

Handling Registered Reports

Registered Reports are research articles that undergo peer review at the study design or protocol stage, prior to conducting experiments, data collection or analysis. The Registered Report format aims to support a strong methodological approach, increase the reproducibility of results, and address publication bias.

Assessment takes place in two stages and result in two linked publications:

1. **Registered Report Protocol:** a detailed study protocol discussing the rationale, timeline, proposed methodology for data collection and analysis, and ethical approval for the work. Accepted Registered Report Protocols are published in the journal and receive an in-principle accept for the future Registered Report article reporting the results of the study.
2. **Registered Report:** a complete Research Article describing the full study and its findings. This article is assessed on adherence to the approved protocol and the appropriateness of any deviations.

Editorial Process

The editorial process of Registered Report Protocols and Registered Reports is similar to that of typical [Research Articles](#). Differences are outlined below.

Manuscript Invitations

- Look for the **article type** in manuscript invitations.
- After you accept a Study Protocol invitation, there will also be additional information from staff in the **Information for Editor** section of the confirmation email and Details page in Editorial Manager.
- Preferably, the same Academic Editor will handle both the Protocol and the Report

Initial Assessment

- **Registered Report Protocols** should be assessed against our [publication criteria](#), although note there are nuances related to criterion 1 and criterion 4:
 - [Criterion 1](#) - Protocols don't include conclusions based on completed research results; restrictions on scope still apply
 - [Criterion 4](#) - Authors can indicate what possible conclusions the data collection and analysis may enable; they also may contain pilot data
- All *PLOS One* publication criteria apply as normal to the **Registered Report** submission

Peer Review

- As with Research Articles, **Registered Report Protocol** manuscripts must be reviewed by at least one external reviewer prior to acceptance for publication
- Preferably, the same reviewer(s) will be invited to review the corresponding **Registered Report**
- Regardless of whether you handled the Registered Report Protocol or not, you will have access to the Protocol and its history, including all reviews

Editorial Decisions

- Ensure you have provided enough information in the decision letter for the authors to understand your decision, clearly articulating your reasoning with reference to our [publication criteria](#) and [submission guidelines for Registered Reports](#)

More [Resources for Editors](#)

Need help? Contact plosone@plos.org