



How to review for the Royal Society of Chemistry

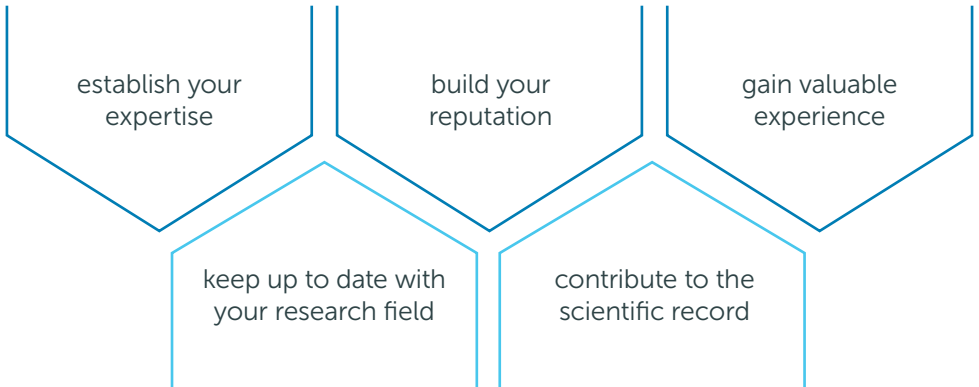
Our top 10 tips

1

ADVANCE YOUR CAREER AND GIVE BACK TO THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY

First, think about whether reviewing is right for you.

You should volunteer to review for our journals if you want to:



2

GIVE EVIDENCE OF YOUR EXPERTISE AND EXPERIENCE

Our reviewers...



hold PhDs



are active researchers



have recently published in other high-quality journals

If that sounds like you, send an up-to-date CV or résumé to your chosen journal. For everything you need to know about the registration process, read our reviewer guidelines [↗](#)

3

DON'T FEEL YOU HAVE TO ACCEPT EVERY REQUEST TO REVIEW

Once you've been approved we'll send you requests to review, but ask yourself:



Am I an expert in this subject?

If not, just let us know. You can also check and update your reviewer profile and research interests so that we can invite you to review more papers that are in your area of expertise. Editors also appreciate suggestions of alternative reviewers.



Will I be able to make the deadline?

It's OK to decline an invitation if you're busy; we understand that you have a lot of other work. If you do agree to a deadline but then find that you need more time, please let us know as soon as possible.



Do I have a conflict of interest?

This is anything that prevents you giving a neutral, unbiased report. For more information on potential conflicts of interest, you can read our reviewer guidelines.

4

FAMILIARISE YOURSELF WITH THE JOURNAL'S REQUIREMENTS



Make sure you answer the specific questions on the reviewer report form and follow the instructions sent to you by the editor, but contact the journal if you have any questions.

To avoid any confusion, familiarise yourself with the scope and standards of each journal you review for.

5

GIVE YOUR OPINION



Our reviewers do more than just fact check. We rely on you to tell us:

- what is interesting, important, novel or significant in the work
- whether the title and the abstract are appropriate
- if it's understandable, correct and well-presented
- if you recommend acceptance or rejection for the journal in question.

Please also review any electronic supplementary information (ESI) or spectroscopic information.

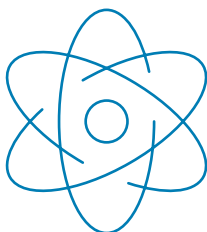
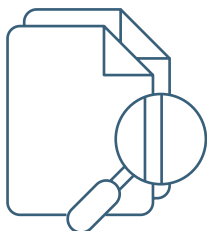
Be as specific as you can. Give us detailed explanations and clear examples wherever possible, but remember: research is open to review, researchers are not. We value your opinion but it's important you remain unbiased and objective.

6

ALERT THE EDITOR TO ANY CONCERNS

It's important to raise a red flag with the editor if you:

- notice similarities between the submitted work and any other papers
- have concerns about the level of scientific rigour
- think there is a chance the manuscript contains falsified or manipulated data.



7

FOLLOW OUR CODE OF CONDUCT

To ensure our journal articles go through rigorous and fair peer review, we follow the Core Practices and guidelines of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE).

You can help us to uphold the integrity of the Royal Society of Chemistry by making yourself familiar with our code of conduct



8

REMEMBER, CONFIDENTIALITY IS KEY

You can:



declare publicly that you have served as a reviewer for the Royal Society of Chemistry



choose to waive your anonymity and sign your comments to the authors

You can't:



use the unpublished work in your own research



keep a copy of the manuscript after you've submitted your review



reveal publicly which specific papers you've reviewed for us



reveal any details of your reviews

9

BE PREPARED FOR THE POSSIBILITY OF A SECOND LOOK

Based on all the reviewer reports, the editor may decide to:

- accept the article without any amendments
- reject the article
- ask the author to revise the article.

That means we might ask you to look at a revised version of the manuscript. In any case, we'll normally let you know what the editor's decision is and send you the comments from the other reviewers.

10

GET RECOGNITION AND REWARDS

Your expertise and support should be acknowledged, so make sure you add your reviews to Publons as evidence of your scientific contributions.

As a personal 'thank you' for your time, effort and expertise, we'd like to give you a 25% discount on all books we publish. In addition, we also award certificates of recognition to our outstanding reviewers.



25% OFF



For more information on the responsibilities and benefits of reviewing for the Royal Society of Chemistry, visit our reviewer resource centre



Royal Society of Chemistry
www.rsc.org

Registered charity number: 207890
© Royal Society of Chemistry 2018

Thomas Graham House
Science Park, Milton Road
Cambridge, CB4 0WF, UK

T +44 (0) 1223 420066

Burlington House
Piccadilly, London
W1J 0BA, UK

T +44 (0) 20 7437 8656

International offices

São Paulo, Brazil
Beijing, China
Shanghai, China
Berlin, Germany

Bangalore, India
Tokyo, Japan
Philadelphia, USA
Washington, USA