

# Writing Technical Papers for Nuclear Future

*Nuclear Future* is a registered journal (ISSN 17452058) and is the modern-day successor to the *Journal of the British Nuclear Energy Conference*, first published in 1956 by one of the Nuclear Institute's predecessor organisations, the British Nuclear Energy Society (BNES).

Published and printed by CPL One on behalf of the Nuclear Institute, *Nuclear Future* is circulated to all members of the Nuclear Institute in physical and online formats with subscribers (such as University and Organisational Libraries) around the world.

## Why write a technical paper for Nuclear Future?

- Advance knowledge of the nuclear industry
- Get cited: papers DOI registered with Crossref Registration Agency
- Be part of a Journal published for over 60 years
- Chance to win prestigious Pinkerton Prize

Technical papers published in *Nuclear Future* will be registered with a Crossref DOI (Digital Object Identifier) identifying it as academic or professional research. This will put your paper as part of the world's largest registry of DOIs and metadata for scholarly research, connecting it with 150 million other records from ~151 countries.

If you have any questions or comments, please get in touch with the Dr Alastair Baker, Technical Editor at [technicaleditor@nuclearinst.com](mailto:technicaleditor@nuclearinst.com).

If your article proposal is of a less technical nature and more topical or news based, please contact Will Gray at [nieditor@cplone.co.uk](mailto:nieditor@cplone.co.uk).

## Pinkerton Prize: Outstanding Paper Award

Authors of technical papers will be eligible for the Pinkerton Prize. This award, named in memory of JB Pinkerton, recognises authors and co-authors of articles of significant technical or scientific merit published in *Nuclear Future*.

JB (John Brownlie) Pinkerton was the founder of the Institution of Nuclear Engineers (INuCE). The INuCE was one of the predecessor organisations that eventually formed the Nuclear Institute.

# Checklist

Before you submit, please check you have provided:

1. Main text- with images/figures/charts/tables cited in the text and full references.
2. Images- provided as separate high resolution image files (preferably as .png). Please ensure you have permission to use, in print, any images provided.
3. Image captions- a list of the images/figures/charts/tables provided along with captions to accompany them (and any acknowledgements that may be required).
4. Biography- a short (50 word) biography of each author.
5. Author image(s)- a high-resolution head and shoulder image of each author.
6. Provide your ORCID number (if you have one) for the DOI registration of the paper.
7. [Journal request form](#) to enable us to send a complimentary physical and/or PDF copy of the journal.
8. A copy of the journal template can be downloaded download with other guidance here <https://nuclearinst.com/Nuclear-Future>. Please also ensure your work has been thoroughly proofread before submitting.

## Journal Style Guide

Authors will need to agree to the Nuclear Future copyright agreement of CC-BY-NC and for the paper to appear in the journal or on the website. The tone of all papers should be informative rather than promotional and may be edited for publication.

### Structure of paper

Papers should clearly describe the background of the subject, the authors' work, including the methods used, and provide a conclusion.

The main text should be provided in a Word document with a maximum word count of 3000 (including biographies and references).

### Charts/graphs

Please ensure all graphs/charts have labelled axes and units of measure.

### Units of measure

Be consistent with units of measure throughout your paper, sticking to the SI base and derived units where possible.

### Quotations

Use double quotation marks and colons, rather than commas, to introduce quotes, so it is *Clarke says: "We need to see a change."* and not *Clarke says, 'We need...'*.

## Images/figures/charts/tables

We welcome the use of images to accompany papers.

A list of images/figures/charts/tables should be provided either at the end of the paper, or in a separate document with a caption for each. They should also be cited, where appropriate, in the main text (see figure 1). Captions should take the following form:



Figure 1: An example of an image used in a paper submitted to the Nuclear Future.

All images should be provided as high-resolution image files (at least 300dpi final size); original images are preferred. As a rule of thumb the image file should be at least 0.5Mb for use in print. Although poor resolution images may look reasonable on screen, they do not print well. Images embedded into word documents have been compressed, reducing their quality.

