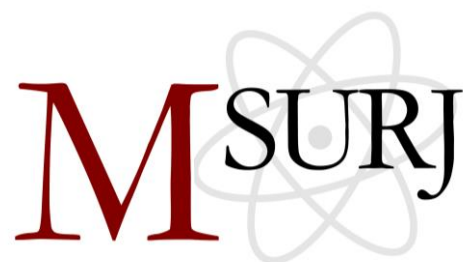# Instructions for Authors 2021

Article Types

MSURJ accepts articles in the following two categories:

i. **Research articles**: These articles report original research carried out by the student during their undergraduate career. They must demonstrate clear writing and sound scientific reasoning, and have scientific merit consistent with the undergraduate level of expectations. We welcome articles from all disciplines of science, math, and engineering.

ii. **Review articles**: These articles are meant to summarize the current state of understanding on a topic in science. They encapsulate information from a vast number of peer-reviewed papers to give readers a comprehensive yet concise review of the topic.

Please note that interest articles (interviews with prominent scientists, editorials, feature articles, opinion pieces, etc.) should be directed towards our blog, "The Abstract."

Eligibility

Articles eligible for publication **must** meet the following criteria:

i. The research reported in the article must be carried out during a student's undergraduate career, at any accredited higher-education institution;

ii. All authors or co-authors must review the MSURJ Instructions for Authors and sign the consent form to have the article submitted;

iii. The complete manuscript and consent form must be received by the submission deadline.

Important note: students currently pursuing graduate are welcome to submit a research paper carried out during their undergraduate studies. However, we do not accept research papers completed during graduate studies.

Authorship, Rights, and Consent

Authors **retain all rights** to their research work. Articles may be submitted to and published in other journals subsequent to publishing in MSURJ.

MSURJ reserves the right to refuse any submission.

We ask that authors sign a consent form as part of the article submission process. Any submission that does not include a signed consent form is **automatically rejected**.

How to Submit

To submit, please place your submission file in a zip folder and email the zip folder to applymsurj.sus@mail.mcgill.ca with the express title "LAST NAME, FIRST NAME: Manuscript Submission". See below for the mandatory content and format requirements pertaining to the submission folder.

Submission Requirements

All submissions **must** meet these criteria to be considered for publication.

Content of submission file:

    a.   The article, in the following format:
- i.   All papers should be **double-spaced** throughout.
- ii.   Limit length to **~4000 words.** We will tolerate up to 4500 words, although this is not ideal. These numbers exclude references.
- iii.   Article must be in .doc, .docx, or .tex format.
- iv.   Font: Times New Roman, 12-point font.
- v.   Format citations and references in **Vancouver style** only.

    b.   Signed consent form (we consider the submission an automatic rejection without it).

    c.   Separate file for the figures, in the following format:
- i.   Individual figures, appropriately labelled.
  1.   **Minimum image resolution is 300 DPI**.
  2.   .tiff, .png, or .jpg format.
- ii.   Document with appropriately labelled figure and table captions. Each caption is to begin with the text "**Fig. #.**" or "**Table #**" in boldface.
- iii.   If you wish to include any previously published table or figure, you must include a written permission from the main author.

Content of article:

    a.   See below. Note that there are different requirements for research and review articles

Content of Research Articles (Required)

Research articles should contain the following sections in order.

- i.   **Abstract:** The abstract should tell the story of your article. We suggest you address the following sections, as fluidly as possible.
  - **Background:** Provide the context for the study. State the objective of the study and the main hypothesis tested.
  - **Methods:** Describe the basic design of the study as well as its setting, participants, and key measurements or outcomes.

- **Results:** Provide data for the key measurements, if applicable. Where appropriate, give confidence intervals or other measures of statistical significance. All data in the abstract must be reported in the text of the paper.
- **Limitations:** Identify the limitations of your study, methodological and otherwise.
- **Conclusion:** Briefly summarize the main findings and their implications.

ii. **Keywords:** 3-5 terms that put forward the article content. Any technical keywords should be briefly defined (20 words or fewer) in a side-bar.

iii. **Introduction:** Background, motivation, and significance of the research. Use in-text citations to reference relevant literature.

iv. **Body:** This section tells the story of what you researched, how you did it, and what you found. The headings for the body are up to the author. Information must be grouped in a logical manner.

v. **Conclusion:** Significance of the research, its implications in the field at-large, and its limitations. May be combined with "Discussion" at the author's discretion.

vi. **Acknowledgements:** Concise and professional, including non-author collaborators, assistants, sources of grants and funding.

vii. **References:** Strong priority should be given to peer-reviewed articles and books which are published or in-press. Only published references may be included. Use must use **Vancouver Style references**.

Content of Review Articles

Review articles should contain the following sections in order**.**

i. **Abstract:** The abstract should summarize your article, in a concise and enticing manner. We suggest you address the following sections (as fluidly as possible) in your paragraph:
- **Background:** Provide the context and overall importance of the topic in review.
- **Methods**: Describe the data sources used. Provide the number of studies reviewed and the selection criteria.
- **Summary**: Present the main highlights and essential conclusions of the review.

ii. **Body:** The headings for the body of the review are up to the author. Information must be grouped in a logical manner.

iii. **Acknowledgements:** Concise and professional, including non-author collaborators, assistants, sources of grants and funding.

iv. **References:** Strong priority should be given to peer-reviewed articles and books which are published or in-press. Only published references may be included. If a work is in review or if unpublished data is referenced, an in-text mention is sufficient. Use **Vancouver Style references**.

Submission Suggestions

These are some suggestions that we strongly suggest authors adopt. If your article does not follow these suggestions, it will still be considered for publication. However, if the article is accepted, authors should expect to work on these points later on during the editing process.

1. **Write in the active voice when possible**. We, like journals including *Nature* and *Science*, encourage writing styles that engage the reader.
2. **Avoid excessive technical jargon.** We aim for our journal to be accessible to any undergraduate.
3. **Formatting of numbers, units, and equations**:
   - Equations submitted as graphic files, attached in 300DPI .tiff or .jpg format.
   - In-text mention of equations is "Fig. 3" instead of "Figure 3."
   - Decimals include leading zeroes (e.g., 0.228 instead of .228).
   - Common statistical variables are italicized (e.g., *n*, *f*, *R*, and *p*).
   - Greek letter variables and units are not italicized (e.g., 10 μm).
   - Units abbreviated and preceded by a space, except percentages (e36 in., 7,200 °C; 95%).
   - No spaces before and after numbers and signs (e.g., p=0.005, 8.05±0.1, n<2,000)

Authors looking to submit an article with a large number of equations should consider submitting their manuscript in LaTex format, with an accompanying PDF file. If this is the case, equations do not have to be uploaded separately as graphic files. However, the other formatting requirements mentioned above still apply.