



Research Directions

FAQs



Research Directions

What is *Research Directions*?

Research Directions is a new series of question led, open access journals that have broken free of the limitations of the traditional publication model to better reflect the research process.

Unlike traditional journals, which are structured around a descriptive scope, authors publishing in *Research Directions* will be invited to publish research that takes incremental steps to answering a set of distinct research questions, shaped by an expert subject community and intended to be definitive to a specific field.

Find out more at: cambridge.org/researchdirections

What will *Research Directions* publish?

Research Directions will accept research outputs broken down into discrete parts- Results, Analysis, Impact- each of which is indexed, receives a DOI and is considered a published and citable research item. Authors will also be encouraged to upload early research outputs and other non-peer reviewed literature content on the *Research Directions* community space on [Cambridge Open Engage](https://cambridge.org/openengage) as they move through their research project.

Where will the outputs be hosted?

Published research outputs (Results, Analysis And Impact) will sit on the journal homepage on Cambridge Core. The published outputs will be linked (via DOIs) to outputs (such as pre-prints, data sets, software descriptions, research posters, community briefs) uploaded by researchers on our early content platform, [Cambridge Open Engage](https://cambridge.org/openengage), giving visibility to the entire research journey as it progresses.

Why is it called *Research Directions*?

The name reflects the emphasis on the question-led and hypothesis-led interrogation aspect of this journal model. This provides a direction for research, something normally absorbed by individual funders or discussed at meetings rather than being delivered via a citable output.

What is the scope/purpose/vision/USP?

Our vision is for Cambridge University Press to work with research communities that are willing to innovate and experiment in the way that they publish their work and in how they collaborate with other researchers to answer specific questions or challenges that will drive their field forward.

How many *Research Directions* journals will be launched in the series?

An initial series of 12 titles will launch between 2023 and 2025.



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Will articles in the series be published open access?

The titles will be published Gold OA with a CC-BY license. Articles will be subject to open peer review, have open data mandates and follow open standard practices. At Cambridge, we see open research as a fundamental step in our mission to advance learning, research and knowledge worldwide.

Who do I contact if I have an idea for a journal for the *Research Directions* series?

Please contact the programme manager Monica Moniz at researchdirections@cambridge.org

Authors

How do I find out what questions are currently open?

The open questions can be found in each individual title journal and community pages.

How do I submit a Result or an Analysis paper?

Individual titles have their own submission sites. The submission system used is ScholarOne.

Can I submit an Impact paper?

Impact papers are usually commissioned by the editorial team in response to a particular question. However, you are free to contact the editorial office of individual titles to discuss any potential ideas with the editorial board. Their contacts can be found in the journal's information pages.

How can I submit a preprint or "grey literature" output?

Individual titles have their own submission sites on their *Research Directions* community site on [Cambridge Open Engage](#). You can also navigate through the submit button on the journal page. For more information on how to prepare this material please see the journal information pages.

How can I contribute to the discussion?

Individual titles have their own community sites on [Cambridge Open Engage](#) which you can contribute to after registration.

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What format/structure should I use for my various outputs?

All journals in the series follow the same article type formats (Results, Analysis and Impact papers), however individual Instructions for Authors can be found under each journal's pages. Same for non-peer reviewed content.

How much is the APC?

All Article Processing Charges (APC) for manuscripts submitted up until 30th September 2023 will be waived. This means you will not pay a charge for publishing in the journal if your paper is accepted and the original version was first submitted before this date.

If you are the corresponding author and you are affiliated with a Transformative Agreement, you may receive an email requesting payment of charges. In this event you will need to forward this email to the relevant department that processes your institutional deals to apply the APC waiver. If you have any questions, please contact the journal editorial email or production email (see each journal's information page for contact details).

Question papers and commissioned Impact papers will never be charged. However, Results, Analyses and unsolicited Impact papers have an Article Processing Charge of £1600 from 1st January 2024. From that date, check if your institution has an agreement with the Press in the Instructions for Authors of each journal. If you do not have funding to cover your publishing charges, you can request a discretionary waiver (please see Instructions for authors of each journal).

Can I submit a question?

The first questions will be set up by the board but we welcome suggestions for new questions or how we can improve existing ones. Please make your contribution to the *Research Directions* community site on [Cambridge Open Engage](#).

Who decides a question will close?

The editorial board will convene every six months to see if a question should be closed or modified or remain open. If the editorial board decides to close a question, an Impact paper summarising the Results and Analysis published in the *Research Directions* journal as well as any other relevant literature will be commissioned and published. If the executive board and the council agree the question should be closed, an announcement in the journal will be made stating that the question will close in six months and new submissions will only be accepted for the next four months.



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