sciWISE

SciWise Official Manual

2025-2026

Instagram: @Sciwise

Facebook: @sciwisemcmaster

Journal Website: https://journals.mcmaster.ca/sw

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About SciWise

SciWise was founded by the students of the Honours Life Sciences program, Alisa Nykolayeva, Youssef El-Sayes, and Mahnoor Memon.

SciWise is an innovative undergraduate journal from McMaster University that celebrates the intersection of science and art, with the goal of bridging the gap between the analytical rigor of science and the emotional depth of art. The journal gives a platform for anyone to explore and highlight both interests, by publishing poems, comics, stories, news articles, interviews, as well as the typical scientific article abstracts, and research manuscripts. By challenging these boundaries SciWise demonstrates how science and art can interconnect to meaningfully understand and engage with the world, humanizing the scientific field. The goal is to foster a space where empathetic story telling harmonizes with the analytical precision of science, to create engaging science communication.

Undergraduate and graduate students from all faculties are welcome to submit their work. Collaboration with students from other institutions and family members or friends is also welcomed. The scope of SciWise is kept broad to encourage all undergraduate and graduate students to submit their work. The sole requirement is to embody a scientific or health-related theme, as broad or as specific as the author desires; for instance, philosophical discussions, policy evaluation, and discussions of science or medicine from biological, mathematical, or societal perspectives are acceptable.

SciWise official manual edited and adapted by Maya Elfizy and Leen Ramahi in December 2024.

Submission Types and Requirements

SHORT STORY

Storytelling is an engaging framework used for knowledge dissemination, portrayal of a feeling or a memory, reflection on events, and/or delivering a message or a lesson. Examples of genres may include but are not limited to personal anecdotes, science fiction, fairy tales, and nonfiction. There are no criteria for the selection of topics for the stories, as the scope of the journal is kept eminently broad. The following guidelines outline the structure and format for submitting a story to SciWise.

Title Page:

- Please use this template to record the logistical details of your publication, including the submission title and information about all authors/illustrators of the piece.

Illustration(s):

- If the submission has accompanying illustrations, please submit them in digital format in the original file (e.g. Photoshop). Not all formats will be acceptable; in this case, the author will be contacted immediately, and a plan of action will be formulated to incorporate the artwork.
- If the submission has no accompanying art piece, the author must contact SciWise to arrange a meeting to discuss the production and composition of illustrations. Alternatively, the author may include a message along with their written submission outlining what they wish to see as an accompanying art piece or indicating that they wish to leave it open to the imagination of the Illustrative team.
- To respect the integrity of the work our Designers dedicate to your submission, we ask that no more than two rounds of modifications be made to the proposed illustration.

Word Count:

- Stories are short pieces of literature, ranging from 300-400 words. If the author argues that a greater word count is more suitable for their submission, the Chief Editor or Senior Editor may grant permission for extra words.

Structure/Format:

- A story should contain a hook, characters, setting, and a conflict and resolution; however, the structure of this submission type asks to be flexible. Importantly, the story must be engaging and avoid or explain any jargon terms.
- Stories may be fictional (imaginary plot, characters, or setting) or nonfictional (with real characters and based on a true scenario). At times, there may be nuances that will blur the difference between fiction and non-fiction, in which case the author will either be asked to make it clear which type it is, or the submission will automatically be classified as fiction.
- Stories may be written in the first, second, or third person narrative.

References:

- References are to be submitted in the APA 7 format. No in-text citations are required.

POEM

The goal of a poem is to use rhythm, symbolism, and other literary devices to capture an experience or phenomenon with metaphorical language. The following guidelines outline the structure and format for submitting a poem to SciWise.

Title Page:

- Please use this template to record the logistical details of your publication, including the submission title and information about all authors/illustrators of the piece.

Illustration(s):

- If the submission has accompanying illustrations, please submit them in digital format in the original file (e.g. Photoshop). Not all formats will be acceptable; in this case, the author will be contacted immediately, and a plan of action will be formulated to incorporate the artwork.
- If the submission has no accompanying art piece, the author must contact SciWise to arrange a meeting to discuss the production and composition of illustrations. Alternatively, the author may include a message along with their written submission outlining what they wish to see as an accompanying art piece or indicating that they wish to leave it open to the imagination of the Illustrative team.
- To respect the integrity of the work our Designers dedicate to your submission, we ask that no more than two rounds of modifications be made to the proposed illustration.

Word Count:

- Poems can vary in length but are typically short and range between 50-100 words. If the author argues that a greater word count is more suitable for their submission, the Chief Editor may grant permission for extra words.

Structure/Format:

- The structure of a poem depends on the type and is rather flexible (sonnet, limerick, haiku, narrative, epic, couplet, acoustic, or free verse among others). However, poems still have a clear goal and theme (to evoke emotions, to educate the reader, to explain) and should include scientific concepts.
- Poems should target a large and diverse audience. Acknowledging that poetry is often sentimental and may include controversial topics, ensure to exclude offensive language and tone in your writing as this may subject your submission to an automatic rejection.

