soon as possible after the return of proof corrections. Late corrections cannot be incorporated after publication of the Advance Article.

4.0 Administration

Receipt of a paper will be acknowledged, and the paper will be given a reference number which authors are asked to quote on all their subsequent correspondence. If no acknowledgement is received after a reasonable period of time authors should check with the Editorial Office as to whether the paper or the acknowledgement has gone astray.

4.1 Editorial policy

Every paper deemed suitable for consideration as a submission will be assessed by at least two referees, by whose advice the Editor will be guided as to its acceptability. RSC policy on the initial assessment of submissions, and details of criteria for publication, can be found on ReSourCe.‡ Papers that are accepted must not be published elsewhere except by permission of the Royal Society of Chemistry. Submission of a manuscript will be regarded as an undertaking that the same material is not being considered for publication by another journal. Conditions governing acceptance are available from the Editorial Office.

4.2 Licence to publish

The whole of the literary matter (including tables, figures, diagrams and photographs) in *PCCP* and any Supplementary Material is subject to a Licence to Publish. The paper may not be reproduced without permission from The Royal Society of Chemistry or the copyright owner of the paper as may be indicated.