

# Initial Assessment of Submissions

## Guidelines for Initial Assessment of Submissions†

Also see: [www.rsc.org/authorguidelines](http://www.rsc.org/authorguidelines)

RSC Publishing's Journal Editors are committed to publishing very high quality new work which makes a significant contribution within the scope of the journal in question. In order to meet this aim, and to provide the quickest service for authors and avoid the over-burdening of referees, submitted manuscripts are initially evaluated by the professional RSC Editors to ensure they meet essential criteria for publication in the journal. Only those manuscripts which pass this initial review process will be forwarded to referees for further review.

A manuscript may be returned to the author(s) without external review if, in the opinion of the Editor, the manuscript falls into one or more of the following categories:

- the manuscript clearly falls outside the scope of the journal;
- the work is of poor scientific quality such that it is clearly not suitable for publication in a top-tier scientific journal;
- the manuscript is of insufficient general interest for the journal and would be better suited to a more specialised journal;

- the novelty of the work falls below that required for the journal;
- the manuscript represents undue fragmentation of the research into multiple papers;
- the manuscript contains redundant information or significant amounts of material that has already been published elsewhere or is under consideration by another journal;
- the quality of the English in the manuscript is so poor as to render the science presented unclear;
- the manuscript has already been reviewed and rejected by a different RSC journal, and the author(s) have made little or no attempt to address the advice of the Editor and/or referees already given;
- the conclusions drawn by the manuscript are well known or have been previously published.

Authors are also expected to abide by the RSC's *Ethical Guidelines for Publication in Journals and Reviews*.

Authors have the right to appeal against any decision taken on their manuscript at any stage. In the case of an appeal, further opinions will be sought on the manuscript's suitability for publication in the journal. After the appeal process the Editor's decision is final.

† For more detailed information on this topic, as well as links to useful websites and software resources, see: <http://www.rsc.org/authorguidelines>.