

Frequently Asked Questions for Submission of 2018 Western Section Abstracts and Proceedings Papers

Q1. What is the deadline for submission of the 2018 Western Section Abstracts and Proceedings Papers?

Answer: 11:59 PM Central Time on March 16, 2018

Q2. If I am entering the undergraduate competition, do I have to submit a paper?

Answer: No. For the undergraduate competition you will only submit an abstract and rather than uploading through the system, the abstract should be sent via email directly to the ASAS office at MeghanWR@asas.org.

Q3. In the past, we have submitted the paper already formatted, why aren't we submitting it completely formatted now?

Answer: In order to fully mimic submission of a paper, we are using the Translational Animal Scientist (TAS) submission site and submitting the papers the same way we submit completed papers. We submit papers following the instructions to authors and then a combination of computer programs and tech editors format the final paper. The software is set to accept as per the instructions to authors not as fully formatted papers. Fundamentally, submitting this way is less work for authors – it is a good thing.

Q4. Previously we submitted our papers as a PDF, now we are submitting as an editable file. Why?

Answer: This allows proper journal formatting and tech editing.

Q5. If we do not submit it in two column format, how will I know if my paper is the correct length?

Answer: On both the TAS website and on other web available resources there are word count estimates for a two-column journal page. We suggest reviewing word count before submission. Western Section Proceedings papers are limited to 4 written journal pages, this equates to approximately 500 words per page, or 2000 total words per paper. Addition of tables or figures can increase the page count to 5 pages. In addition, take a moment and simply switch from one column to two column formatting in Word. This may not be the exact formatting used by the formatting and tech editing staff, but it will provide you with a reasonable estimate. But remember to switch it back to single column before submission, and follow TAS Instructions to Authors (https://academic.oup.com/tas/pages/General_Instructions).

Q6. The TAS website is asking me for reviewer recommendations, do I have to supply?

Answer: No. You do not have to submit reviewer recommendations when you submit a paper, this is optional. In this case, papers are reviewed by the program committee or program committee designated reviewers.

Q7. The TAS submission site asks me for a cover letter, do I have to supply?

Answer: We are in the process of removing this requirement for Western Section Proceedings Papers, but if it continues to ask, attach a short letter stating that this paper is being submitted for the 2018 Western Section Meeting.

Q8. There is not a check box for the Graduate Competition. How do I designate my paper for the competition?

Answer: Please list Competition in the running head for your paper.

Q9: The system does not ask me for a section preference. Why?

Answer: This system is designed to accept papers for publication versus papers for review; therefore, it does not have this option. The program committee/reviewers for Western Section will choose the appropriate section.

Q10: How do I designate my paper for consideration of the applied science award?

Answer: Following submission, ASAS will go out by email to all corresponding authors to determine if you would like your proceedings considered for this award.

Q11: Previously, proceedings papers included abstracts in the final publication. Why are we submitting abstracts but being told they will be cut from the proceedings paper at publication?

Answer: This is to protect the ability of authors to publish data in an expanded form later. ASAS has always allowed publication in the Western Section Proceedings as a proceedings paper and later on in the journals as a full paper. The indexing groups have allowed this previously as the Western Section Proceedings papers have not been considered full papers, but expanded abstract. These same groups have recently informed us that an expanded abstract cannot have an abstract, as such to publish the proceedings papers and have them continue to be expanded abstracts, we must remove the abstracts at publication.

Q12. Why are Western Section Proceedings now being counted as part of TAS rather than JAS?

Answer: The scope of TAS includes regional papers, data and projects; therefore, as expanded abstracts, the fit is more in line with TAS than JAS. Additionally, putting in TAS reduces risk to JAS impact factor if proceedings papers are counted as full papers by the indexing groups. This is not to say the data isn't publishable in expanded form in JAS or TAS, it just is safe guarding against continual changes of what types of papers are counted and how in the indexing algorithms.

Q13. If I publish a Western Section Proceedings Paper is that data later publishable in JAS or TAS in full form?

Answer: Yes! We appreciate the high quality work that comes from the Western Section. Please remember that that an accepted Western Section Proceedings Paper does not guarantee later publication in JAS or TAS. The review process for JAS and TAS is more rigorous. As you know, a full publication to JAS and TAS requires more data and analyses than normally fit within the confines of a Proceedings paper.

Q14. Will I really be charged additional amounts if my paper exceeds the page limit?

Answer: Yes, if your proceedings is significantly above 4 written pages and 1 page of table and figures, we will charge \$100 per additional page.

Q15. Why do I have to pay at submission? What if my proceedings paper is not accepted?

Answer: Although the fee helps offset publication cost, it is fundamentally a submission fee and must be paid before the paper is processed and is non-refundable if the paper is rejected.