

How to Get Your Higher Education Research Published in a Q1 Journal

The key metric that most universities include to measure and quality assure research output is the number of published first quartile (Q1) journal papers. Universities also measure impact, including through the number of times that published Q1 papers are cited in other publications.

Writing Q1 journal papers benefits your career in many ways, including:

- Establishing and reinforcing your distinctive value propositions / personal brand (i.e. getting known for your research).
- Evidence of your output and impact for processes such as academic or professional promotion.
- Ensuring that your research gets found, read and taken seriously, thereby heightening your influence and impact.

There is a code-to-crack, in order to get your paper published in Q1 journals.

Here's how! Come on – spin the wheel and begin today.

Cohesion & Rigor (CR) The overall paper must be of consistent quality. Ensure that the content has a unified flow, that the writing is clear and comprehensive and that the paper has been carefully edited and polished.

Theory & Frameworks (TF) Include a theoretical perspective in your introduction and then apply, elaborate, test and embed in your discussion section. Or your research could be used to derive and share a new theory or framework that explains and contextualises the results.

Literature Review (LR) Make it comprehensive and descriptive. Include key scholars and within-scope publications. Include aligned empirical studies and return to their findings in your discussion section, to compare and contrast with your results.

Research Questions (RQ) Q1 papers are almost always empirical and provide new knowledge contribution. Pose open rather than closed questions. Wording must be clear and responses need to be measurable.

Methodology & Methods (M&Ms) Ensure that you have chosen and referenced a methodology. Be careful that each element of your method is germane. Be clear and descriptive so that your method is replicable.

Strong Rationale (SR) Every decision you make (scope, framing, what to include, what not to) needs to be made carefully, and defended in your paper. But don't sound defensive.

Size Matters (SM) Your research and new knowledge contribution need to be substantive. Your participant size is influenced by your methodology and the desirable conclusions. Consider partnering and going multi-institutional and/or multi-national.

Journal Fit (JF) Ensure that your paper aligns with the selected journal in topic, methodology and context. A litmus test is whether you have included published papers from your chosen journal in your literature review.

