

JANUARY

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PUBLICATION SUPPORT (PS)

PS SAMPLE

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Journal Selection & Submission Pack (Sample)

Ready-to-submit professional pack • Built on a real published article (for demonstration)

1. Manuscript Under Consideration

This sample pack demonstrates how we select journals and prepare submission assets using a peer-reviewed, open access research article. We treat it as if it were your manuscript at the pre-submission stage, then build a journal-fit decision system and submission toolkit that can outperform generic journal-finder tools.

Paper details (for demonstration)

Working title	Assessing predictors of students' academic performance in Ethiopian new medical schools: a concurrent mixed-method study
Article type	Original research • Mixed-methods (survey + qualitative interviews)
Core topic	Predictors of medical students' academic performance (stress, prior degree, prior CGPA, entrance exam score)
Methods at a glance	Multiple linear regression + qualitative interviews (triangulation)
Where it was published (best fit)	<i>BMC Medical Education (2023) • Volume 23, Article 448</i>
DOI	https://doi.org/10.1186/s12909-023-04372-4

2. Journal-Fit Strategy

2.1 Fit statement (scope + audience + methods)

The manuscript sits squarely within health professions education and addresses an evaluation-of-performance question with direct policy relevance. It combines a quantitative predictor model (multiple linear regression) with qualitative insights to strengthen interpretation—an approach that aligns well with top medical education journals. Because the outcomes are actionable for admissions and student support, the manuscript fits journals that prioritize education evidence with practical implications.

2.2 Why this approach can beat journal-finder tools

Keyword match is not enough. Our selection logic uses six proof-based checks: (i) article-type compatibility, (ii) methods & reporting norms, (iii) audience-actionability, (iv) indexing/integrity status, (v) realistic acceptance pathway (fit vs selectivity), and (vi) desk-reject risk control (scope, novelty framing, compliance, and transparency).

3. Ranked Journal Shortlist (3 Journals)

Ranked using a weighted scorecard (Fit 40%, Indexing/Trust 20%, Impact/Visibility 20%, Acceptance pathway 20%).

Rank	Journal	Scope-fit (1–2 lines)	Impact & indexing	Submission notes
#1 (Best fit)	BMC Medical Education (Springer Nature)	Direct match: healthcare professional education, performance evaluation, mixed-methods education	JIF 3.2 (2024); 5-yr JIF 3.8 (2024). Indexed in PubMed, Scopus, Web of Science (SCIE) and more.	Open access; broad global visibility; ideal for curriculum-performance predictor studies.

		research.		
#2 (High-fit, higher conceptual bar)	Advances in Health Sciences Education (Springer Nature)	Strong fit for theory-to-practice education research; expects stronger conceptual contribution.	JIF 3.3 (2024); 5-yr JIF 4.0 (2024). Indexed in SCIE/SSCI; also ERIC, Medline, Scopus, etc.	Best if you elevate mechanisms (e.g., stress-performance pathway) + generalize implications beyond one setting.
#3 (Prestige, very competitive)	Medical Education (Wiley / ASME)	Top-tier outlet; requires high novelty, strong theory, and broad significance.	Journal Impact Factor 5.2 (2024).	Submit here if your framing is globally relevant and positioned as a major advance (not only a local audit).

4. Desk-Reject Risk Checklist (Fix-First)

If any RED item fails, fix before submission. This is the fastest way to reduce screening rejection.

Risk area	What editors screen	Fix-first proof you include
Scope match (RED)	Clear medical education contribution beyond a local report.	A 120–150 word 'Contribution to medical education' paragraph + 3 bullet takeaways.
Novelty framing (RED)	Explicit, credible gap and why	Gap sentence + 2–3 citations +

	now.	what this study adds (not just what it found).
Methods transparency (RED)	Replicable methods; sample, measures, analysis.	Variable table + coding + missing data handling + model diagnostics + qualitative method detail.
Statistics rigor	Effect sizes, CIs, diagnostics, assumptions.	Regression table with β , SE, 95% CI, p; VIF/tolerance; sensitivity note.
Ethics & consent (RED)	Approvals, consent, confidentiality.	Ethics ID + consent statement + data availability statement.
Reporting completeness	Tables/figures, legends, structured abstract.	Journal-style tables (APA-like) + consistent rounding + strong legends.
References & style	Complete citation style + DOIs where available.	Reference manager export + DOI validation + consistency scan.
Integrity screening	Similarity/AI disclosures/COI/funding.	Similarity report (if available), AI-use statement, COI + funding disclosures.

5. Submission Assets

5.1 Sample cover letter (BMC Medical Education)

Date: [DD Month YYYY]

To

The Editorial Office

BMC Medical Education

Subject: Submission of Manuscript – “Assessing predictors of students’ academic performance in Ethiopian new medical schools: a concurrent mixed-method study”

Dear Editors,

Please consider our manuscript for publication in BMC Medical Education. This mixed-methods study examines which measurable factors predict medical students’ academic performance within Ethiopia’s New Medical Education Initiative. By integrating survey data with key-informant interviews, we identify a concise, actionable set of predictors—stress, prior educational degree, prior CGPA, and entrance exam score, that can inform admissions policy and targeted student-support interventions.

Why this fits BMC Medical Education:

- 1) The study addresses education and training of healthcare professionals and directly evaluates performance determinants.
- 2) The findings have practical applications for selection procedures and student support in resource-constrained settings.
- 3) The mixed-methods design improves interpretability and implementation relevance.

We confirm that the manuscript is original, not under consideration elsewhere, and approved by all authors. Ethics approval and consent statements are provided, along with transparent disclosures of funding and competing interests.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

[Corresponding Author Name], [Degree]

[Affiliation]

[Email] | [Phone] | [ORCID]

5.2 Reviewer response template

Use this table format for point-by-point replies with exact location tracking.

Reviewer comment	Our response (evidence-linked)	Change made (exact location)
R1: Please clarify the regression model and multicollinearity checks.	We now specify the full model and report VIF/tolerance thresholds. Family size was removed due to high VIF, and the final model diagnostics are provided.	Methods → Statistical analysis (p. X, para Y); Results → Regression (Table X).
R2: The novelty is unclear given similar studies elsewhere.	We revised the Introduction to specify the evidence gap in new-curriculum Ethiopian medical schools and added a 'what this adds' paragraph with policy implications.	Introduction (p. X, paras Y–Z).

6. Evidence Sources (journal metrics & indexing)

- <https://link.springer.com/journal/12909>
- <https://link.springer.com/journal/10459>
- <https://www.wolterskluwer.com/en/solutions/ovid/medical-education-627>
- <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1186/s12909-023-04372-4>

THANK YOU

**WANT END-TO-END SUPPORT—FROM JOURNAL
SELECTION TO SUCCESSFUL SUBMISSION?**

**Next step: Share your manuscript (or draft) + target deadline.
We'll send you a Journal Fit Report + Submission Roadmap.**

You will receive:

- **Ranked journal shortlist (best-fit logic, not just keywords)**
- **Desk-reject risk scan (fix-first checklist)**
- **Submission-ready cover letter + checklist support**
- **Reviewer-response template to reduce rework**

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