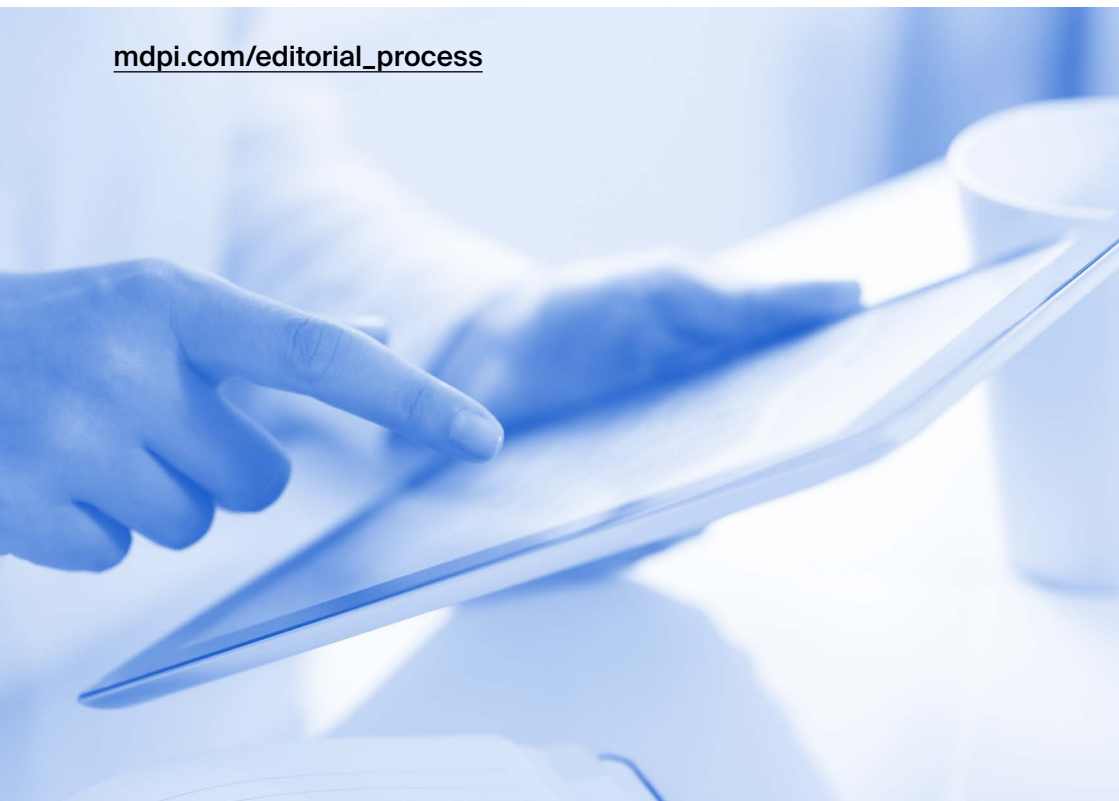




The MDPI Editorial Process

[mdpi.com/editorial_process](https://www.mdpi.com/editorial_process)



MDPI operates a rigorous peer review process

In most cases, the peer review process is a single-blind assessment with at least two independent reviewers, followed by a final acceptance/rejection decision by the Editor-in-Chief, or another academic editor approved by the Editor-in-Chief.

A summary of the editorial process is given in the flow chart. The following provides notes on each step.

