International Journal of Educational Research

Editor
N. Mercer

Notes for Proposers of Special Issues

The International Journal of Educational Research welcomes proposals for special issues. Special issues are thematic collections of research articles on relevant themes. Each special issue of the journal is produced by one or more Guest Editors who work under the guidance of the journal’s Editor and who are responsible for liaison with contributing authors.

Guidance for making proposals for special issues are provided below. More detailed guidance on the specifications for the format of papers is provided in the online Guide for Authors: http://www.elsevier.com/wps/find/journaldescription.cws_home/491/.

There are 3 stages through which any proposed special issue must go to achieve publication, two of which involve peer review. The initial stage is that the Editor judges whether or not a proposal meets the Aims and Scope of the journal. If it does, then the decision whether or not to proceed any further with that special issue is then made on the basis of the evaluation of an extended proposal by two members of the Editorial Board (or other suitable referees appointed by the Editor). If a proposal is evaluated positively by referees, a formal schedule is agreed for development of the full draft. On receipt of the draft issue from the Guest Editors, it is also sent out for full evaluation by appointed referees, who can recommend acceptance, modification, or rejection.

Prospective Guest Editors should submit an extended proposal to the Editor, by email to Jane Burrough jsb34@cam.ac.uk. Proposals will be judged against the following criteria:

(a) Is the proposed topic of interest and relevance to an identifiable and substantial international audience of educational researchers?

(b) Does treatment of the topic reflect an awareness of international perspectives and developments in the relevant field?

(c) Does the research to be included in each of the papers outlined in the proposal appear to be well-conceived?

(d) Is the proposal clearly and logically constructed, in a way that would encourage confidence in the proposers as Guest Editors?

(e) Do the contributors include researchers who are well regarded in their field?

Selection also favours collections which involve authors from several countries and which include synthesising introductions and/or commentaries (either by the Guest Editors or by independent discussants appointed proposed by the Guest Editors).

All proposals should include the following information:

(a) an overview (one page A4 maximum) from the Guest Editors of the aims, content, and expected audience for the proposed issue, with an explanation of the distinctive contribution it is expected to make to educational research and why the selected
contributors are appropriate people to provide this;

(b) a table of contents

(c) an abstract for each of the proposed contributions (about 120 words);

(d) a biographical statement for each of the proposed Guest Editors, linking them to the field of study;

(e) brief details about the other contributors, including their institutional affiliation;

(f) an estimate of when the complete first draft will be available.

Each special issue will contain a maximum of 45,000 words, with a range of 42,000 to 45,000 being a reasonable target for contributors. Instructions for the preparation of papers will be provided to Guest Editors on acceptance of a proposal.