

## Editorial procedures and peer review



### Submission and initial checks

Immediately after submission, the Editorial Office forwards the manuscript to the Editorial Assistant, who performs a technical pre-check to ensure that the submission meets the journal's formatting and structural requirements, adheres to ethical standards, and satisfies the journal's rigor criteria necessary for further review.

Following this step, the manuscript is passed to the Editor-in-Chief, who, based on the topic, assigns an appropriate Associate Editor. The selected Associate Editor is notified of the submission and invited to conduct an editorial pre-check. In cases of conflict of interest, the Editor-in-Chief is replaced by the Executive Editor, who also serves as an Associate Editor.

During the editorial pre-check, the Associate Editor evaluates the suitability of the manuscript with respect to the journal's scope, as well as its overall scientific soundness, including the correctness of the applied methodology. Associate Editors may decide to reject the manuscript, request revisions prior to peer review, or initiate the peer review process by recommending suitable reviewers.

### Peer review

Once a manuscript passes the initial checks, it is assigned to at least two independent experts for peer review. JECO operates a double-blind review system, in which the authors' identities are hidden from the reviewers. Reviewers must not have published with any of the co-authors within the previous three years and must not currently work or collaborate with any institution affiliated with the authors.

### Editorial decision and revision

All articles published in JECO undergo peer review and receive at least two reviewer reports. The Editorial Office communicates the Associate Editor's decision to the authors, which will be one of the following:

- **Minor Revision**

The paper is provisionally accepted pending minor revisions based on the reviewers' comments. Authors must provide a point-by-point response or a rebuttal where comments cannot be addressed. The revision deadline is 15 days.

- **Major Revision**

The manuscript may be acceptable pending substantial revision. Authors must provide a point-by-point response or rebuttal as appropriate. Revised manuscripts must be resubmitted within 30 days and will typically be sent back to the reviewers for further evaluation.

- **Reject and encourage resubmission**

If additional experiments or analyses are required to support the conclusions, the manuscript will be rejected, but authors are encouraged to resubmit once the required work has been completed.

- **Reject**

The manuscript contains serious flaws and/or does not present an original, significant contribution. No resubmission invitation is offered. If the journal is unable to maintain communication with the authors during the review or production phases, it reserves the right to withdraw the manuscript following a defined period of inactivity.

### **Author appeals**

Authors may appeal a rejection by sending a detailed justification to the Editorial Office. Appeals must include point-by-point responses to the reviewers' and/or Editor's comments and may only follow a "reject and decline resubmission" decision. Appeals must be submitted within one month of the decision date; appeals not meeting these criteria will not be considered.

The Editor-in-Chief will forward the manuscript and relevant materials (including reviewer identities) to a designated Editorial Board Member, who will provide an advisory recommendation. This may include recommending further peer review or upholding the original rejection. The Editor-in-Chief validates the final decision. A rejection at this stage is final and cannot be reversed.

### **Production and publication**

Once accepted, the manuscript undergoes professional copy-editing, author proofreading, final corrections, pagination, and publication on the JECO website.

Authors are generally not permitted to modify the main text after acceptance. If changes are necessary, authors must inform the Editorial Office and justify the request. Any proposed modifications will undergo an additional academic evaluation based on the manuscript and the authors' responses.

Last updated on December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025