

Frontiers of Materials Science

Author Guidelines

General Information

Frontiers of Materials Science (FOMS) is a peer-reviewed international journal jointly published by Higher Education Press and Springer. It publishes the latest pioneering studies in all aspects of materials science (for details, please see [Aims & Scope](#)). Categories of contribution are Letters, Review Articles, and Research Articles. Only manuscripts in English are accepted. No page charge is levied, and even the extra costs associated with color figure reproduction are not expected to be met by the author.

Online versions are available through <https://www.springer.com/journal/11706> and <https://journal.hep.com.cn/foms/EN/article/showVolumnList.do>, where you can find the latest pioneering studies in a variety of aspects of materials science.

Manuscript Submission

The manuscript should be submitted via the Online Manuscript Submission System. In order to submit a manuscript, you will need a **single** Microsoft Word file and a PDF copy that contains the text, all figures and tables. Authors are responsible for the accuracy of the references, and you can check your references with CrossRef. In the cover letter, it is suggested to supply a list of **six or more** potential reviewers, with their current titles and addresses, including e-mail addresses, which may help expedite the speed of reviewing process of your contribution.

Authors are encouraged to submit their papers via the [Online Manuscript Submission System](#). Please visit the website <https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/foms>. The website guides authors stepwise through the creation and uploading of various files. Please note that original source files are required.

Submission of a manuscript to *Frontiers of Materials Science* implies: that the work described has not been published elsewhere in substantially similar form; that it is not under simultaneous consideration for publication by any other publisher; that its publication has been approved by all co-authors, if any, as well as by the responsible authorities – tacitly or explicitly – at the institute where the work has been carried on. The publisher will not be held legally responsible should there be any claims for compensation.

Authors wishing to include figures, tables, or text passages that already been published elsewhere (including those in the authors' own previous publications) are required to **obtain permission** from the copyright owner(s) [the publisher(s), not the authors of publications], and to state clearly in the figure/table caption or other appropriate locations in the manuscript that such permission has been obtained. Any content received without such evidence will be assumed to originate from the author(s). It is the authors' responsibility to retain an electronic or hardcopy of the permission.

Manuscript Preparation

Cover letter

A cover letter must accompany each submission indicating the name, address, and telephone numbers of the authors to whom all correspondence is addressed. Authors are also encouraged to recommend six or more potential referees in their cover letters. Final selection of reviewers will be determined by the editors.

Manuscript

There is no formal limit on the length of a paper. The editors, however, may recommend condensation when appropriate. The following components are required for a complete manuscript: title, author(s), author affiliation(s), abstract, keywords, main text, illustrations and tables (if any), ethical statement (if any), declaration of competing interests, acknowledgements, appendices (if any), and references.

(1) Author's name and affiliation

It is better to supply full names of all authors. The author name and his/her affiliation should be in English.

(2) Abstract

The abstract should summarize, better in less than 180 words, the context, content and conclusions of the paper. No reference numbers or displayed equations should be included.

(3) Keywords

Please provide three to six keywords.

(4) Heading/Section levels (numbered)

For Review and Research Articles, please use the following system of headings with no more than three levels:

- 1 Introduction
 - 2 Experimental
 - 2.1 ...
 - 2.1.1 ...
 - 3 Results and discussion
 - 3.1 ...
 - 3.1.1 ...
 - 4 Conclusions
- Declaration of competing interests
Acknowledgements
References

(5) Text formatting

Please kindly send us the MSword format files together with a PDF copy.

(6) Formulae and symbols

Formulae, symbols and all subscripts, superscripts, Greek letters, and other characters should be carefully checked. All displayed equations should be numbered consecutively, with the number set flush right and enclosed in parentheses.

(7) Illustrations

- **Formatting:** All illustrations should be embedded in MSword documents in TIFF or JPEG format. Please identify any previously published materials by giving the original source and copyright information at the end of the caption.
- **Numbering:** All illustrations should be numbered by using Arab numerals. Please use (a), (b), (c), ... to number headings for sub-figures.
- **Figure quality:** For grayscale images (i.e. black-and-white halftones and combined line and halftones), the originals should be sharp and detail visible in both highlights and shadows. The figure quality should meet the graphics resolution requirements below:

Line-drawings: 600 dpi

Color or Grayscale: 300 dpi

- **Color of figures:** The journal will publish all illustrations in color and free of charge. Unless necessary, however, black-and-white line-drawings and grayscale images are preferred.
- **Cover image:** Submission of cover image and description is encouraged but not required.

