

# JNOS

# General Submission

# Guidelines

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As a journal, we always strive to critically scrutinize and further develop our concept. Therefore, we are always available for questions or problems, and can be reached for suggestions and ideas at the following e-mail address: [editorial.medicine@s-nos.org](mailto:editorial.medicine@s-nos.org)

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# General specifications

## Cover Letter

The cover letter is addressed to the editors and should contain the following information as a separate Word document:

- Why is the article of interest to the journal?
- Does the manuscript contain data that has already been published in or submitted to another journal?
- Have all co-authors read the manuscript and agree to submit it to the journal?

## Manuscript

Formal criteria, in particular the word limit for different article types, should be taken into account (exceptions in Section 1). Necessary shortenings of larger papers such as bachelor's or master's theses can be discussed with the editors in advance. Initially, the work can be submitted unformatted and adapted during the review process. The manuscript text, figures and tables should be submitted as separate files. This applies not only to the initial submission but also to all revised manuscripts during the review process.

## File format

The manuscript must be submitted as .docx or .doc. Papers originally created with LaTeX should be submitted as LaTeX and PDF or converted to .docx or .doc formats using conversion software.

## Title page of the manuscript

- Title
- Author's informations
  - Name and contact (e-mail, institute) of corresponding author(s)
  - Numerical footnotes regarding address/affiliation, co-/first authors, corresponding author (e.g. Marie Peter<sup>1</sup>)
- "Running title"
- Word count (incl. abstract, text, references and legends)

Any changes to the list of authors after acceptance of the manuscript must be sent in writing or by e-mail, signed by all authors, to the editorial office ([editorial.medicine@s-nos.org](mailto:editorial.medicine@s-nos.org)).

All conflicts of interest that arise after acceptance must be treated similarly. However, only co-authors affected by the respective conflict must sign.

## Authors

- The first author must either be enrolled as a student at a university, be in training or have recently (max. 2 years) graduated or completed their training.
- The corresponding author(s) must be identified on the title page.

## Language

- The journal is published bilingually. Submissions are possible in English or German. However, when choosing their publication language, authors should bear in mind that the reach of an English publication is significantly greater. Regardless of the language chosen, the abstract should be submitted in both German and English.
- An appropriate wording following scientific standards is required.
- Abbreviations must be written out in full the first time they appear in the text. The use of abbreviations should be limited to the minimum necessary.
  - Abbreviations in the title are permitted. It is recommended to limit yourself to common abbreviations.
  - The numerous uses of abbreviations can make it difficult to understand. We therefore do not recommend "creating" own abbreviations, e.g. OIG for operative intervention group.

## Abstract

- After the title page, each manuscript must contain a 150-200 word abstract.
- The abstract should cover the following sections: introduction, methodology, results and the scientific context.
  - The scientific context should place the publication in the context of the current data situation on the respective topic. Here it should be made clear for the first time why this work offers scientific added value. For example: Reproduction of a study with a larger/different study cohort, unresearched aspect, supplementary research on topic XY.

## Graphical Abstract (optional)

A graphical abstract can be submitted for manuscripts whose content and structure allow it.

- The graphical abstract should provide a clear visual summary of the core results. If the graphical abstract was not created by the author, this must be indicated.
- If a graphical abstract is submitted, an additional description of the graphic with a maximum of 50 words (1-3 sentences) must be provided. Must be numbered in ascending order depending on the order in which they are mentioned in the body text
- Must be supplemented by a legend
- Tables should be attached at the end of the submission

## Font and Layout

- Font: Arial, 11 pt
- Figure Legends: 9 pt
- Line spacing 1.5-fold
- justified text

## Figures, Illustrations and Tables

- Figures and illustrations
  - should be submitted as TIFF, JPEG or PNG
  - must be submitted in sufficiently high resolution (min. 300 dpi)
  - must be numbered depending on the order in which they are mentioned in the text
  - must be supplemented by a legend
  - figure legends should be attached at the end of the submission
- Tables
  - Should be submitted in an editable format (.docx, .xlsx, LaTeX, ...)
  - must be numbered depending on the order in which they are mentioned in the text
  - must be supplemented by a legend
  - table legends should be attached at the end of the submission

## References

- Citation style: AMA (American Medical Association 11th edition)

## Additional Data/Supplement

If necessary, additional supporting data can be submitted. These should not be necessary to understand the core results and should be considered primarily supplementary.

