

Guide for Authors

Submitted papers must make a **SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION** to the field of study and must place the research in a **BROAD CONTEXT**, so that it is of interest to the **DIVERSE, INTERNATIONAL READERSHIP** of the journal. Papers that are largely descriptive in nature, of limited scope or local geographical significance, or based on limited data will not be considered for publication.

Writing and formatting

File format

We ask you to provide editable source files for your entire submission (including figures, tables and text graphics).

Some guidelines:

- Save files in an editable format, using the extension .doc/.docx for Word files and .tex for LaTeX files. A PDF is not an acceptable source file.
- Format Word files in a single-column layout. Double-column formatting is only permitted for LaTeX submissions.
- Remove any strikethrough and underlined text from your manuscript, unless it has scientific significance related to your article.
- Use spell-check and grammar-check functions to avoid errors.

Manuscript (MS)

Your MS does not exceed 6000 words.

INTRODUCTION

Background: research gap (novelty), objective

Title page

Article title. Article titles should be concise and informative. Please avoid abbreviations and formulae, where possible, unless they are established and widely understood, e.g. DNA.

Abstract

Some guidelines:

- Abstracts must be able to stand alone as abstracts are often presented separately from the article.
- Avoid references. If any are essential to include, ensure that you cite the author(s) and year(s).
- Avoid non-standard or uncommon abbreviations. If any are essential to include, ensure they are defined within your abstract at first mention.

Keywords

Up to 6 keywords, separated by commas

Highlights

You are encouraged to provide article highlights at submission.

Highlights are a short collection of bullet points that should capture the novel results of your research as well as any new methods used during your study. Highlights will help increase the discoverability of your article via search engines.

Some guidelines:

- Submit highlights as a separate editable file in the online submission system with the word "highlights" included in the filename.
- Highlights should consist of 3 to 5 bullet points, each a maximum of 85 characters, including spaces.

Method

- Area, sample type, no. of samples, experimental details, data quality/reliability.

Tables

Tables must be submitted as editable text, not as images.

Some guidelines:

- Place tables next to the relevant text or on a separate page(s) at the end of your article.
- Cite all tables in the manuscript text.
- Number tables consecutively according to their appearance in the text.
- Please provide captions along with the tables.
- Place any table notes below the table body.
- Avoid vertical rules and shading within table cells.

Figures, images and artwork

Figure captions

All images must have a caption. A caption should consist of a brief title (not displayed on the figure itself) and a description of the image. We advise you to keep the amount of text in any image to a minimum, though any symbols and abbreviations used should be explained.

Acknowledgements

Include any individuals who provided you with help during your research, such as help with language, writing or proof reading, in the acknowledgements section.

Acknowledgements should be placed in a separate section which appears directly before the reference list. Do not include acknowledgements on your title page, as a footnote to your title, or anywhere else in your article other than in the separate acknowledgements section.

Author contributions: CRediT

References

- **References within text (Citation)**

Any references cited within your article should also be present in your reference list and vice versa.

Example: Karim, 2026; Karim & Rahim, 2026; Karim et. al., 2026

- **References in list: APA Format**

Example:

1. Borchardt, R. D. (1994). Estimates of site-dependent response spectra for design (methodology and justification). *Earthquake spectra*, 10(4), 617-653.
2. Scawthorn, C., & Chen, W. F. (2002). *Earthquake engineering handbook*. CRC press.
3. Rammerstorfer, F. G., Scharf, K., & Fisher, F. D. (1990). Storage tanks under earthquake loading.

Funding sources