Pre-check

Immediately after submission, the managing editor conducts an initial technical check to assess the following:

- Suitability of the manuscript to the journal/section/Special Issue
- Qualification and background of authors
- Reject obviously poor manuscripts

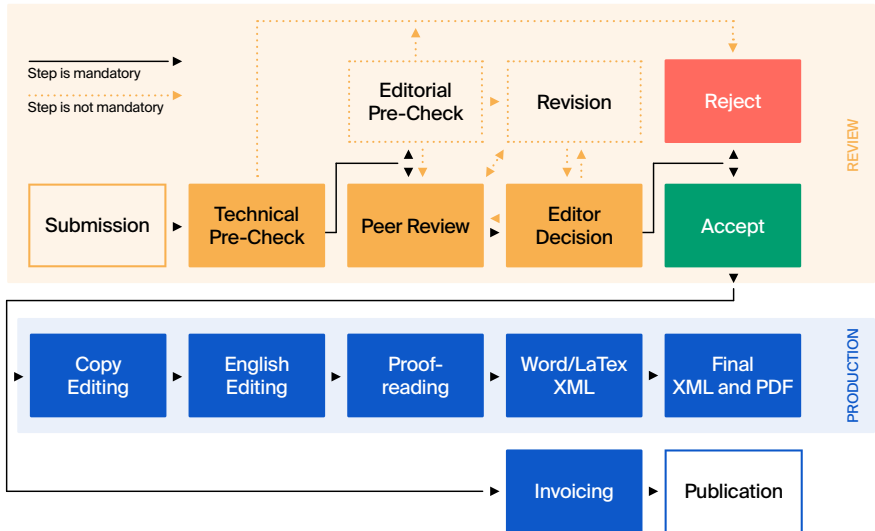
An appropriate Academic Editor will then be notified of the submission. They will be invited to perform an editorial precheck, recommend reviewers, and make a decision. The Editor-in-Chief

will handle regular submissions, the Guest Editor/Topic Editor/Collection Editor will handle Special Issue/Topic/Collection submissions, and an Editorial Board Member will be involved in case of conflicts of interest.

Peer Review

At least two review reports are collected for each submitted article. Suggestions of reviewers can be made by the Academic Editor during pre-check. In the majority of cases, MDPI editorial staff will use qualified Editorial Board Members, qualified reviewers from our database, or new reviewers identified by web searches for related articles.

All journals operate optional open peer review, meaning that authors can choose for the review reports to be published with their paper and reviewers can choose to include their name if their report is published. The process is single blind for most journals, meaning the author does not know the identity of the



reviewer, but the reviewer knows the identity of the author. Some journals operate a double-blind peer review process.

The following checks are applied to all reviewers:

- They have no conflicts of interest with the authors, including if they have published together in the last three years.
- They hold a PhD (exceptions are made in some fields, e.g., medicine).
- They must have recent publications in the field of the submitted paper.
- They have not recently been invited to review a manuscript for any MDPI journal.

To assist academic editors, MDPI staff handle all communication with reviewers, authors, and the external editor. However, Academic Editors can check the status of manuscripts and the identity of reviewers at any time. Reviewers who accept a review invitation are given a period of 7-10 days to complete their review using our online platform, SuSy. If needed, extensions can be provided upon request. For the review of a revised manuscript, reviewers are asked to provide their report within three days. In both cases, extensions can be granted on request.

Editor Decision

When making an editorial decision, we expect that the academic editor checks the following:

- The suitability of selected reviewers
- Adequacy of reviewer comments and author response
- Overall scientific quality of the paper
- The editor can select from: accept, reject, ask author for revision, ask for an additional reviewer

Articles can only be accepted for publication by an academic editor. Employed MDPI staff then inform authors. MDPI staff never take acceptance decisions on papers. Academic Editors should alert the Editorial Office to any potential conflicts of interest that may bias, or be perceived to bias, decision making.

Revision

In cases where only minor or major revisions are recommended, MDPI staff will request that the author revise the paper before referring to the academic editor. Revised manuscript versions may be forwarded to reviewers based on whether the reviewer has

requested to review the revisions or not. Apart from in exceptional circumstances, we allow a maximum of two rounds of major revision per manuscript.

Production

MDPI carries out production on all manuscripts, including language editing, copy editing and conversion to XML.

Publication Ethics

MDPI is a member of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE, publicationethics.org) and follows its procedures for dealing with potentially unethical behaviour by authors, reviewers, or editors.