



Forman Journal of Economic Studies

Ethical Guidelines for Authors

Researchers are entitled to conduct the research in line with the best practices and codes of conduct. The Forman Journal of Economic Studies strictly follows specific guidelines which are further emphasized by the ethical guidelines provided from the Higher Education Commission (HEC). These guidelines are obligatory for the author(s). Unable to follow these guidelines may have negative consequences on the author(s), which may include suspension or revocation of publishing privileges up to a certain time period. These ethical guidelines have been steered from Elsevier and Springer.

The ethical guidelines mainly hover around five themes:

Research Fraud

This misconduct comprises of publication of data or conclusions which are not based on observations or experiments. This is because of fabricating the data or data falsification. Data Fabrication is making up research data and results. While, data falsification includes manipulating research materials, tools, or processing. This also include omitting or adding data to acquire results of interest.

Simultaneous Submission

It is being restricted that the author(s) should submit original research (never published before). Intentionally submitting it to other journals is considered as a breach of publication ethics. Simultaneous submission occurs when a research study is sent to different journals at the same time causing a publication of article in both journals. This also includes duplicate or multiple publication, when two or more research publications are shared without cross-reference, while sharing similar hypothesis, data and conclusion.

Plagiarism

One of the most criticized misconduct is plagiarism—when one author deliberately uses another's work without permission, credit, or acknowledgment. This may include copying data, words and phrases or ideas and concepts of published work without acknowledging it. The plagiarism may be in copying data, copying words and phrases or using the ideas and concepts of any study without citing, acknowledging and crediting the work of others. The submitted study instead of being a revision should be placed as an advancement on the particular field while acknowledging the building steps derived from the available literature.

Authorship Issues

Providing the names of authors is to ensure that appropriate individuals will get the credit and therefore be considered accountable for the research. Misrepresenting the relationship of the study with the provided author names is clearly a misconduct that adversely affects the confidence in the reporting of the work itself. Submission of study with the authors to the journal will also be considered as an explicit consent to submit the study.

According to the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE), following four criteria should be taken under consideration while assigning authorship.

- Substantial contributions to the conception or design of the work; or the acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data for the work; AND
- Drafting the work or revising it critically for important intellectual content; AND
- Final approval of the version to be published; AND
- Agreement to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

In addition to being accountable for the parts of the work he or she has done, an author should be able to identify which co-authors are responsible for specific other parts of the work. In addition, authors should have confidence in the integrity of the contributions of their co-authors. All those designated as authors should meet all four criteria for authorship, and all who meet the four criteria should be identified as authors. Those who do not meet all four criteria should be acknowledged.

Undeclared Conflict of Interest (CoI)

As discussed, transparency is the only course of action for building firm relations with the journal. Undeclared conflict of interest is a situation when an investigator, author, editor, or reviewer has a financial/personal interest or belief that could affect his/her objectivity, or inappropriately influence his/her actions. Therefore, any direct (employment, ownership etc.) or indirect (mutual fund ownership, consultancies to sponsoring organizations etc.) competing interest will seriously undermine the credibility of the author(s).

The aforementioned guidelines clearly provide enough policies and guidelines for author(s) to consider before submitting their manuscripts. For detailed information, ethical guidelines provided by HEC should be visited or author(s) can contact the editorial board of the journal for any query or confusion.