## Additional information in the manuscript

- Funding
  - If there are several authors, it should be made clear who has received which funding; for example, M.P. is supported by the ABC Group
- Conflict of Interest
  - We stand for the publication of high-quality student work. Therefore, every author must disclose all potential conflicts of interest when submitting their work.
- Author contributions
  - Detailed contribution (e.g. "*M. P. conducted the experiments and analyses*" or "*A. B. planned and supervised the study*")
- Data availability statement (see "Raw Data" for more information)

## Raw Data

- With acceptance to peer review and pre-print publication, the submission of raw data and potential analysis code used for data processing is requested.
- Each manuscript must include a *Data Availability Statement* indicating whether and where data and analysis code are deposited. If a preregistration exists, this should also be linked there (e.g. OSF).
- If publication of the data is not possible, this must be explained in the *Data Availability Statement*. Data sets and analysis code (if applicable) should always be available for queries during the review process.
- Data should be published following the FAIR principles (see here: <https://www.go-fair.org/fair-principles/>).

## Ethics Approval and Patient Consent

- The experiments must comply with ethics and, if applicable, animal welfare guidelines and must be approved by the respective authorities. This must be indicated by stating the relevant approvals in the methods section.
- All patients must be informed in writing about the study and the processing of their data and samples. By submitting the manuscript, all authors assure that this has been ensured for the entire study cohort.
- When using patient data/samples from previous studies, it must be stated that the patients were not primarily recruited for this study, but that the patient information explicitly allows further use.

## Good Scientific Practice

- The work must follow the principles of good scientific practice (see: <https://wissenschaftliche-integritaet.de/en/code-of-conduct/>).

## Legal Aspects:

- The authors must comply with the applicable federal and state laws, as well as the requirements of the respective professional associations
- If there is a deviation from guidelines or legal requirements, a justification must be provided.
  - Off-label use must be clearly identified as such.

## Section Specific Submission Guidelines

The Journal of the Student Network for Open Science (JNOS) offers four different, thematically organized sections in which a paper can be published. Depending on the section, there are additional specific submission guidelines or tips, which can be found below.

## Section 1: Medical Humanities

The "Medical Humanities" section of the NOS Editorial contains everything that deals theoretically with medicine, health and illness - from articles on the theory of science, concept analyses and questions of medical ethics to essayistic approaches to the above-mentioned topics. Our aim is to provide a common platform for parallel discourses in the medical and health sciences, the philosophy of medicine, psychology and the social sciences in order to strengthen interdisciplinary exchange.

The review process has so far been carried out purely internally by editors of Section I - Medical Humanities and comprises two pillars: Conceptual or argumentation analysis, as well as a classic scientific review, which deals, for example, with the handling of scientific facts in the papers. In the future, we will also increasingly establish a commentary format so that submissions are published as target articles after a rough internal review and we NOS editors then launch a call for commentaries (target approx. 2-3 comments). We will continue to write internal comments and reviews in the form of editorial comments. Not every article is suitable for a comment format, so we would explore and decide with submitters individually in what form we can allow authors to provide feedback.

We are always available for advice, assistance with literature research and more!

### Formal Criteria:

- **Length:** 1,000-20,000 words (depending on comprehensibility and internal capacities, but we generally accept everything up to Master's theses)
- **Abstract:** The article must be preceded by an abstract (max. 400 words) containing the question or problem under investigation, the discursive context and the main arguments.
- **Structure:** The structure of philosophical articles is quite free, although a clear outline is important and a division into introduction, main section and conclusion is therefore recommended. Due to the wide range of different text forms, such as essays, columns, interviews and portraits, we do not believe that specific structural requirements are appropriate. However, philosophical submissions should be based on the following points:
  - Introduction: Introduction to the discourse, presentation of the problem, state of research and motivation for your own work
  - Main part: Argumentative presentation, clear presentation of the premises and own argumentation
  - Conclusion: Summary and reflection of your own position, its limitations and what your own position has *not* covered
- **References:** All external arguments and statements by other authors must be sufficiently referenced.

### General recommendations:

- Quote sparingly
- Use the first person to clarify your own concepts and terminology
- Cite examples from clinical or scientific practice to illustrate your own theses

- We will be happy to advise you on literature research questions in the fields of medicine and life sciences!

