

## IJASS Guidelines for Reviewers

Overview of submission and key findings or central arguments/propositions (200 words max).

- The focus/theme/approach to the subject matter taken by the author(s) and its relevance for/contribution to society/ academic study/professional practice/ social policy/ research in Ireland and abroad.
- Is the submission based on primary research findings/ secondary data / practice innovations or a mixture of different sources?
- Is the submission a position paper challenging existing practice/policy arrangements/ making the case for a new approach to practice or advocating on behalf of a marginalized or neglected group /population?
- Is the submission well-grounded in relevant and recent literature?

Methodology and Structure (200 words max)

- Is the methodology employed by the author(s) appropriate for the topic/ theme /focus?
- Does it incorporate a systematic way of asking questions, a systematic method of enquiry?
- Is the submission a rational/reasonable attempt to increase/expand available knowledge by the discovery of new facts through systematic scientific inquiry?
- Is it an evidence based/evidence informed inquiry?
- What kind of evidence is used – practitioner knowledge or research knowledge?
- What kind of data is assembled to support the submission's arguments/positions/ hypothesis? Quantitative (information that can be measured and expressed in statistical or number form), qualitative (information concerned with descriptions of the meanings and interpretations people can give to some issue or even).
- What instruments were used to generate data (interviews/ surveys/ focus groups/observation/diaries etc.)?
- What sampling techniques were used?
- In respect of quantitative data, how representative, reliable and valid are the findings and conclusions?
- In respect of qualitative data, how trustworthy and authentic are the findings and conclusions? Have measures been taken to ensure this?
- Is bias evident in the way the study was carried out? What efforts were made to minimise this?

Writing/Referencing (200 words max)

- Is the submission well written? Are there substantial/minor typographical errors? Is the syntax adequate/poor/acceptable/unacceptable?
- Are the arguments and language used clear?

- Are references/tables/figures/illustrations written correctly and inserted appropriately into the text?

Contribution to Knowledge (200 words max)

- Will it assist in dealing with social concerns/practice issues/policy development(s)?

Strengths and Weaknesses (200 words max)

- Is the submission publishable?
- Does the submission require minor or major revisions?
- What exactly is required to bring the submission to a publishable standard?