

# Instructions for Authors

Learning and Learning Disorders  
Lernen und Lernstörungen

# Short Version

## Article Types

This journal accepts original articles, reviews, case studies, and position papers.

## Scope

The total length of original and review papers should not exceed 60,000 characters, of case studies and position papers 30,000 characters (incl. spaces, summaries, literature, figures/tables). The length of the German-language abstract and the English-language abstract is max. 1,500 characters each (incl. spaces). In addition, a maximum of 5 keywords are allowed.

For comments, the scope is as follows:

- Theoretical comments: Total length max. 5,000 characters incl. spaces
- Empirical comments: Total length max. 7,500 characters incl. spaces
- Authors' response to comments: Total length max. 10,000 characters incl. spaces

## Tables/Figures

Tables and figures are to be submitted electronically as separate files. Figures should have a printable resolution (min. 300 dpi), in the file formats .jpg, .tif, .ppt, .eps, etc. Each table/illustration counts for approx. 2,000 characters of the total character count.

## Formatting and Citation

Format the manuscript using Times New Roman, 12pt, line spacing 1.5, margins 2.5 cm. Do not number headings. English-language contributions must follow the guidelines of the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (7th ed.). Use American English.

## Manuscript Structure

- Cover sheet (personalized), with article title in German and English, name(s) and affiliation(s) of all authors as well as the full address of the corresponding author (incl. phone number and email). Submit the cover page separately.
- Title page (contains only the title of the paper in German and English, without the author names).
- Structured English abstract (divided into Background, Methods, Results, Discussion) and keywords.
- Structured German abstract (divided into Einleitung, Methoden, Ergebnisse, Diskussion). For reviews, the section "Results" is omitted, and for case studies and position papers the section "Methods" are omitted. The German and English abstracts should be identical in content.

- Manuscript (anonymized), divided into Introduction, Methods, Results (this part should be omitted for review articles), Discussion. The last two paragraphs of the Discussion must contain the following subheadings: "Limitations" and "Relevance to Practice". The main text should contain page numbers at the top or bottom of the page and continuous line numbering throughout.
- References (bibliography in alphabetical order) according to the APA rules (7th edition).
- Acknowledgments, funding references, disclosure of any conflicts of interest, and information on the study preparation.
- Figures/tables, legends, appendices if applicable

Last revision: June 2022

## Contents

1. About the Journal
2. Article Type
3. Manuscript Submission
4. Manuscript Preparation
5. Peer Review Procedure
6. Production
7. Copyright Agreement

## 1. About the Journal

"Learning and Learning Disorders" is the first scientific German-language journal targeted at learning processes and it's associated disorders by aiming to connect the basic sciences with relevant practical fields. The journal's focus lies on the intersection between the brain sciences and the educational sciences. Thus, the journal 'Learning and Learning Disabilities' is an interdisciplinary communication platform that aims at fostering knowledge transfer among various disciplines such as medicine, psychology, education, special education as well as didactics. The main aim of the journal is to report relevant scientific findings in a manner that is comprehensible and potentially applicable for practitioners and for readers lacking a scientific background.

Notably, all assessment methods are encouraged (e.g., behavioural, neurocognitive or brain imaging methods). Moreover, study participants may be healthy individuals or patients with developmental or acquired disorders. Central themes of the journal are learning and developmental processes, it's disorders as well as related intervention methods. Importantly, the journal's focus of interest goes beyond childhood and adolescence, and explicitly includes cognitive, emotional and social functions across the whole lifespan.

## Publication ethics

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It is important to the Hogrefe Publishing Group that our scientific journals and all the people involved adhere to the highest ethical standards. Please take a moment to review our guidelines on what this means for authors, editors, reviewers, and us as a publisher. More information: <https://www.hogrefe.com/eu/service/for-journal-authors/publication-ethics>

## 2. Article Types

The journal publishes original papers, reviews, case studies, and position papers in German and English. These papers should have a direct or indirect relevance (concerning diagnosis, therapy, school setting, family, etc.) that is explicitly communicated to the readers.

It also publishes comments on published articles and editorials written by invited authors.

### Types of Articles

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All contributions should be classically structured: Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion. For reviews, the section "Results" is omitted, and for case studies and position papers the section "Methods" are omitted.