References:

- If used, they are to be submitted in the APA 7 format. No in-text citations are required.

Acknowledgements (Optional):

- If desired, the author can include an acknowledgements section accompanying the main piece. This section could be used to describe sources of inspiration or acknowledgement of assistance or funding received by the author.

COMIC

Comics convey a story using a visual timeline and minimal text. The following guidelines outline the structure and format for submitting a comic to SciWise.

Title Page:

- Please use this template to record the logistical details of your publication, including the submission title and information about all authors/illustrators of the piece.
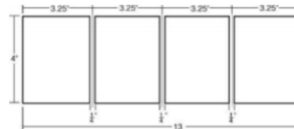
Illustration(s):

- If the submission has accompanying illustrations, please submit them in digital format in the original file (e.g. Photoshop). Not all formats will be acceptable; in this case, the author will be contacted immediately, and a plan of action will be formulated to incorporate the artwork.
- If a design platform was used to make the comic, it must be included as a reference at the bottom of the comic, along with any platforms used to make specific images (e.g. Created Using Canva).

Word Count:

- There is no word count for a comic. However, the comic must contain as little text as possible. Submissions that are text-heavy may be rejected. If you would like to confirm before making a submission, please send a draft to sciwise@mcmaster.ca.

Structure/Format:

- Comics can be drawn in black and white, greyscale, or colour. The comic usually conveys a story through the use of characters and a plot; however, abstract ideas are also accepted for submission. The dialogue between characters, any character thoughts or reactions should be contained in speech and thought bubbles. The images should be cohesive and contain a narrative that is easy to follow.
- Please consider how you will include scientific information in your comic: for example, a researcher making a new discovery, or a virus overtaking a human population. Fictional and non-fiction comics are accepted, with no restrictions on genres and tone.
- A typical comic strip is 4 inches tall and 13 inches wide. Please refer to the example below. However, there is some flexibility to this requirement. For example, two boxes can be merged or a double strip (i.e. 8 boxes total) can also be used. Please contact us to confirm any alternative formats. The first box can be used as a title for your comic.

References:

- If any references were used, they are to be submitted in the APA 7 format on a separate document. No in-text citations required.

INFOGRAPHIC

Infographics involve visual representation of information using images, diagrams, and minimal text and aim to engage readers and clearly and quickly educate and inform. The following guidelines outline the structure and format for submitting a comic to SciWise.

Title Page:

- Please use this template to record the logistical details of your publication, including the submission title and information about all authors/illustrators of the piece.

Illustration(s):

- The author may choose as many visual elements as they see fit, including diagrams, timelines, graphs, maps, and various other elements. Once the infographic is accepted and the editing process begins, the author may choose to allow the SciWise Illustrative Team to remake the infographic with the author's stylistic wishes in mind or the author may choose to implement feedback relating to the visual and artistic aspects of the infographic themselves.
- Alternatively, the author may include a message along with the initial submission of their infographic outlining how much of the artistic process they wish to be involved in.
- If a design platform was used (such as a Canva template) to create the infographic, it must be included as a reference at the bottom of the infographic, along with any platforms used to make images (e.g. Created Using Canva).

Word Count:

- There is no word count for an infographic; however, please be concise and limit the amount of text. Submissions that are text-heavy may be rejected. If you would like to confirm before making a submission, please send a draft to sciwise@mcmaster.ca.

Structure/Format:

- Infographics can be in black and white but often involve the use of colour. The infographic should be visually appealing, and the text font, size, and colour should be easy to read. The stylistic elements included in the infographic may range but should contribute to the content and story of the infographic and not overwhelm the reader.
- The images, text, and stylistic elements should be cohesive. The infographic should have an easy to follow narrative and flow in a logical manner (i.e. use a timeline, arrows, or boxes if needed to guide the reader in following the order of information). When making the infographic, keep in mind the intended audience of the piece (often a lay audience).
- The size of an infographic is flexible and at the discretion of the SciWise Editorial and Illustrative directors; however, we recommend 600-1100 pixels wide and 1000-3000 pixels long. If you would like to confirm that the size is appropriate before submitting your infographic, please email sciwise@mcmaster.ca.

References:

- References are to be submitted in the APA7 format on a separate document. If it is possible to include in-text citations without distracting the author from the information on the infographic, this is preferred but not required. If unsure whether it is appropriate to include in-text citations, this can be discussed with the Editorial Team.

NEWS ARTICLE

The purpose of a news article is to inform the reader about recent or current events happening around them. The following guidelines outline the structure and format for submitting a news article to SciWise.

Title Page:

- Please use this template to record the logistical details of your publication, including the submission title and information about all authors/illustrators of the piece.

Illustration(s):

- If the submission has accompanying illustrations, please submit them in digital format in the original file (e.g. Photoshop). Not all formats will be acceptable; in this case, the author will be contacted immediately, and a plan of action will be formulated to incorporate the artwork.
- If the submission has no accompanying art piece, the author must contact SciWise to arrange a meeting to discuss the production and composition of illustrations. Alternatively, the author may include a message along with their written submission outlining what they wish to see as an accompanying art piece or indicating that they wish to leave it open to the imagination of the Illustrative team.
- To respect the integrity of the work our Designers dedicate to your submission, we ask that no more than two rounds of modifications be made to the proposed illustration.

