Video abstract guidelines

What is a video abstract?

Royal Society Publishing wants to provide you with the right tools to disseminate your published articles. We therefore encourage you to film yourself speaking about your accepted article and submit this to Royal Society Publishing. Where appropriate, we will edit this material to create a 1-3 minute video to encourage readership and engagement from a wider audience on the social media accounts of Royal Society Publishing.

Submitting material for a video abstract is entirely optional and will not affect the publication of your paper.

What should I talk about in my video?

Think of your filmed content as similar to a poster session, where you describe your study in an informal and friendly way. Your video abstract may be the first interaction someone has with you or your article, so make your video engaging by summarising your paper and add in some brief points perhaps not included in your article. This can include why you conducted the study in the first place, why your paper is particularly interesting, and what you think readers will get from reading your study. Have your peers and lay people in mind when you film your content (to generate interest as widely as possible). Remember not to describe all the methods, results and conclusions in your video, as viewers can already get this information by reading your paper. Do also make a note to mention the title of your paper and the journal this is published in.

Also remember to have fun with your submission! This is a way to get people interested in your work, and if you are having fun this will come across in your video.

How do I film my content?

You can use the camera on your phone (non-screen side is best) to record your abstract, as many phones now produce high-quality videos. Your camera on your computer may also be used to film your abstract, and you can of course use any digital cameras at your disposal too. Some authors may also want someone else to film them. While this is fine it isn’t necessary, and please also note that Royal Society Publishing will not pay any costs associated with this (or any expenses that result from you recording your submission).

Some key points to remember;

- Please ensure that anyone featured in your video have given their consent to be filmed
- Film in landscape (so your phone is sideways) and remember to look at your camera while filming rather than looking at yourself on the screen
- Sound quality is as important as the quality of your video, so make sure any background noise is kept to a minimum and that you film in a quiet space where you won’t be interrupted. Keeping 1 metre away from your device should look good on camera and means we can clearly hear you
- Make sure you are well lit so that your primary light source is in front of you and doesn’t cast any shadows on your face. Please don’t position yourself in front of a window as your face will be underexposed
- A plain white background works best but a simple background with bookshelves, plants and alike are fine to have too. If you can, leave as much space as you are able in the background (so it is like the camera is looking into the room, if possible)

- If you are using a handheld device, set this up on a stable surface rather than holding it to avoid shaky footage

- Try to have your device at eye-level rather than too high or too low. Also remember to leave an area of safety around your frame, so the top of your head is not cut off when you compose your shot

- Start and stop recording a few seconds before and after you stop speaking, as this will allow us to edit down if needed

- Please ensure that you do not include any private or confidential information in your video (either verbally or captured on film)

- For consistency, please start your video by saying something along these lines; “Hi! My name is [your name] and I am the author of [your paper title or a shortened version of this] in [journal name]”

What happens after I film my video?

Take a look at your footage to make sure you are completely happy with it before contacting the editorial team on publishing@royalsociety.org. The team will then send you details on how to send us your video. We may do some minor editing and add the journal’s branding.

As well as your video submission, please include any visual material as image files, such as video of field or lab work, appropriate stills etc, indicating where within your monologue you’d like these to be placed.

Please provide the following information as a separate Word file:

- the file name of your video(s)
- the file name of any additional visuals and where you’d like these to be edited in
- the name of the speaker(s) in your video (including their titles)
- the affiliation of the speaker(s)
- the DOI/manuscript ID number of your paper, the title, and the journal this will be published in
- any Twitter handles associated with the video and speakers/co-authors of the paper
- a 5-word title we can assign to your video (for YouTube)
- a 10-word caption we can assign to your video (for YouTube)

Disclaimers

- Please note that submission of your video implies that all permissions and consents have been obtained by you

- Video abstracts hosted on our site will have a CC-BY licence and thus may be shared by third parties without permission

- Royal Society Publishing may choose, without warning, to not use, promote, or post part or all of your video on our social media accounts or websites

- By submitting a video you are stating that the content therein is true and accurate, and that any co-authors approve the content
- Edits (such as shortening your video and adding captions) may be made to your video by Royal Society Publishing at any time and without permission being required

- Royal Society Publishing may promote your video multiple times on our accounts, and this may be reposted by The Royal Society social media accounts

- A full list of The Royal Society policies and terms & conditions can be found here https://royalsociety.org/about-us/terms-conditions-policies/acceptable-use/