End-of-article statements and declarations

To promote transparency, research integrity, and responsible scholarly communication, the ECPR journals require authors to include relevant back matter statements and declarations as part of the manuscript submission process. These statements provide important information about the conduct, support, and reporting of the research and help readers understand any factors that may have influenced the work.

Authors should ensure that all required statements are accurate, complete, and reflect the circumstances of the research. Where a particular statement is not applicable, authors should indicate this clearly in accordance with the guidance below. The journal editorial teams reserve the right to request clarification or additional information where necessary to support transparent and ethical publication practices.

The following is a guide to the various headings and accompanying statements, both mandatory and optional, that are published at the end of each article. These headings may be amended or increased over time, as required by the evolution of publishing best practice.

Note that most of these statements and declarations should be supplied as part of a separate title page at the point of submission so that the anonymity of the author is preserved during the peer review process.

A. Mandatory Statements & Declarations

Every article should carry these four statements, even if they are a null statement (i.e. where the author has nothing to declare):

- **Funding Statement**

  A declaration of sources of funding must always be provided, even as a null statement. Authors must state the full official name of the funding body and grant numbers specified. Authors must also specify what role, if any, their financial sponsors played in the design, execution, analysis and interpretation of data, or writing of the study. If they played no role, this should be stated. Example statements:

  > *"**Funding Statement**. This work was supported by the Medical Research Council (grant number XXXXXXX)"*.

  Multiple grant numbers should be separated by a comma and space, and where research was funded by more than one agency, the different agencies should be separated by a semi-colon, with "and" before the final funder. Grants held by different authors should be identified as belonging to individual authors by the authors' initials, for example:

  > *"**Funding Statement**. This work was supported by the Wellcome Trust (AB, grant numbers XXXX, YYYY), (CD, grant number ZZZZ); the Natural Environment Research Council (EF, grant number FFFF); and the National Institutes of Health (AB, grant number GGGG), (EF, grant number HHHH)."*

  Where no specific funding has been provided for research, journals can opt to provide the following statement:

*"**Funding Statement**. This research received no specific grant from any funding agency, commercial or not-for-profit sectors."*

- **Competing Interests**

  Competing interests are situations that could be perceived to exert an undue influence on the content or publication of an author's work. They may include, but are not limited to, financial, professional, contractual, or personal relationships or situations.

  If the manuscript has multiple authors, the author submitting must include competing interest declarations relevant to all contributing authors.

  Example wording for a declaration is as follows:

  *"**Competing Interests**. Author 1 is employed at organisation A, Author 2 is on the Board of company B and is a member of organisation C. Author 3 has received grants from company D."*

  If no competing interests exist, the declaration should state:

  *"**Competing Interests**. The author(s) declare none"*.

- **Data Availability Statement**

  Data Availability Statements are brief statements telling readers how they can access data and other materials that would be necessary to replicate the findings of an article, in the interests of research transparency.

  Detailed guidance on how to write Data Availability Statements to fit a variety of circumstances can be found here. The examples include situations where the data cannot be shared for ethical or proprietary reasons. Most commonly a Data Availability Statement will follow this formula:

  *"**Data Availability Statement**. The data that support the findings of this study are openly available in [repository name] at http://doi.org/[doi], reference number [reference number]."*

  Please do not submit unhelpful, non-transparent statements such as "Data available on request".

  A null statement should be written as follows:

  "***Data Availability Statement***. No datasets were used or generated in this research."

- **Supplementary Materials**

  Supplementary Materials are files that are host on Cambridge Core alongside an article. They are not typeset, reviewed or edited. What authors choose to submit as Supplementary Materials can vary widely, from raw data, to tangentially relevant documents, to additional results not discussed in the article. What defines something as 'Supplementary Material' is simply that it is extra material that has been given to us by the authors to publish with the article.

  If data and code are presented as Supplementary Material (not recommended; a proper data repository is preferable) then the article will need both a Supplementary Materials statement and a Data Availability Statement.

The Supplementary Material statement is mandatory whenever Supplementary Material is supplied by the author(s), so that readers understand where to find these materials.

The written form is standard, as follows:

> *"**Supplementary Materials**. The supplementary material for this article can be found at https://doi.org/. . ."*

The DOI is added as part of the production process.

If multiple files are provided as Supplementary Material, they should be labelled in such a way that readers can quickly navigate to the one they require, with this convention being used in the article where they are cited. Labelling should include some brief description of the content, and not simply S1, S2, etc.

A null statement should be written as follows:

*"**Supplementary Materials**. The author(s) declare that there are no supplementary materials associated with this article."*

B. Optional Statements & Declarations

- **Acknowledgements**

While they are near universal, Acknowledgement statements are not mandatory. Authors can use this section to acknowledge and thank colleagues, institutions, workshop organisers, family members, etc. that have helped with the research and/or writing process. It is important that that any type of funding information or financial support is listed under 'Financial Support' rather than Acknowledgements so that it can be recorded separately.

The other function of the Acknowledgements statement is to declare any assistance in the writing/drafting process, whether from technical writers, language editors or, as is increasingly common, from artificial intelligence (AI) tools. Examples of how to acknowledge assistance in drafting manuscripts:

> *"**Acknowledgements**. The author(s) thank [name and qualifications] of [company, city, country] for providing [medical/technical/language] writing support/editorial support [specify and/or expand as appropriate], which was funded by [sponsor, city, country]."*
>
> *"**Acknowledgements**. The author(s) made use of [AI system/tool] to assist with the language edit of this article. [AI version details] was accessed/obtained from [source details] and used with/without modification [specify and/or expand as appropriate] on [date(s)]."*

- **Ethical Standards**

This heading relates to the ethical standards the author(s) followed when doing research with **humans** or **animals** (which could have involved human or animal experimentation, or social research with human participants). In such cases, it becomes mandatory.

The type of content in this section varies by discipline, as authors state how they have complied with ethical standards specific to their discipline, e.g.:

> ***"Ethical Standards**. The research was conducted in accordance with the protocols approved by X institution / X ethics committee"*

***"Ethical Standards**. This research complies with the Declaration of Helsinki"*

***"Ethical Standards**. All participants provided written consent and were compensated for their participation"*

***"Ethical Standards**. The clinical trial registration number is …", etc.*

If an author has been made exempt from needing to gain ethics committee approval, it is possible they may wish to (or be required to) state this in their paper, e.g.:

***"Ethical Standards.** This research was exempt from institutions X's ethical approval procedures because…".*

This section should never say "***Ethical Standards.** None"*. If the research was not done with humans or animals and there is no other reason to include an ethical standard statement, then it can be left out.

- **Author Contributions**

  This can be used to specify the roles played in the research and writing process by different members of a multi-author team.

  Author teams may wish to write this up in their own way, or they could include their CRediT Taxonomy table in this section.