

PLOS ONE Registered Reports

Overview

Registered Reports are a form of [preregistered](#) research. They are primary research studies that undergo peer review prior to conducting experiments, data collection or analysis.

At *PLOS ONE*, Registered Report assessment takes place in two stages and result in two linked publications:

- **Registered Report Protocol:** a detailed study protocol discussing the rationale, timeline, proposed methodology for data collection and analysis, and ethical approval for the work. Peer review aims to ensure that the study design is scientifically rigorous and that the planned research will meet *PLOS ONE*'s [publication criteria](#). Accepted protocols are published in the journal and receive an in-principle accept for a future article reporting the results of the study.
- **Registered Report:** a complete Research Article describing the full study and its findings. Peer review focuses on adherence to the approved protocol and the appropriateness of any deviations.

Below is the workflow for authors. Since both stages will be individually peer-reviewed, each decision letter, with reviewer comments, will be eligible for published [peer review history](#). The two published outputs will also be crosslinked on our site, providing readers a full picture of the study's progression from its inception to the results.



Editorial Process

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

Manuscript Invitations

- The submission type (Registered Report Protocol, Registered Report) will be made clear in the invitation email
- 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
- *PLOS ONE* publication criteria apply to the Registered Report submission in the same manner as any other Research Article

Peer Review

- Peer review requirements for Registered Report Protocols are similar to those of a typical Research Article: 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

- See the [Academic Editor Handbook](#) Appendix D: Registered Reports for detailed publication criteria and sample decision letters for Registered Report Protocols and Registered Reports

Connect with other Academic Editors and ask questions about Registered Reports on [Discourse](#)



Resources for Editors