

# Peer Review Process

## 1. General Policy

All scholarly articles submitted to the **SKASE Journal of Literary and Cultural Studies** are subject to a **double-blind, external, and independent peer review** prior to publication.

The review process ensures academic quality, originality, and methodological rigor in line with international standards for humanities research.

## 2. Initial Editorial Assessment

After submission, each manuscript is evaluated by a designated member of the editorial board to determine:

- Its relevance to the journal's aims and scope,
- Its adherence to submission guidelines and ethical standards, and
- Its potential contribution to the field of literary and cultural studies.

Manuscripts that meet these basic criteria are sent out for external peer review. Those that do not are returned to the author(s) without external review.

## 3. External and Independent Reviewers

Each manuscript is reviewed by **at least two independent scholars** who:

- Hold relevant academic expertise in literary or cultural studies,
- Are **not affiliated with the same institution** as any of the author(s), and
- Have **no conflicts of interest** in relation to the manuscript's content or authorship.

## 4. Double-Blind Review Procedure

The **SKASE Journal of Literary and Cultural Studies** operates a **double-blind review system**:

- The reviewers do not know the identities of the authors, and
- The authors do not know the identities of the reviewers.

Manuscripts are anonymised before being sent to reviewers in order to maintain impartiality and fairness throughout the process.

## 5. Review Criteria

Reviewers are asked to assess manuscripts according to the following criteria:

- Originality and scholarly contribution,
- Theoretical and methodological soundness,
- Clarity, coherence, and structure of argument,
- Engagement with relevant research and sources, and
- Relevance to the fields of literary and cultural studies.

## 6. Editorial Decision

In cases where reviewer opinions diverge significantly, a **third independent reviewer** may be consulted before a final editorial decision is made.

## 7. Ethical Standards and Confidentiality

All manuscripts and reviews are handled in strict confidence.

Reviewers are required to declare any potential **conflicts of interest** and to comply with the ethical guidelines of the **Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE)**.

The journal is committed to maintaining transparency, fairness, and integrity in all stages of the peer review process.