How to get published in *The China Quarterly*? (FAQs)



What is *The China Quarterly*?

- The journal was first published in 1960.
- Its current editors are Dr Timothy Hildebrandt (LSE), Dr Yuka Kobayashi (SOAS) and Prof. Jieyu Liu (SOAS).
- First China-studies journal to implement a triple-anonymous review process.
- 2-year Impact Factor of 2.5 and 5-year Impact Factor of 2.9.
- Acceptance rate: around 11%.
- Over 60% of articles published Open Access, and rising.
- More information found on the *CQ* page on the Cambridge Core website
- What topics does *The China Quarterly* cover?
    - *The China Quarterly* welcomes the submission of manuscripts from scholars, including postgraduate students, on all aspects of contemporary Greater China.
    - Its interdisciplinary approach covers a range of subjects including economics, geography, history, international relations, law, politics, anthropology, sociology, literature and the arts.
    - Submissions on China prior to 1978 will be considered if they engage with issues of wider significance in contemporary China.

What types of articles does *The China Quarterly* publish?

- Regular research articles (c. 9,000 words, all inclusive): in-depth and theoretical pieces which present original research in combination with analytical argument. We do not publish prescriptive or 'think' pieces.
- Research reports (typically c. 4,500 words, all inclusive): shorter empirical pieces based on primary research and/or presenting novel datasets.
- Book reviews of one (900 words) or more books (up to 2,500 words): commissioned.
- Special sections, guest-edited groups of articles on a single topic (five to seven articles, see our guidelines for special section proposals).
- Special issues (12 to 14 articles): always commissioned.

What is the pathway from submission to publication?

Submission through Scholar One
⬎
Editors' initial check (up to 4 weeks)
⬎
Review process (10-12 weeks)
⬎
Acceptance
⬎
Copy-editing
⬎
First proofs
⬎
Authors' corrections
⬎
Revised proofs
⬎
Approval
⬎
Online publication on FirstView
⬎
Publication in print

How does the review process work?

This journal uses a triple-anonymised model of peer review throughout the review process:

- editors do not know the identity of authors;
- authors do not know the identity of reviewers;
- reviewers do not know the identity of authors.

The possible outcomes of peer review are:

- outright acceptance (rare);
- acceptance subject to minor revisions: the article may go through a review process again;
- rejection with an invitation to "revise and resubmit": once revised, the article goes through a review process again, usually to the same reviewers (most articles published in the CQ have gone through this stage);
- outright rejection with no possibility of resubmission (this is the most common outcome).

What should I ask myself before submitting?

- How familiar am I with this journal?
- Is my area/topic covered by this journal?
- Has this journal recently published something similar I should be aware of?
- Have I checked the journal's instructions for contributors (length, format, anonymisation, etc.)?
- Does my article address an area-studies interdisciplinary audience?

- Should my manuscript be read by an English-speaking colleague or a professional editor before submission?

What should I *not* do?

- Submit the same manuscript to more than one journal at the same time.
- Submit more than one article at a time, or more than two in a 12-month period.
- Expect the editorial team to make an initial decision or give advice on the basis of a title or an abstract;
- Contact the editors directly for advice, as we employ a triple-anonymous review process.

What ethical issues should I be aware of?

- Be clear on authorship: make sure you have included all the contributors (in the right order) and that your acknowledgements are up to date;
- Avoid plagiarism (including self-plagiarism):
    - Have you checked that you have cited your own, and others' work, correctly? (We use Ithenticate.) Please cite your own work in the third person to maintain anonymity.
    - Do you have written permission to reproduce any illustrations, figures and tables you include? Or to use someone else's datasets?
- Declare any interests: make sure you declare any funding and any competing interests when submitting the article via ScholarOne.
- For co-authored articles, make sure you are clear about who the corresponding author is, as this information is important for eligibility for Open Access as part of transformative (or read and publish) agreements. This cannot be changed after acceptance.
- Declare any use of AI or LLM tools as required by CUP's AI use policy.

What should the manuscript include?