(8) Tables

All tables should be embedded in MSword documents. A table title is required for each table. Tables should always be ordered in text in consecutive numbers. Please identify the original source for any materials from other publications at the end of the table heading.

(9) Competing Interests

(i) Authors are requested to disclose interests that are directly or indirectly related to the work submitted for publication. Interests within the last 3 years of beginning the work (conducting the research and preparing the work for submission) should be reported. Interests outside the 3-year time frame must be disclosed if they could reasonably be perceived as influencing the submitted work. Disclosure of interests provides a complete and transparent process and helps readers form their own judgments of potential bias. This is not meant to imply that a financial relationship with an organization that sponsored the research or compensation received for consultancy work is inappropriate.

(ii) Editorial Board Members and Editors are required to declare any competing interests and may be excluded from the peer review process if a competing interest exists. In addition, they should exclude themselves from handling manuscripts in cases where there is a competing interest. This may include – but is not limited to – having previously published with one or more of the authors, and sharing the same institution as one or more of the authors. Where an Editor or Editorial Board Member is on the author list, he/she must declare this in the competing interests section on the submitted manuscript. If they are an author or have any other competing interest regarding a specific manuscript, another Editor or member of the Editorial Board will be assigned to assume responsibility for overseeing peer review. These submissions are subject to the exact same review process as any other manuscript. Editorial Board Members are welcome to submit papers to the journal. These submissions are not given any priority over other manuscripts, and Editorial Board Member status has no bearing on editorial consideration.

Interests that should be considered and disclosed but are not limited to the following:

Funding: Research grants from funding agencies (please give the research funder and the grant number) and/or research support (including salaries, equipment, supplies, reimbursement for attending symposia, and other expenses) by organizations that may gain or lose financially through publication of this manuscript.

Employment: Recent (while engaged in the research project), present or anticipated employment by any organization that may gain or lose financially through publication of this manuscript. This includes multiple affiliations (if applicable).

Financial interests: Stocks or shares in companies (including holdings of spouse and/or children) that may gain or lose financially through publication of this manuscript; consultation fees or other forms of remuneration from organizations that may gain or lose financially; patents or patent applications whose value may be affected by publication of this manuscript.

It is difficult to specify a threshold at which a financial interest becomes significant, any such figure is necessarily arbitrary, so one possible practical guideline is the following: "Any undeclared financial interest that could embarrass the author were it to become publicly known after the work was published."

Non-financial interests: In addition, authors are requested to disclose interests that go beyond financial interests that could impart bias on the work submitted for publication such as professional interests, personal relationships or personal beliefs (amongst others). Examples include, but are not limited to: position on

editorial board, advisory board or board of directors or other type of management relationships; writing and/or consulting for educational purposes; expert witness; mentoring relations; and so forth.

Primary research articles require a disclosure statement. Review articles present an expert synthesis of evidence and may be treated as an authoritative work on a subject. Review articles therefore require a disclosure statement. Other article types such as editorials, book reviews, comments (amongst others) may, dependent on their content, require a disclosure statement. If you are unclear whether your article type requires a disclosure statement, please contact the Editor-in-Chief.

Please note that, in addition to the above requirements, funding information (given that funding is a potential competing interest (as mentioned above)) needs to be disclosed upon submission of the manuscript in the peer review system. This information will automatically be added to the Record of CrossMark, however it is **not added** to the manuscript itself. Under 'summary of requirements' (see below) funding information should be included in the '**Declarations**' section.

(iii) Summary of requirements

The above should be summarized in a statement and placed in a 'Declarations' section before the reference list under a heading of 'Funding' and/or 'Competing interests'. Other declarations include Ethics approval, Consent, Data, Material and/or Code availability and Authors' contribution statements.

Please see the various examples of wording below and revise/customize the sample statements according to your own needs.

When all authors have the same (or no) conflicts and/or funding it is sufficient to use one blanket statement.

Examples of statements to be used when funding has been received:

- Partial financial support was received from [...]
- The research leading to these results received funding from [...] under Grant Agreement No[...].
- This study was funded by [...]
- This work was supported by [...] (Grant numbers [...] and [...])

