

This document sets out the editorial standards that govern contributed writing published by Global South Academia. Global South Academia accepts contributions under two categories, Experience and Research Article/Viewpoint, each described below. Contributors should read this document in full before preparing a submission.

Experience

This category publishes first-person accounts of academic or professional experience. Eligible subjects include admission to a programme, a fellowship or research placement, a first academic conference, a career transition, a major job, a place at a good college, or another defining early-career milestone. Any subject is admissible, provided the account is grounded in the contributor's own lived experience. Submission and publication under this category are free of charge.

Length

Submissions should run 500 to 1,000 words. Paragraphs should not exceed eight lines.

Editorial standard

The account should be specific rather than general. It should name institutions, give dates, and describe identifiable stages of the experience. It should be written in the first person and should have a discernible arc, with a beginning, a central difficulty or turning point, and an outcome. Citations are not required for this category, since the subject is the contributor's own experience.

EXAMPLE: ACCEPTABLE OPENING

"In March 2023, I received a rejection letter from the same DAAD programme I had applied to twice before. What changed by the fourth attempt was not my transcript, but how I framed my research proposal..."

Grounds for rejection

A submission will typically be rejected if it offers general reflection without a specific, narrated event, or if it consists of material that has already been published elsewhere, in full or in substantial part.

Photographs

Contributors may submit up to three photographs relevant to the account, such as a graduation, a placement, or a conference. Photographs are optional and are credited to the contributor on publication.

Research Article/Viewpoint

This category publishes researched opinion and analytical writing on questions affecting research and higher education in the Global South. A contributor may write on a topic of their own choosing, or respond to one of the themes issued by the editorial team for the current cycle, listed overleaf. Submission and publication under this category are free of charge.

Structure

A Research Article/Viewpoint submission must include a title, an abstract of 150 to 200 words stating the central claim and argument of the piece, and the body of the essay, running 1,200 to 2,500 words excluding the abstract and reference list. Within the body, contributors are free to organise the argument in plain paragraphs or under their own headings, whichever suits the piece.

Editorial standard

The piece should advance an argument rather than merely survey a topic, and the position should be stated in the abstract and again in the opening paragraph of the body. Every factual claim and figure cited must be traceable to a credible, named source. The piece should be written for an informed general reader, not as a literature review.

EXAMPLE: IN-TEXT ATTRIBUTION

“Low-income countries spend approximately \$55 per student annually on education, according to World Bank data cited in recent comparative analyses of education financing.”

Citation and bibliography

Every Research Article/Viewpoint submission must follow APA style, 7th edition, throughout. Cite sources in text using the author-date format, for example (Sharma, 2024), and include a full bibliography at the end of the piece, listing every source used, alphabetised by author surname with a hanging indent. Every source cited in text must appear in the bibliography, and every source in the bibliography must be cited at least once in the text.

EXAMPLE: IN-TEXT CITATION AND BIBLIOGRAPHY ENTRY

In text: “...approximately \$55 per student annually (UNCTAD, 2023).”

In bibliography: UNCTAD. (2023). Least developed countries report 2023. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

Grounds for rejection

A submission will typically be rejected if it lacks an abstract, contains unsupported factual or statistical claims, if the bibliography is missing or improperly formatted, or if it reads as a literature review rather than as an argued essay.

Photographs and figures

Contributors may submit up to three relevant photographs, charts, or figures to accompany the published piece, such as an image of the site, event, or data discussed. Figures are optional and are credited to the contributor or original source on publication.

Editorial Standards

Originality. A submission must be original and must not have been published elsewhere, in full or in substantial part, at the time of submission.

Plagiarism. Submissions are checked for plagiarism. A similarity score of 10 percent or higher against existing published sources will result in the submission being rejected.

Use of artificial intelligence. Contributors may use AI tools to support research or editing, but the submission must reflect the contributor’s own analysis, argument, and writing. Submissions found to be substantially AI-generated will be rejected.

Editorial discretion. The editorial team may edit any accepted piece for clarity, accuracy, and structure prior to publication. Acceptance of a submission for review does not guarantee that it will be published.

Attribution. Every submission must include the contributor’s full name, country, institutional or professional affiliation, and a biographical note of no more than two lines. A contributor may also include a link to a LinkedIn profile, a GitHub profile, a personal website, or a research profile.

Recognition. A published contribution may be shared on LinkedIn, added to a CV or résumé, and cited as a published article on the Global South Academia website.

Cost. Submission and publication are free of charge under both Experience and Research Article/Viewpoint. No fee is charged at any stage, for submission, review, or publication.

Timeline. Contributors will be notified whether their submission has been accepted or declined within two weeks of submission, excluding weekends and public holidays.

Manuscript Format

Element	Specification
Font	Times New Roman, 12 pt
Spacing	Double-spaced
Alignment	Left-aligned, not justified
Page numbers	Bottom centre
File format	Word (.docx) or PDF

Disclaimer

The views expressed in a contributed article are those of the individual contributor and do not necessarily reflect the editorial position of Global South Academia. Responsibility for the accuracy of factual claims made within a contributed piece rests with the contributor. Global South Academia reserves final editorial discretion over the acceptance, amendment, and publication of any submission.

Themes for Research Article/Viewpoint

The following themes are open for contribution under Research Article/Viewpoint for the current cycle. A submission on an open topic of the contributor's own choosing remains equally eligible.

1 **Energy Transition**

2 **Urban Governance**

3 **Urban Health**

4 **Gender and Inclusion**

5 **Education Financing**

6 **Informal Economy**

7 **Gig and Platform Work**

8 **Food Security**

Submission

Manuscripts prepared to this standard should be submitted through the contribution form on the Global South Academia website, specifying the category of submission, Experience or Research Article/Viewpoint, with the full manuscript and a biographical note.

Submission-related queries should be sent to submission@globalsouthacademia.com. General queries should be sent to contact@globalsouthacademia.com.