

EFPSA Research Programme

Submitting the Registered Report to JEPS

1. What is JEPS?

The Journal of European Psychology Students (JEPS) is dedicated to publishing psychological research done by students on the bachelor or master level and has been doing so since 2009. There is no topical focus, but it invites submissions from all areas of psychology. The journal is completely run by students, who work as volunteers to manage the editorial process and provide, alongside experienced researchers, high-quality peer-review for every submission. You can learn more about the journal and its submission and review process by visiting the website at <https://jeps.efpsa.org/>.

2. Cooperation between RP and JEPS

The Journal of European Psychology Students and the Research Programme are two EFPSA services that are joined under the Academic Affairs Office. The JEPS team joins the Research Summer School to present the journal and organise two workshops (Scientific Writing and Registered Reports). They are available for any questions during the Summer School. However, the most important collaborative aspect is the submission of Registered Reports (RRs) which are sent to JEPS and reviewed by its editors. The RRs are an essential part of the programme and have been shown to be a good predictor of the team's success in the past mandates. In another meeting prior to the submission deadline, JEPS is available for general questions that have arisen writing the first draft. After submitting the RRs and receiving a first technical review by JEPS, the research teams can decide what their next step will be. More information can be found below. Finally, JEPS assigns one editor as a Responsible for all questions that the Supervisors or Student Researchers might have throughout the whole programme.

3. What is a Registered Report?

Registered Reports (RRs) are a form of empirical article in which the methods and proposed analyses are pre-registered and reviewed prior to research being conducted. This format of the article was originally implemented to neutralise a variety of inappropriate research practices, including inadequate statistical power, selective reporting of results, undisclosed analytic flexibility, and publication bias (Chambers, 2013). Besides, it is a perfect way to get clear about all methods and potential problems that you might be faced with collecting and analysing data later on. And here is how it works:

The review process of a RR is divided into two stages (see Figure): First, the research question and methodology is evaluated, while the data is yet to be collected. In case the *Registered Report* gets in principle accepted, *you are guaranteed to get your final manuscript published* once the data is collected – irrespective of the findings. The second step of the review process then only consists of checking whether the author stuck to the methodology that was proposed in the first stage of the *Registered Report*.



There is more detailed information about RRs in the [special requirements for RRs at the JEPS website](#) and in a [blogpost in the JEPS Bulletin](#). We can also recommend the following websites as additional sources:

- Center for Open Science: <https://www.cos.io/initiatives/registered-reports>
- Royal Society Open Science: <https://royalsocietypublishing.org/rsos/registered-reports>

4. Expectations from the teams in the context of Research Programme

For the mandatory submission for JEPS within the EFPSA Research Programme, you just need to write a **Stage 1 Registered Report**. Submitting your project to JEPS as a Registered Report does not mean your team is required to publish the final Stage 2 Registered Report in JEPS. However, your team will be encouraged to incorporate the feedback provided in the review process and submit a revised version to JEPS to start the usual publication process. However, this decision is up to you and there are no further time restrictions.

The format and structure of the Stage 1 RR should follow the common guidelines for good scientific writing. This includes a clear structure and red thread in your introduction, following the hourglass principle and respecting the APA guidelines. A good way to follow the requirements of Stage 1 RR is to think about it as a normal research article without the parts of Results and Discussion.

However, it is important to note that details such as participant characteristics, analysis strategy and research design in general carry a greater importance in Stage 1 RRs when compared to traditional research articles and should be thoroughly described in the submitted article. Also, it is important to add a clear time frame for your research (e.g. starting date for data collection). When writing your registered report, you can use the RR checklist available at osf.io/93znh to check your team has covered everything necessary in your report. Additionally, there is an exemplary template for RRs created by JEPS. You can find it at <https://osf.io/7pekf/>.

Before submitting the Stage 1 RR, it is the team's responsibility to ensure that both the content and the format of the submission have been discussed with and approved by all team members as well as the supervisor. Your supervisor will be able to provide guidance on any questions that you might have about reporting requirements and formatting and, when appropriate, they will communicate any questions the team might have to be addressed by

the JEPS team. At the beginning of September, JEPS will be available at an online meeting for any general questions that have arisen writing the first draft of the RR.

We expect that the Stage 1 RRs are submitted by all teams by the **1st of October**. Your team is encouraged to submit earlier, especially if your project requires complex ethical approval procedures. JEPS will provide the initial feedback 3 weeks after submission. Therefore, we ask that the teams take into account any possible delays that this review period might cause when planning their projects. Your RR should be uploaded via the JEPS submission portal, as a .docx document with all supporting figures and tables as separate files. Please read the general submission guidelines on the JEPS website (at <https://jeps.efpsa.org/about/submissions/>) and follow the general instructions contained in the webpage.

5. What you can expect from JEPS

The feedback will follow the normal Technical Review that authors get when submitting RRs to the journal. The suggestions will concentrate on the general structure of the article and the application of the APA guidelines. This includes an evaluation concerning the red thread and the completeness of Introduction (e.g. theory, hypotheses) and Methods (e.g. sample, variables, procedure, analyses). The editors will make comments within the .docx document to give specific feedback on these issues.