

Writing for *Education in Chemistry*

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Education in Chemistry depends on contributions from readers. Please follow these guidelines to smooth the path of your manuscript.

Back issues of the magazine are available from the editorial office on request, for those seriously considering a contribution.

Types of Contribution

Articles

We prefer articles to be **no more than 2000 words in length**, with 4–6 illustrations (figures, photographs etc), no more than 10 references/citations to further reading, and written in the active, present tense. The average time to publication is 12 months from the date of acceptance. Short topical articles – ca 1200 words – can sometimes be published more quickly.

Articles should be aimed at the practising school or university chemistry teacher, or across the readership, and the educational value of any article should be clear as the story unfolds. Essentially, feature articles should fall into one of the following categories:

- Novel methods and approaches to teaching particular topics of the secondary or tertiary chemistry curricula, including novel experiments.
- School-university interface issues.
- Historical topics linked to current awareness issues, likely to appeal across the readership.

As a 'coffee table' magazine, which seeks to promote chemical science as an exciting and relevant subject, the use of good illustrations and photos, as well as the inclusion of links/applications to the 'real world', that bring the article to life are all equally important. *Education in Chemistry* will not accept journal-style articles.

Letters

Education in Chemistry should be a forum for discussion and letters to the editor are welcome on any topic of interest to the general readership. Short letters have the best chance of quick publication, and the editor should be contacted in advance if a letter is

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expected to be longer than 300 words. As they are signed, authors see proofs prior to publication. All authors receive a £20 Amazon voucher for any letter published.

Column

This section of the magazine is also open to contributions from readers. This feature is usually reserved for news and comment, so in order to avoid any possible overlap please contact the editor in advance.

What's on?

If you or your group organise meetings, lectures etc for which you would like wider publicity then send us a brief note at least two months before the date of the issue you would like the note to appear in – eg for a note to appear in the November issue we would have to receive details from you no later than 1 September. These appear in the Column section.

Endpoint

A soapbox feature of usually not more than 1000 words. Endpoint gives readers the opportunity to make their point in a controversial way.

Anything Else?

If you would like to contribute something which does not fit into any of these categories, contact the editor to discuss your ideas.

Acceptance of articles

Articles are considered by referees who may recommend changes. If articles are suitable they will, after revision, be accepted subject to emendation by editorial staff. While changes in the author's meaning are not made, the editor reserves the right to edit the article in the way they think will best communicate its message. Authors see proofs prior to publication, at which time they may object to amendments which they feel have inadvertently changed their meaning.

Proofs

When proofs are submitted to authors, they are issued with a date for return. If not returned by this date, it cannot be guaranteed that the author's corrections will be made, so it is advisable that authors supply an address where they can be reached at all times, eg ideally an email address, and not a school postal address if post is not forwarded during the holidays.

Copyright

On acceptance of an article for publication you will be sent a *Letter of Agreement* which details the various copyright matters which need to be agreed. Once in place, this agreement will cover all future contributions made to *Education in Chemistry*, or any other RSC publication.

This letter must be returned to us, signed, before we can publish the article.

Technical Considerations

Items should be submitted by email to eic@rsc.org, ideally as a Microsoft Word file, but if this is not possible, then as plain text only. Use double spacing and leave wide margins.

Send a covering letter explaining what you would like done with your contribution, eg if you would like it to appear as a letter or a Column item.

We cannot consider manuscripts that have also been submitted to other magazines or journals for copyright reasons. If you seek particularly wide dissemination for a piece of work and want *Education in Chemistry* to cover it too, then please contact the editor to discuss.

Use SI units and IUPAC recommended nomenclature. See the IUPAC website for their 'colour books' on terminology <http://old.iupac.org/publications/epub/index.html#nt>.

Photos need to be of print quality (300 dpi) (please save them as separate files, and not as part of the text file). Our Design team will source suitable high resolution photos if you are unable to provide them and suggestions are very welcome.

Chemical structures should be provided as separate files, ideally in ChemDraw or ISISDraw format, otherwise they will be redrawn, together with any other illustrations.

Ensure the text has minimal formatting – ie no end of line carriage returns, no box keylines, single typeface etc.

References

These should be in the following styles:

(a) Journals:

1. J Smith, R Bloggs and P Jones, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 1993, **114**, 92 (DOI: 10.1021/ja1074322).

(ie author(s), journal title, year, volume, page (DOI: [doi])) as in CASSI.

If in doubt as to the approved abbreviations, please give full title of journal.

(b) Books:

2. J Bloggs, *The art of writing scientific papers*, p 49. London: RSC, 1991.

Or:

3. J. Bloggs in *Article writing – a critique of the art*, R. Smith (ed), chap 5, p 9. London: RSC, 1981.

(c) Patents or patent applications:

Company/name, coverage, patent number, year., eg:

4. E F Tai, World patent app. 9008789, 1990.
5. Merck, US patent, 4845261, 1989.
6. Rhône-Poulenc, Eur. Patent 468727, 1992.

(d) Anything else: just give as many details as possible.