

## Guidelines for Writing Articles for the International Scientific-Research Journal of Balkh University

These guidelines are designed for the submission of scientific-research articles to the International Journal of Balkh University in the fields of Social Sciences and Natural Sciences, to ensure that articles are structured and prepared based on these standards.

### Components of a Scientific Article:

Title, Authors, Affiliation, Abstract, Keywords, Introduction, Methodology and Instruments/ Materials, Findings, Discussion, Conclusion, and References.

1. **Title:** The title of the submitted article should have the following characteristics:
  - Original, novel, applicable, and researchable;
  - Comprehensive and reflective of the research content;
  - Concise (less than 20 words), specific, attractive, and free of abbreviations, trade names, and redundant words;
  - It should not be in the form of a question.
2. **Authors:** The author(s)' details should be provided after the title on the right side, followed by their department, faculty, institution, email address, and ORCID ID number.
  - **Note 1:** If the article is co-authored, the corresponding author must be identified.
  - **Note 2:** Avoid using honorary or non-scientific titles.
3. **Abstract:** The abstract of the article should contain the following characteristics:
  - A maximum of 250 words in a single paragraph;
  - Separated from the main text, concise, non-judgmental, and coherent;
  - The abstract must be written in the original language of the article and also translated into Arabic and English;
  - The structure of the abstract should include the following elements in order:
    - Problem background (in one sentence, referring to research results);
    - Objective (in one sentence, stating the purpose of the research);
    - Methodology (in two sentences, including information about data collection, target population, and sampling);
    - Key findings (in one or two sentences).
  - **Note:** Do not use separate headings like Introduction, Objective, Method, Findings, and Conclusion in the abstract.
4. **Keywords:** Keywords are terms representing the subject of the article and are used for retrieval and introduction to the scientific community. The characteristics of keywords are:
  - Keywords are frequently used throughout the article;
  - They should reflect the content of the article and should not be taken from the main title of the article;
  - There should be 3 to 6 keywords;
  - Keywords should be listed in alphabetical order.
5. **Introduction:** The introduction should include the following:
  - Introduction to the issue being researched;
  - The issue should be explained with scientific evidence from previous studies;

- The topic should be introduced with reference to the latest available data and statistics;
  - The introduction should clarify the objectives and necessity of the research, specifying the results the researcher aims to achieve;
  - Presentation of research questions/hypotheses, research method, and background literature.
  - **Note:** Avoid using separate headings like Objectives, Research Questions, Necessity of Research, Literature Review, Method, Findings, and Conclusion in the introduction.
6. **Methodology or Main Body of the Research:** The main body of the article includes evidence, data, and analysis, and should be well-supported, precise, logically structured, and accompanied by the researcher's analysis.
  7. **Findings/Results:** The findings should include both descriptive and statistical information, explained clearly with relevant statistical symbols such as numbers and figures. If necessary, graphs or charts should be included based on the nature of the variables and figures.
    - **Note:** Table explanations should be written above the tables, and figure captions below the figures.
  8. **Discussion:** This section should briefly interpret and analyze the main findings in relation to the research objectives, with the following points:
    - A summary of the key findings in one paragraph at the beginning of the discussion;
    - A comparison of results with previous studies, highlighting similarities and differences;
    - Discussion of strengths, weaknesses, and, if needed, suggestions for future research.
    - **Note:** Findings and results in the field-specific research should be considered.
  9. **Conclusion:** The conclusion should reflect the findings and achievements of the research and must remain consistent with the content of the article. Avoid using long sentences, including information from the text, images, or tables. If needed, the researcher's recommendations may be included at the end of the conclusion without a separate heading.
  10. **Citation Style:** In-text citations should follow the "APA" style.
  11. **References:** The list of references should be formatted according to the "APA" style.

These guidelines ensure that the articles meet the structural and content standards required for publication in the International Scientific-Research Journal of Balkh University.