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Peer Review Policy

UOL journals operate a double-blind review process. The editor initially assesses all contributions for suitability for the journal. Papers deemed suitable are then typically sent to a minimum of two independent expert reviewers to assess the paper's scientific quality. The Editor is responsible for the final decision regarding acceptance or rejection of articles. The Editor's decision is final. Editors are not involved in decisions about papers that they have written themselves or have been written by family members or colleagues or which relate to products or services in which the editor has an interest. Any such submission is subject to the journal's usual procedures, with peer review handled independently by the relevant editor and their research groups.

Double-blind review

Both the reviewer and the author are anonymous in this model. Some advantages of this model are listed below.

- Author anonymity limits reviewer bias, for example, based on an author's gender, country of origin, academic status or previous publication history.
- Articles written by renowned or prestigious authors are considered on the basis of the content of their papers, rather than their reputation.

However, bear in mind that despite the above, reviewers can often identify the author through their writing style, subject matter or self-citation – it is exceedingly difficult to guarantee total author anonymity.

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- Research results misappropriation
- Allegations of research errors, falsification and fabrication
- Allegations of image duplication or manipulation
- Research standards violations
- Undisclosed conflicts of interest
- Reviewer bias or competitive harmful acts by reviewers

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