

MFSA Q&As (Summer Semester 2025)

Barbora Vobrubová, Alena Dvořáková

Q: Where do I find out what publishing requirements apply to my degree?

A: The publishing requirements may be specific to a university school/department or even to a particular study program. You need to make sure you look up the requirements that apply to your particular course of study/degree. These will usually be posted on your university, school or department website – it may be advisable to check the precise requirements with your own supervisor.

Q: How do rules for the submission of conference abstracts differ from the submission of a research article?

A: In general, it is much easier to get an abstract (for a poster or a paper) accepted for a conference. It is important to follow the instructions of the conference organizers, especially on the scope/thematic focus of the conference, the format and length of the abstract, whether the abstract should include references or not (and if so, what citation style to use), the submission deadline and the channel of submission etc. Do keep to the prescribed word limit and other formal requirements for the abstract.

Q: Do you have any writing software recommendations that work well on Linux? I found MS Word and Mendeley almost impossible to use.

A: You could try using [Overleaf](https://www.overleaf.com/) (<https://www.overleaf.com/>). It supports most of the frequently used citation managers. Another suggestion would be [TeXstudio](https://www.texstudio.org/) (<https://www.texstudio.org/>). Or you could try using [JabRef](https://www.jabref.org/) (<https://www.jabref.org/>) on Linux (as an alternative to Mendeley).

Q: “Formal writing” outputs at universities are mainly bachelor and master theses, which are not of sufficient quality compared to research articles. First-year PhD students lack the required writing skills – and not all university schools offer specific academic writing courses that would help with publishing scientific outcomes.

A: You are right that writing an article and writing a thesis are two different things. But it is not just about the quality of the writing, but also about the type of document each represents. A thesis (or even a dissertation) differs from a research article both in form (esp. structure and length) and in content, esp. scope: a research article usually focuses on a much narrower topic and there is a much greater emphasis on the originality and impact of its contribution. Master’s theses as well as doctoral dissertations usually need to be substantially re-written to be publishable, either as research articles, or as book-length monographs. But gaining the necessary writing skills is part of the PhD journey. Once you realize that a thesis and a research article are not the same, there are many resources available online as well as in libraries including the NTK that you can use for help and step-by-step instructions. If you encounter a specific problem in your academic or scientific writing (perhaps with the structure of your article, citation, or similar), you are very welcome to arrange an [individual consultation](#) at the NTK to discuss it.

Q: How I can get the online [ORCID] ID?

A: You can register for free at the ORCID website <https://orcid.org/register>. If you need more information, you can also visit the identifikatory.cz website.