

## ***ESJ* Manuscript Submission Guidelines**

*Educational Studies in Japan (ESJ)* welcomes manuscripts related to the topics of particular special issues, as well as general submissions in all fields and disciplines of educational research. *ESJ* aims to connect the Japanese educational research community with its international counterparts. Therefore, while many articles deal with aspects of education within Japan, the journal also welcomes papers that are not directly or primarily related to Japan. All manuscripts received, whether unsolicited or from invited contributors, are subject to a double-blind reviewing procedure.

In addition to research papers, *ESJ* also publishes shorter research notes. These are concise preliminary analyses of historical or contemporary issues of relevance to education; some may report on “research in progress”, while others may be a discussion of a topic on which the author has extensive experience but lacks the empirical evidence to produce a full analytical article. While research notes are also subject to peer review, they are not recognized as refereed articles.

The following guidelines apply to all categories of manuscripts to be submitted to *ESJ*, including invited pieces for special issues as well as general submissions for both full articles and research notes.

### **Language:**

Articles should be written in English. Contributors whose native language is not English must have their manuscripts copyedited with the assistance of an English speaker of native-level proficiency.

### **Ethical responsibilities**

Importantly, prospective contributors are *not* allowed to submit a paper that has already been published in, or is currently under review by, any journal or book in English, Japanese, or any other language. If contributors have published, or submitted for publication, a paper on a subject closely related to that of their *ESJ* submission, they are requested to send it together with their manuscript to be reviewed. By the same token, a word-for-word English translation of a paper previously published in another language cannot be accepted, but an article that has been significantly modified and adapted to an English-language readership may be deemed acceptable: here too, the reviewers will need to see a copy of the original article.

### **Length:**

Research papers should be a maximum of 6,000 words long, including figures, tables, notes, references, and appendix. The word count of a table or a figure should be calculated based on the size. (Research notes should be 2,000-3,000 words long.) Tables smaller than 1/4 of the printed image of the journal should be calculated as 150 words. Tables of 1/2 page size should be calculated as 300 words, while full-page tables should be considered to be 600 words.

### **Title page:**

A separate title page should be provided along with the manuscript. This title page should include (1) the title of the paper, (2) the subtitle (if any), (3) the name(s) of the author(s), (4) their affiliation(s) and email address(es), (5) an abstract (100-200 words), and (6) up to five keywords. If the submission is a research note, please indicate [Research Note] at the top of the title page. If the manuscript is submitted for a special issue, please indicate [Special Issue Submission] on the title page.

### **Supplementary materials:**

Editors or reviewers may request additional materials to support the evaluation of the manuscript. These materials are not considered to fall within the word limit.

**Format:**

- 1) In the title of the paper, all words except for articles, prepositions and conjunctions should begin with an uppercase letter. The subtitle (if any) should be prefixed by a colon <:>.
- 2) Please use Arabic numbers to denote the sections of the paper.
- 3) References should be listed after the text. Please follow the APA (American Psychological Association) citation style.
- 4) If the references include books or articles written in languages other than English, please indicate the original language of the publication at the end of each reference, as shown in the example below.

Kato, N. (1995). *America no Kage* [The American Shadow]. Kodansha Gakujutsu Bunko (Japanese).

Standish, P. (2018). *Shakai Seigi to Occident* (Social Justice and the Occident). In Saito, N., Imai, Y., & Standish, P. (eds.), *Honyaku no Sanaka ni Aru Shakai Seigi* [Social Justice in Translation]. University of Tokyo Press (Japanese).

- 5) If Japanese text (e.g. *kokusaika*) is included, the Japanese (and/or other non-English) words must be *italicized*, and care taken to ensure that the style and spelling of any such transcriptions are consistent throughout the manuscript.
- 6) Any additional notes should be inserted as endnotes rather than footnotes, between the main body of the text and the list of references.
- 7) When preparing submission files, please use the submission template provided on the JERA website/online submission system. Except when inserting large figures or tables, the template should not be modified.

**Online Submission:**

All submissions will be accepted through the online submission system. For more information, please refer to the JERA website (<https://www.jera.jp/en/>).

**Deadline:**

All manuscripts for *Educational Studies in Japan* No. 21 must be received by August 31, 2026.