Examples of statements to be used when there is no funding:

- The authors did not receive support from any organization for the submitted work.
- No funding was received to assist with the preparation of this manuscript.
- No funding was received for conducting this study.
- No funds, grants, or other support was received.

Examples of statements to be used when there are interests to declare:

- **Financial interests:** Author A has received research support from Company A. Author B has received a speaker honorarium from Company Wand owns stock in Company X. Author C is consultant to company Y.

Non-financial interests: Author C is an unpaid member of committee Z.

- **Financial interests:** The authors declare they have no financial interests.

Non-financial interests: Author A is on the board of directors of Y and receives no compensation as member of the board of directors.

- **Financial interests:** Author A received a speaking fee from Y for Z. Author B receives a salary from association X. X where s/he is the Executive Director.

Non-financial interests: none.

- **Financial interests:** Author A and B declare they have no financial interests. Author C has received speaker and consultant honoraria from Company M and Company N. Dr. C has received speaker honorarium and research funding from Company M and Company O. Author D has received travel support from Company O.

Non-financial interests: Author D has served on advisory boards for Company M, Company N and Company O.

Examples of statements to be used when authors have nothing to declare:

- The authors have no relevant financial or non-financial interests to disclose.

- The authors have no competing interests to declare that are relevant to the content of this article.
- All authors certify that they have no affiliations with or involvement in any organization or entity with any financial interest or non-financial interest in the subject matter or materials discussed in this manuscript.
- The authors have no financial or proprietary interests in any material discussed in this article.

Authors are responsible for correctness of the statements provided in the manuscript. See also Authorship Principles. The Editor-in-Chief reserves the right to reject submissions that do not meet the guidelines described in this section.

(10) Acknowledgements

"Acknowledgements" of people, grants, funds, etc., should be placed in a separate section before the appendices (if any) and the references list. The names of funds should be written in full.

(11) Citations and references

References to literature are cited by number in square brackets at appropriate locations in the text. In-text citations should be in line with the references in numbering. For example, "This method has been widely used [1–4,6]."

After Acceptance

About the copyright

Upon acceptance of the manuscript, authors will be asked to complete a "Copyright Transfer Statement" and return it by e-mail to the Editorial Office of this journal. Accepted and approved papers will not be processed for publication without receipt of a fully executed, signed, and verified copyright form. No part of a paper which has been published by *Frontiers of Materials Science* may be reproduced or published elsewhere without the permission of the publisher.

Open choice

FOMS is a hybrid open access journal. Once the article is accepted for publication, authors will have the option to choose how their article is published. If the author/s or funder/s choose to pay an Article Processing Charge (APC), the final version of the published article is then free to read for everyone. Open Choice articles do not require transfer of copyright as the copyright remains with the author. In opting for open access, the author(s) agree to publish the article under the Creative Commons Attribution License.

Proofreading

The proofs will be sent to the author once they are ready. The purpose of the proof is to check for typesetting errors and the completeness and accuracy of the text, figures, and tables.

Online first

The articles will be published online after the receipt of the corrected proofs. Readers may cite the articles with the Digital Object Identifier (DOI). After the release of the whole issue, the articles can also be cited by issue and page numbers.

Research Data Policy

The journal encourages authors, where possible and applicable, to deposit data that support the findings of their research in a public repository. Authors and editors who do not have a preferred repository should consult Springer Nature's list of repositories and research data policy.

- [List of Repositories](#)
- [Research Data Policy](#)

General repositories - for all types of research data - such as Figshare and Dryad may also be used.

Datasets that are assigned digital object identifiers (DOIs) by a data repository may be cited in the reference list. Data citations should include the minimum information recommended by DataCite: authors, title, publisher (repository name), identifier.

- [DataCite](#)

Springer Nature provides a research data policy support service for authors and editors, which can be contacted at researchdata@springernature.com.

This service provides advice on research data policy compliance and on finding research data repositories. It is independent of journal, book and conference proceedings editorial offices and does not advise on specific manuscripts.

- [Helpdesk](#)

Editorial Office, *Frontiers of Materials Science*

Academic Journal Publishing Division, Higher Education Press

Floor 15, Fusheng Building, Huixindongjie Street, Chaoyang District, Beijing 100029, China

E-mail: foms@pub.hep.cn