

## MANUSCRIPT CHECKLIST

The following checklist is intended to aid the publication of your manuscript. Please read through the list carefully and amend your manuscript as appropriate. To avoid delays in the production process, please complete and return this sheet with the final version of your manuscript.

### Text

Nature will edit text to conform to house style and for clarity and accessibility. Please check the following points when preparing the final version of your manuscript.

#### Letters to Nature

- Title no longer than 90 characters (including spaces)
- First paragraph referenced and no longer than 300 words
- No subheadings in main text
- Methods for print no longer than 300 words
- Online-only Methods provided as part of the main text file?
- No more than 30 references

#### Articles

- Title no longer than 75 characters (including spaces)
- First paragraph unreferenced and no longer than 150 words
- No more than 6 main subheadings of up to 40 characters (including spaces)
- Methods for print no longer than 300 words
- Online-only Methods provided as part of the main text file?
- No more than 50 references

#### All manuscripts (if applicable)

- Abbreviations and symbols defined on first use
- Italic font used for variables, genes and non-English languages; bold font for vectors
- Equations and special characters in Word in 'normal text' or Symbol font (Word Equation Editor avoided where possible)
- Authored in Compatibility Mode if using Word 2007 (i.e., as a Word 97-2003 document; saved as .doc format, NOT .docx)
- Brief title provided for each figure, table and box
- Figure legends no more than 100 words each (300 words each for contributions without methods sections)
- Author contribution statement included (a statement of responsibility that specifies the contribution of every author; see [http://www.nature.com/authors/editorial\\_policies/authorship.html](http://www.nature.com/authors/editorial_policies/authorship.html))
- Declaration and listing of any competing interests included in manuscript in the Author Information section (<http://www.nature.com/nature/authors/policy/competing.html>)
- Database accession numbers included for sequences determined in this paper
- Structure data in Nature standard tables

### For TeX users

Word or rtf formats are preferred, unless there is very extensive use of special characters or equations. Such formats enable on-screen subediting and the preparation of a 'pre-proof', when the editing can be checked before formal proofs are prepared. We have found that this minimizes the chance of errors being inadvertently introduced.

- Word conversion not practicable

### Artwork

Contact our subeditors at [authors@nature.com](mailto:authors@nature.com) for further help and advice on preparing text for publication.

Nature will edit figures to conform to house style and for clear reproduction in print. Standard figure sizes are 89 mm wide (single column) and 183 mm wide (double column); figures can also be a column-and-a-half width where necessary (120–136 mm). Please check the following points when preparing your figures.

#### Electronic figure formats

- Preferred file formats for line (or vector) artwork and graphs are unflattened eps, postscript, pdf and Illustrator (ai) files
- Preferred file formats for photographic images are TIFF and Photoshop (minimum resolution 300 dpi). If you have created images with separate components on different layers, please send us the Photoshop file (.psd) with the layers intact
- For a full list of acceptable electronic formats, see [http://www.nature.com/nature/authors/submissions/final/Final\\_artwork.pdf](http://www.nature.com/nature/authors/submissions/final/Final_artwork.pdf)

#### When preparing and sending figures

- Text in an editable format and in sans serif font (Helvetica, Arial)
- Text and lines clearly visible when figure is sized for page: type size 6–8 point; lines preferably 0.5 point (0.18 mm)
- Colour images in CMYK (not RGB) mode; ensure you are happy with the conversion from RGB to CMYK before submission
- Suggestions for cover artwork submitted if desired
- For reviews/Insight articles, permission obtained for any republished or redrawn illustrations

See [http://www.nature.com/nature/authors/submissions/final/Final\\_artwork.pdf](http://www.nature.com/nature/authors/submissions/final/Final_artwork.pdf) for detailed guidelines. For further help and advice, e-mail our art editors at [art@nature.com](mailto:art@nature.com).

Nature does not edit online-only material. Please check the following points when preparing Supplementary Information:

### Supplementary Information

- Discrete items of the Supplementary Information (for example, figures, tables) referred to at an appropriate point in the main text (print version) of the paper
- Summary diagram/figure included as part of the Supplementary Information (optional)
- Separate text file ('SI Guide') provided with a brief description (file format and content) of each item
- We recommend that all Supplementary Information is supplied as a single PDF file, where possible.

See <http://www.nature.com/nature/authors/submissions/final/supinfo.html> for advice on preparing Supplementary Information.

E-mail [authors@nature.com](mailto:authors@nature.com) if you have additional queries.