## Section 2: Basic and Translational Science

Submissions from the entire field of biomedical, experimental and translational basic research can be published in Section 2. In particular, we welcome the submission of hypotheses that cannot be confirmed due to negative results, as long as given controls maintain the quality and legitimacy of the experiment and the authors conclusively justify their experimental design. In addition to classic research papers, protocols of newly developed methods can also be submitted.

### Basic Scientific and Translational Work

#### Formal Criteria

- **Length:** 2000 to 4000 words
- **References:** Max. 30 references (justified exceptions are possible in consultation with the editors)
- The following information must be provided for each paper, if applicable
  - Number of experiments conducted or animals included and the statistical power of the study design
  - all statistical tests or analyses performed, even if the results are considered statistically non-significant
  - Method for correcting the type I error in multiple testing
  - Information on statistical consultations if used

### Protocols

#### Content

- Complete description of a new method or instrument
- Proof of the performance and reproducibility of the method, preferably by describing a specific own experiment
- Description of the field of application and the necessity of the new method
- Presentation of advantages and disadvantages of the method, especially in comparison to existing methods

#### Formal Criteria

- **Length:** 2000 to 4000 words
- **References:** Max. 30 references (justified exceptions are possible in consultation with the editors)
- When describing validation experiments, the guidelines for basic science and translational work must also be observed



## Section 3: Clinical Science

This section offers the opportunity to publish case studies as well as statistical-clinical work. This includes any retrospective or prospective studies, e.g. case-control studies or randomized clinical trials. Clinical case studies or thematically relevant review articles can also be published here.

### Clinical Studies:

#### Content/Objectives:

- Retrospective and prospective studies.
- Different types of studies are accepted.
- Clear research question and methodology.
- Statistical tests according to the number of cases.
- Critical evaluation of confounding factors.
- Clearly state inclusion and exclusion criteria.
- Aim for representative gender and age distribution.
- Naming of all statistical tests and analyses.
- Indication of statistical advice, if available.
- Possibility to publish more extensive supplementary methods for detailed statistical steps.

#### Formal Criteria

- **Length:** 1500 to 3000 words
- **References:** Max. 30 references (justified exceptions are possible in consultation with the editors)

### Case Reports:

#### Structure

1. Introduction
2. Clinical presentation
3. Diagnostics
4. Therapy and clinical course
5. Discussion

#### Content

- Description of a clinical case with special aspects.
- Protection of patient identity in accordance with legal requirements.

#### Formal criteria:

- **Length:** 1500 to 3000 words
- **References:** Max. 30 references (justified exceptions are possible in consultation with the editors)

#### Further requirements:

- Confirmation of accuracy by responsible physician.
- Data protection waiver signed by the patient.

## Section 4: Data and Statistics

This section offers the opportunity to publish research in the field of statistics and computer science. The work must be related to medical applications or the understanding of health-related processes. This includes content from the field of bioinformatics and statistical psychology. Possible contents are:

- Presentation of use cases of developed software
- Scientific publication of code packages (also accompanying a deployment on GitHub or a package server)
- Reviews that discuss quantitative methods
- Development of new methods for quantitative research
- Work on simulations in the field of bioinformatics, epidemiology, computational neuroscience and related disciplines
- Quantitative processing of empirical data (image processing, automated analysis of medical data)
- AI development related to medicine, health, basic research

### Quantitative Studies

#### Formal criteria:

- **Length:** 500 to 3000 words
- **References:** Max. 30 references (justified exceptions are possible in consultation with the editors)
- Provision of the code (preferably via GitHub, GitLab, OSF or similar), if this is decisive a substantial research output of the publication - If the code is from a private repository, it can in consultation with the editors be made available after initial submission to ensure confidential data transmission. If such a procedure is requested, this must be indicated in the *Data Availability Statement* (see above) during the initial submission
- For code/package development: provision of a list of dependencies showing which new developments are available and where previously published functionalities have been used

#### Preferred content:

The following points do not constitute inclusion criteria, but are preferred - if applicable - in the interests of transparent research

- Provision of the data sets and the entire analysis code (if available) via OSF
- Provision of the code via Github, Gitlab (if possible, synchronized with OSF repo)
- Complete requirements.txt file (or equivalent) and information about VM and environment requirements for code execution (only if one is provided). Docker images are also accepted.