

Journal Verification Checklist for Researchers

15 evidence checks before you submit, sign a publication agreement, or pay an APC

A. Confirm the journal's identity

- ☐ 1. Title - Exact title; not easily confused with another established journal.
- ☐ 2. ISSN - Print/electronic ISSN matches an authoritative serial record.
- ☐ 3. Publisher & website - Publisher identity and official domain match independent records.

B. Verify indexing and metrics

- ☐ 4. PubMed / MEDLINE / PMC - Verify the exact NLM status, not only a logo or article search result.
- ☐ 5. Scopus / Web of Science - Check the official source record, current status and coverage years.
- ☐ 6. Metrics - Record exact metric name, provider and year; verify the claim at the provider.

C. Check editorial safeguards

- ☐ 7. Editorial board - Independently verify several editors through institutions, ORCID or publications.
- ☐ 8. Peer review - Clear review model, realistic decision process, no guaranteed acceptance.
- ☐ 9. Recent articles - Fit the scope and show normal scholarly editing, references and disclosures.

D. Understand the business terms

- ☐ 10. APCs / fees - All mandatory charges are visible before submission.
- ☐ 11. Withdrawal / refunds - Author obligations, penalties and refund terms are clear.
- ☐ 12. Copyright / license - You understand ownership, reuse and repository rights.

E. Review integrity and authenticity

- ☐ 13. Ethics / corrections - Policies cover authorship, conflicts, complaints, corrections and retractions.
- ☐ 14. Archiving - Long-term preservation is explained if the journal stops publishing.
- ☐ 15. Invitation / domain - Email sender and reply-to domains match the authentic journal website.

How to interpret the checklist

- Do not calculate a simple score. One serious identity conflict, false indexing claim or hidden financial term can matter more than several positive website features.
- If important evidence is unclear, ask the journal precise questions and verify the answers independently.
- If serious conflicts remain unresolved, do not submit, sign or pay until you understand them.