To ensure your images can be used, please only provide those with high resolution, and named as captioned in the text.

## Referencing

The paper should provide references where appropriate using a numbering system in square brackets [1] and in the format shown below. References should be listed at the end of the paper in the following format, known as MLA (Modern Language Association):

### Paper

Author(s). "Title of the Paper." *Title of the Journal*, vol. number, no. number, Year, pages. Database, URL or DOI.

**Example:** Smith, John. "Advancements in Nuclear Fusion Technology." *Journal of Nuclear Science*, vol. 45, no. 3, 2025, pp. 123-145. JSTOR, doi:10.1234/jns.2025.12345.

### Book

Author(s). *Title of the Book*. Publisher, Year.

**Example:** Doe, Jane. *The Future of Nuclear Energy*. Oxford University Press, 2023.

## Use of capital letters and acronyms

Please try to limit the use of acronyms and remember to write them out at their first appearance.

Provide a list of acronyms at the end of the paper.

Limit the use of capital letters to the beginning of sentences and proper nouns. Excessive use of

capitalisation can reduce the readability of a paper.

## Bullet points

If the points in your bullets are not complete sentences, like this one, then:

- start each point with a lower-case letter
- do not punctuate at the end of each point
- end the last bullet with a full stop.

If the bullets are each a complete sentence, then:

- Please begin each bullet with a capital letter.
- Please add a full stop at the end of each point.

## Compound adjectives

Do not overuse, but if a compound adjective can be misread, use a hyphen, so it is *a cross-section of scientists*, not *a cross section of scientists*, for example.

Use a hyphen where words could be misunderstood, for example, *re-pair* or *un-ionised*.

Use hyphens for most words in which the prefix ends and the base word begins with the same vowel, for example *meta-analysis* or *co-occur*.

## English spellings

Avoid Americanised spellings, so it is *recognise*, not *recognize*. Do not use latin words.

## Passive voice

While it may not always be appropriate, to make your writing more immediate, avoid using the passive voice in your sentences. With the passive voice\*, the subject of a sentence is acted upon by the verb, instead of the subject performing the action.

Example of passive voice: *The formula **was altered [verb]** by the **team [subject]**.*

Example of active voice: *The **team altered** the formula.*

\* *passive voice is the style of writing in which the object of the action (the experiment) becomes the subject of the sentence, and the performer of the action (the scientist) is either mentioned later in the sentence or omitted entirely.*

## Paragraphs

Stick to one main idea or topic per paragraph and keep each paragraph to a maximum of four sentences.

## Sentence length

Meaning is easily lost in complicated, over-long sentences. We recommend keeping each sentence to 40 words or fewer.

# Post-publication – sharing your work

## Crossref DOI Registration

*Nuclear Future* is a registered journal (ISSN 17452058) and technical papers will be registered with a Crossref DOI (Digital Object Identifier) identifying it as academic or professional research. This will put your paper as part of the world's largest registry of DOIs and metadata for scholarly research, connecting it with 150 million other records from ~151 countries.

Registering your article process:

1. Article finalised with Technical Editor
2. NI Technical Editor submits information to Crossref
3. NI Marketing Manager creates unique landing page on NI website
4. Landing page and DOI link sent to Author(s)

## Social Media and sharing within your network

*Nuclear Future* is primarily a publication for the members of the Nuclear Institute and is therefore a form of “paywalled” content. However we want you to be able to share your article with your network and the wider world.

As part of the DOI registration of your paper, a unique landing page will be created on the NI website.

You are also welcome to share the PDF of your article or images of the physical copy with your networks, on social media etc. You will be notified which edition your article will be published in and once the edition has been announced on the [Nuclear Institute LinkedIn page](#) feel free to share your article.

Please include the line: “Nuclear Future is available for members of the Nuclear Institute here: <https://nuclearinst.com/Nuclear-Future>”