#### Original Articles

Original articles are empirical papers that report new research results.

#### Reviews

Reviews are systematic summaries of current, relevant, and internationally published research results.

#### Case Studies

Case studies represent work with individuals or small groups. These can focus on both diagnostic and therapeutic methods and results. The reported approach should be theory- and evidence-based, and the results should be discussed regarding current literature. Case studies should make a conceptual contribution to the respective current state of research. They can be drawn from practical work with children, adolescents, or adults originating in (learning) therapeutic, school, or other teaching-learning contexts.

#### Position Papers

Position papers are theoretical contributions that critically discuss a specific topic. Contrary to reviews which aim at providing systematic summaries of published research, the main aim of position papers is to open novel or complementary perspectives on a specific theme or topic.

### Invited Contributions

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#### Comments on Original Papers and Reviews

This type of contribution has the goal of furthering the inter-

disciplinary discussion of relevant research topics and results. Each contribution is reviewed by three to five invited experts from at least three different disciplines. Such comments are generally published in one of the following issues.

#### Editorials

Editorials are written exclusively by invited authors. These can be short reviews or critical comments on current topics.

### Scope of Contributions

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#### Original Articles and Reviews

The maximum length of original papers and reviews is 60,000 characters (incl. spaces). This includes the abstract, the main text, any tables and/or figures (incl. legends), acknowledgments, funding references, declaration of conflicts of interest, and the bibliography.

#### Case Studies

The maximum length of case studies is 30,000 characters (incl. spaces). This includes the abstract, the main text, any tables and/or figures (incl. legends), acknowledgments, funding references, declaration of conflicts of interest, and the bibliography.

#### Position Papers

Position papers are critical discussions of a specific topic. Unlike reviews, position papers do not provide systematic summaries of the current, relevant research results, but rather aim at introducing new or alternative perspectives on a specific research topic or theory.

#### Abstracts

In addition to the English abstract, English-language contributions must include an extended German-language abstract of max. 1,500 words. Authors whose native language is not German may receive assistance from the Editors in the preparation of the German-language abstract upon request. The length of the abstract in English is max. 1,500 characters (incl. spaces).

#### Tables and Figures

A maximum of 5 tables and/or figures per submission are allowed. Each table or figure must contain no more than 2,000 characters (incl. legend and caption), which are included in the overall character count. Submit the tables and figures separately.

#### Comments

The maximum length of theoretical comments is 5,000 characters (incl. spaces) and 7,500 characters (incl. spaces) with empirical data. The author's response to these comments may not exceed 10,000 characters (incl. spaces). For comments on original papers, a maximum of 1 figure or 1 table is allowed, for which up to 2,000 characters are included in the total character count.

#### Editorials

The maximum length of editorials is 7,500 characters (incl. spaces). For editorials, a maximum of 1 figure or 1 table is allowed,

for which up to 2,000 characters are included in the total character count. Editorials should include a title.

#### Open Data and Electronic Supplementary Material (ESM)

We offer the possibility to publish raw data, analysis scripts, and experimental materials. For very large or complex contributions, authors can also publish manuscript parts with additional and/or more detailed information in the form of an Electronic Supplementary Material (ESM).

## 3. Manuscript Submission

### Electronic Submission

Manuscripts should be submitted in an electronic form to <https://www.editorialmanager.com/lls>. The web-based manuscript management system offers a convenient means of submission. The system supports the following file formats: for manuscripts Word, WordPerfect, and RTF; for figures TIFF, GIF, JPEG, EPS, PPT, and PostScript. Open Office formats are not supported. Please do not send paper copies of the manuscript.

#### Order of Submitted Contents

The following information/files are required:

1. Type of article (rubric from available list)
2. Attached files: Cover sheet with personal data (separate file), main text (anonymized, separate file), if applicable figures and/or tables including legends (separate files), if applicable ESM files (separate files)
3. General information: Area/category (from list), keywords (max. 5), subject (from list)
4. Information in English: English title, English abstract (identical to the English abstract from the manuscript), and five keywords (keywords in English)
5. Details regarding declaration of originality, conflict of interest, clearance letter, reprint permissions, ethical guide lines, etc.
6. Cover letter to the editor (optional)
7. Information on title, abstract, and author order

#### Author Photo

A color portrait photo of the corresponding author is printed next to the correspondence address. The portrait photo is required only in the course of a revision, so it does not have to be uploaded at the time of the first submission.

