

Top 10 Tips for Postgraduate Publishing

- **Take the plunge:** Don't think that you cannot publish just because you are a postgraduate. Many MA and PhD students DO get work published successfully.
- **Think publishing:** Make publishing a key part of your MA or PhD study, think about the possibility of submitting amended chapters of your thesis for review, and consider the long-term possibility of turning your thesis into a monograph.
- **It's not what you know...** Being commissioned to write an article or book chapter sometimes just comes down to luck. It's a good idea to give conference papers, go to conferences, contact other academics with similar research interests to you, take an active part in your departmental life and head out into the field. Networking and getting yourself known is a sure way of being invited to write book chapters, as well as paving the way for future collaboration and research projects.
- **Alternative uses of your research:** Think beyond traditional journals and monographs. A book review is a great way of getting out an initial publication: there is often a demand for reviewers, they are less time-consuming, and demonstrate a desire to contribute to academic debate.
- **Creative uses of your research:** Getting your work out to a non-academic audience is one way of enhancing broader (public) engagement of your research. Newspapers, blogs, radio stations, online forums are all ways of getting your work known, and making a difference.
- **Do your homework:** Investigate the leading journals in your field and beyond, and see whether your work would fit suitably into these journals. Think about style, content, themes and whether the journal is peer-reviewed.
- **Feedback:** Don't be scared to ask your supervisor and departmental colleagues for feedback on your article before you submit an application. Your supervisor is not only there to mark your thesis! Use the (human) resources available to you.
- **Follow the rules:** Each journal or publisher will have different rules and regulations as regards style, so make sure that you check the submission guidelines carefully before you submit an article. Think about article length, footnotes/endnotes, italicisation etc.
- **If at first you don't succeed....** Keep trying. If an article is rejected or book project falls through, explore alternative places for publishing. N.B, do not send the same article to two different journals/editorial boards at the same time. Wait until you have confirmation that your article has been rejected before you send it to another journal.
- **Patience is a virtue:** Publishing - even book reviews and journal articles - is a sloooooooooooooow process so don't lose heart if it takes six months or a year for an article to go to press. Keep positive, and see what happens!

Good Luck!