## Title Slide

## Slide 2

Peer review is the system used to assess a paper, or manuscript, before it is published.

When you submit your paper to a journal, the editorial team screen it to check that it fits the scope of the journal and meets the submission criteria.

If the paper passes this initial screening, it will be sent for peer review. Two or more experts in the field of research will assess it for originality, validity and significance.

There are 4 main types of peer review, and the webpages for your chosen journal will explain which type they use.

Single-anonymised review, also known as single-blind review: the reviewers know the names of the authors, but the authors do not know who reviewed their manuscript.

Double-anonymised review: the reviewers do not know the names of the authors, and the authors do not know who reviewed their manuscript.

Open peer review: the authors know who the reviewers are, and the reviewers know the names of the authors.

Transparent peer review: the reviewers know the names of the authors, but the authors do not know who reviewed their manuscript unless the reviewer chooses to sign their report. If the manuscript is accepted, the anonymous reviewer reports are published alongside the article and the authors’ response to the reviewer.

It is the responsibility of the editorial team to identify peer reviewers. We have added some links on the slide that provide guidance on peer review from the perspective of editors and reviewers. You can access these from the video transcript:

Interesting reading for editors from [T&F](https://editorresources.taylorandfrancis.com/managing-peer-review-process/how-to-find-peer-reviewers-an-editors-guide/), [BioMed Central](https://www.biomedcentral.com/about/foreditors/manuscript-handling-information/selecting-peer-reviewers), [Springer](https://www.springer.com/gp/authors-editors/editors/how-to-find-reviewers/32890), [Elsevier](https://www.elsevier.com/connect/editors-update/tips-and-tricks-for-managing-the-peer-review-process-with-editorial-manager-part-1)

[Guide for reviewers](https://authorservices.wiley.com/Reviewers/journal-reviewers/how-to-perform-a-peer-review/step-by-step-guide-to-reviewing-a-manuscript.html) from Wiley

## Slide 3

How long does peer review take? It may feel like a long time! The journal editor has to identify find reviewers who have the time and expertise to review your paper, then the reviewers typically have 2-4 weeks to submit their review, then the editor needs time to read the reviews and arrive at a decision.

Some journals, and publishers, provide peer review metrics. For example, the [Journal of Controlled Release](https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/journal-of-controlled-release) (published by Elsevier) lists their publication timeline divided into 3.2 weeks to first decision, 5.6 weeks review time, and then an additional 1.6 weeks to publication.

The publisher Nature displays the information for all their journals on [one webpage](https://www.nature.com/nature-portfolio/about/journal-metrics) and you can see that for the journal Nature the average time from submission to acceptance is 262.5 days. It is considerably less for other journals with the same publisher – an average of 173 days for Nature Astronomy.

Submission to first editorial decision is the median time (in days) from when a submission is received to when a first editorial decision is sent to the authors.

## Slide 4

Many journals show their acceptance rate on their webpages. This can be as low as 10% for Nature which is a highly selective journal. PLOS One, which is a very broad journal that still has a rigorous peer review process, has an acceptance rate of closer to 50%.

## Slide 5

If your article is rejected, please be kind to yourself. You will feel disappointed and frustrated, but it is no reflection on the quality of your research and does not mean that your paper will never be published. You will be given the reason that your article has not been accepted by the journal. This might be technical reasons, such as poor analysis or inappropriate methodology, or editorial reasons, including out of scope or the research not being novel enough.

The comments from reviewers should be constructive and specific, and will enable you to redraft your paper ready to be resubmitted to the same journal, or as a new submission to a different journal.

If the decision was “revise & resubmit” the journal editor will let you know how to resubmit your paper when you have made the revisions, and may have given you a deadline. You can find the link to information from the publisher Springer on r[evising and responding](https://www.springer.com/gp/authors-editors/authorandreviewertutorials/submitting-to-a-journal-and-peer-review/revising-and-responding/10285584) in the transcript of this video.

## Slide 6

When your paper accepted, you will receive an email from the journal confirming they would like to publish your paper. There are practical things to do, and the journal team will let you know about these but also remember to take time to celebrate your achievement.