#### Legal Provisions

Only works may be submitted that are not simultaneously submitted to other journals or have already been published. The author confirms and guarantees that they have full and unrestricted copyrights to their contribution, including any figures, drawings, plans, maps, sketches, etc., used; and that the contribution does not infringe the rights of third parties. Obtaining permission to reprint figures from other publications is the sole responsibility of the author.

## 4. Manuscript Preparation

### Formal Conditions

#### Citations

The manuscripts must be structured according to the guidelines laid out in the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (7th ed.).

#### Spelling

English manuscripts should use American English and be written according to Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary or the American Psychological Association's Dictionary of Psychology.

#### Editing and Translation Service

Hogrefe has negotiated a discount of 20% for authors who have their manuscript professionally proofread, edited, or translated into English by [Enago's](#) experts before submission. Please note, however, that this service is independent of Hogrefe, and that the use of this service has no influence on the acceptance decisions of the journal.

#### Gender-Equitable Language

All journal articles should be written using gender-appropriate language. When in doubt, please consult the APA guidelines.

#### Abbreviations

To enable better interdisciplinary understanding, avoid the use of abbreviations.

#### Formatting

The text margins should be at least 2.5 cm. For the standard manuscript page, the following applies: Times New Roman font, size 12 pt, with 1.5 line spacing. In the interest of better readability, structure the Introduction and Discussion sections using subheadings. No more than four hierarchical levels are allowed.

As a general rule, format your text as little as possible. Submit simple continuous text, without line numbering and without soft linebreaks (CTRL + Enter). For emphasis in the text, only use *italics*. Do not use **bold** or underline for emphasis. Use bullet points for enumerations (format function "simple list"). Turn off automatic hyphenation and do not insert manual page breaks. Do not number sections. Use text formatting methods such as font size, bold, and italics to structure and mark title hierarchy.

#### Cover Sheet (Personalized)

The cover page is a separate sheet comprising the title of the article in German and English as well as the author names and the addresses of the institute (in the case of persons without an institute address, insert the private address) with the email address of the corresponding author, who also receives the proofs. The cover sheet must be uploaded separately to the electronic system.

**Title Page**

The title page should contain only the title of the contribution in English and German without any further information on the authors. Also, insert a running head on the first page in the language of the publication (max. 40 characters).

**Structured Abstracts**

Both the German and English abstract should be structured as follows: Background, Methods, Results, Discussion (German Einleitung, Methoden, Ergebnisse, Diskussion). For reviews, the section "Results" is omitted, and for case studies and position papers the sections "Methods" and "Results" are omitted. The German and English abstracts should be included in the document with the main text. They must additionally be entered into the text fields for this purpose during the electronic submission. The two abstracts should be identical in content.

**Keywords**

The abstract should be followed by a maximum of five keywords in the English and German abstracts, respectively. The keywords should be as short and concise as possible. Multiword terms count as one keyword. The wise selection of keywords is decisive to the article being found by future readers in databases.

**Main Text (Anonymized)**

All contributions should be structured as follows: Introduction, Methods, Results, and Discussion; for reviews, the "Results" section may be omitted. Each paper must contain two paragraphs at the end of the "Discussion" section with subheadings "Limitations" and "Relevance to Practice". The main text must have continuous line numbering throughout.

**References/Literature**

These are placed directly after the main text and listed alphabetically in accordance with the guidelines of the APA.

**Footnotes**

Footnotes are not allowed in the main text, in the title of the article, or with the author names.

**Reference Citation**

The source should be cited by mentioning the surname of the author(s) (up to two authors) and the year of publication of the work. All citations with more than three authors should be amended using "et al." For more details, please consult the APA guidelines (7th edition).

**Figures**

Illustrations should be numbered consecutively. Note the desired position in the main text with "Insert Figure X about here." Upload the figures as separate image files. Figures should have a resolution of at least 300 dpi; failure to do so may cause significant delays in the publication process. Add the figure legends and any notes consecutively (i.e., in list form) at the end of the main text. The author is solely responsible for clarifying third-party rights to illustrations from other publications (i.e., obtaining permission to reprint).