- A title which describes clearly what the article is about.
- An abstract (150 words) which adequately reflects the contents of the article, and five or six carefully chosen keywords.
- An introduction stating the main research question that has been addressed and provide signposting to the rest of the article.
- Evidence (in the main sections) of the thorough literature survey of the field in question and a clear treatment of the empirical material provided, including methodology and the way in which the data was put together.
- A conclusion that draws out the main findings of the research.
- A data availability statement.
- Figures and other data that are not essential to the understanding of the article may be submitted as supplementary (online only) materials.

Also, please ensure that the article…

- contributes something new and significant to knowledge about China;
- makes a contribution to the field (and or/subfield) of study and to the discipline;
- has – and presents – a coherent argument;

- is supported by the proper citation of credible sources and primary data, including Chinese and English-language sources.

 TIP: For "models", see the Gordon White prize-winning articles on our website.

If you wish to include illustrations, please make sure that:

- they are essential to the readers' understanding of the article;
- you have obtained permission to reproduce them from the original author/publisher. (This also applies to material published on the Internet.) It is the author's responsibility to seek permission to reproduce copyrighted material;
- they adhere to our guidelines in terms of quality and format.

Can I submit a chapter from my PhD?

PhD chapters are often difficult to translate into journal articles; best advice is to study carefully the articles in targeted journals and think about how to compress arguments and have a coherent narrative (that is not dependent on the other chapters to become intelligible).

What are reviewers asked to comment on?

- The importance of the topic.
- The contribution of the article to the field (and relevant subfield) of contemporary China studies.
- The importance of the article and the topic to its relevant discipline (history, geography, political science, economics) and its potential contribution to that discipline.
- Are the main points of the argument supported by the proper citation of credible sources and primary data?
- The logical coherence of the author(s) argument.
- To what extent does the author engage issues and arguments made by others in the field (should the author be aware of other specific works?).
- The originality and quality of the research.
- The technical nature of the manuscript, e.g. how much copy-editing does the prose require, are tables and statistical data in order, etc.
- Is the paper an appropriate length or could it be shortened?
- Is the number of tables and figures appropriate? Are they all necessary?

How much time do I have to resubmit?

You have up to six months to revise your manuscript if rejected with an invitation to resubmit and three months following an Accept/Revise decision. Of course, the length of the revisions process depends on the nature of the revisions requested. Do not hurry in revising your manuscript. Manuscripts that are resubmitted too hastily suggest that revisions have not been thoroughly implemented, unless the suggestions made were minor.

How should I revise my manuscript?

- Take on board and address as many of the suggested revisions as possible.
- When you resubmit, always explain how you've addressed the reviewers' suggestions in a separate letter to the editors.

- Do not exceed the word limit without the editors' approval.

What if my article is rejected?
It happens to the best of scholars and is not the end of your career!
If your manuscript is rejected with the option to revise and resubmit, do consider revising. The vast majority of accepted articles started with a "revise and resubmit" recommendation.

Why did I not receive any reasons for the rejection?
The China Quarterly receives far more submissions than it is able to publish, or even peer-review. Editors therefore have to make a judgement about which papers are likely to be of most interest to the wider readership. Comments are offered whenever reviews are received. However, the article may also be rejected without reviewer comments if the submitted article is:

- out of the remit of the journal (alternative publications are sometimes suggested);
- too weak, and commenting will not lead to an improved version;
- too far off the target, and providing comments would be tantamount to asking the author to write an entirely different paper.

How can I promote my article after publication?

- Use any tokens or sharing schemes offered by the publisher and consult CUP's page on Post Publication Impact;
- Make full use of social media making sure you use the Cambridge Core link or DOI so that it counts towards your Altmetric score;
- Update your profile on professional and academic networking sites, and post to discussion lists.

Please make sure you understand what you can do and can't do with the different versions of your article (e.g. Author's Original Manuscript (AOM) or pre-print; Accepted Manuscript (AM) or post-print; Version of Record [VoR]). If in doubt, please refer to the Licence to Publish form you signed through the IronClad system after acceptance or contact the editorial office.