**Tables**

Tables should be numbered consecutively. Submit tables in separate files (preferably Word but Excel is also possible). Each table should begin on a new page. Note the desired position in the main text with "Insert Table X about here." Each table has a table heading as well as any necessary notes below it.

**Electronic Supplementary Material (ESM)**

Authors may submit study data, analysis scripts, and other study materials for manuscripts that involve new data as Electronic Supplementary Material (ESM). In general, ESM may include relevant items that cannot be reproduced in printed form and may consist of material used to carry out the research (e.g., data sets, participant instructions, audiovisual stimuli, video footage of the experimental setup) or additional items that are not essential for inclusion in the full text but would nevertheless benefit the reader. ESM is not included in the article word count. ESM files will be published online as received from the author(s) without any conversion, testing, or reformatting. They will not be checked for typographical errors or functionality. The responsibility for the content and functionality remains entirely with the author(s). Hogrefe Publishing does not provide technical support for the creation or viewing of the supplementary files. If necessary, authors should seek the assistance of their local IT department. Like the manuscript, ESM should be original and not previously published. If previously published, it must be submitted with the necessary permissions. Note that the ESM files, just like the article itself, are permanent records and may not be altered once they have been published online. Please ensure that any ESM submitted with the article is in compliance with the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

**Submission**

ESM files will be subjected to peer review along with the article itself. The number of ESM files you submit should be limited to 5. The file size should be kept as small as possible, not exceeding 10 MB in total. All file formats are accepted with the exception of executable files (e.g., .exe, .com, or .msi). Commonly used file formats that are accessible by most readers are preferred. Following the online instructions, submit the ESM files in a single zip file separate from the other files that are part of your submission.

**Citation in Manuscript**

All ESM files must be referred to with in-text citations (as for tables, figures, and appendices) and should be numbered in the order in which they are cited in the text.

Follow the example:

- For more information, listen to the audio file in Electronic Supplementary Material 1.

or:

- ... (listen to the audio file in Electronic Supplementary Material 1)...

or:

- ...(the audio file is provided in Electronic Supplementary Material 1)...

If appropriate, you may combine several ESM elements into a single file. For example:

- See Tables 1–3 in Electronic Supplementary Material 1.

Include a section headed “Electronic Supplementary Material” at the end of your article before the reference section. List all files in the order in which they are cited in the text. Provide a title for each ESM file along with the file name. Optionally, you may also provide a short description for each file (max. 20 words). Follow the example:

- ESM 1. Audio file (utterancesparticipants.mp3). (= title and file name). This audio file contains utterances of the study participants. (= description of file)
- ESM 1. Tables 1–3 (tables1–3.xlsx). (= title and file name). The tables show additional p-values, weather variables, and demographic characteristics. (= description of file)

Make sure that the file names listed here match the names of the submitted files. Please note that only the title and the description will appear in the article; the file name will not. It is for reference purposes only.

#### **Acknowledgments, Funding, Conflicts of Interest**

Put any acknowledgments and funding notices (e.g., to study participants or supporting institutions and sponsors) under separate headings and declare any conflicts of interest in a separate paragraph.

#### **References**

Each text reference must also be listed in the bibliography. Avoid citations of unpublished works, in particular, works in preparation, submitted but not yet accepted manuscripts as well as papers without available references. The bibliography must conform strictly to the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (7th ed.). Further literature not cited in the text should not be included in the bibliography but may be published as Electronic Supplement Material (ESM), if deemed reasonable and necessary.

## **5. Review Procedure**

The submitted manuscripts are reviewed by a competent editor in charge, with the assistance of two external reviewers, who decide on the acceptance, revision, or rejection of the contribution. The review process is double-blind and anonymous, that is, the reviewers do not know who wrote the manuscript, and, vice versa, the authors do not know who has written the review.

## **6. Production**

### **Correction and Publication Release**

The corresponding author receives one set of proofs of the typeset copy. Only typesetting and orthographic errors may be corrected at this stage. Subsequent changes are no longer possible. If substantial corrections are carried out, the author may be invoiced for these corrections. The author should return the corrected proof along with the signed publication release form, which describes and regulates the copyright of the article in detail.

### **Specimen Copy**

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