Word Count:

- News articles must be concise and only include factual information about current events. They may contain up to 800 words. However, if the author argues that a greater word count is more suitable for their submission, the Senior Editor or Editor-in-Chief may grant permission for additional words.

Structure/Format:

- News articles are designed to educate the reader about current events happening around them within the last few months, such as a scientific discovery, disease outbreak, or new medical treatment. The writing must use factual information and must have a scientic basis.
- The title of the news article must be descriptive, appealing, and no longer than 10 words in length. It is used to catch the attention of the reader and make the news article relevant to a diverse audience.

- The content of the article usually contains the five "W's" (who, what, where, when, why) and "how" of your topic. The introduction to the news article must include relevant background information and define any jargon terms or acronyms to ensure understanding for a wide audience.
- Finally, the news article typically ends with a concluding paragraph to reiterate the importance of the topic and provide an overall takeaway statement for the reader, including implications on future events or scientific discoveries.

References:

- References are to be submitted in the Vancouver format. In-text citations in the APA 7 format (superscripts) are required.

OPINION PIECE

An opinion piece allows the author to convey their thoughts and perspectives in a rational manner, using evidence-based reasoning. Although written to convey one's opinion, it may expose the reader to alternative perspectives in the written piece; this allows the author and reader to develop a better sense of the biases we carry and acknowledge them. The following guidelines outline the structure and format for submitting an opinion piece to SciWise.

Title Page:

- Please use this template to record the logistical details of your publication, including the submission title and information about all authors/illustrators of the piece.

Illustration(s):

- If the submission has accompanying illustrations, please submit them in digital format in the original file (e.g. Photoshop). Not all formats will be acceptable; in this case, the author will be contacted immediately, and a plan of action will be formulated to incorporate the artwork.
- If the submission has no accompanying art piece, the author must contact SciWise to arrange a meeting to discuss the production and composition of illustrations. Alternatively, the author may include a message along with their written submission outlining what they wish to see as an accompanying art piece or indicating that they wish to leave it open to the imagination of the Illustrative team.
- To respect the integrity of the work our Designers dedicate to your submission, we ask that no more than two rounds of modifications be made to the proposed illustration. Word Count: ➢ An opinion piece requires strong arguments along with detailed supporting evidence. This type of submission ranges from 800 to 1200 words for the word count. However, if the author argues that a greater word count is more suitable for their submission, the Senior Editor or Editor-in-Chief may grant permission for additional words.

Structure/Format:

- The title of the piece should either be written as a question that is answered in the body of the piece, or as a statement reflecting the author's opinion on the matter.
- An opinion piece should include an introduction to the relevant topic that is engaging to the audience and provides an adequate background for those not familiar with the topic.
- After the introductory paragraph, the author should firmly and clearly state their opinion, which will be discussed and supported by the evidence in the subsequent paragraphs. Arguments must be logically valid and supported by recent and reliable scientific evidence. It provides strength to the piece to be aware of alternate arguments, even addressing them if suitable; however, the piece should present a clear opinion on the topic.
- The submission should be concluded by highlighting the importance of the topic, retouching on the main points of the piece and the author's opinion, and providing implications for the future.
- Authors should ensure no harsh or offensive language is used, as the language should reflect our open, diverse, and welcoming community.
- The scope of opinion pieces is kept broad; however, some elements of science must be encompassed within the submission. For example, an author may choose to discuss gender bias in scientific disciplines or discuss the ethics of social isolation in correctional facilities on the human mind.

References:

- References are to be submitted in the APA 7 format. In-text citations in the APA 7 format (superscripts) are required.

INTERVIEW

Interviews allow a personal insight into the research and innovation conducted at McMaster University or in collaboration with the community. They also play an integral part in introducing such efforts and topics to the public. The interviewer may want to record the interview to aid in writing their piece; however, they must obtain consent from the interviewee and make it clear that they plan to submit the interview in the SciWise journal. Interviewees need to sign this consent form. The following guidelines outline the structure and format for submitting an interview for SciWise.

Title Page:

- Please use this template to record the logistical details of your publication, including the submission title and information about all authors/illustrators of the piece.

Illustration(s):

- If the submission has accompanying illustrations, please submit them in digital format in the original le (e.g. Photoshop). Not all formats will be acceptable; in this case, the 10 author will be contacted immediately, and a plan of action will be formulated to incorporate the artwork.
- If the submission has no accompanying art piece, the author must contact SciWise to arrange a meeting to discuss the production and composition of illustrations. Alternatively, the author may include a message along with their written submission outlining what they wish to see as an

accompanying art piece or indicating that they wish to leave it open to the imagination of the Illustrative team.

- To respect the integrity of the work our Designers dedicate to your submission, we ask that no more than two rounds of modifications be made to the proposed illustration.

Word Count:

- An interview should include about 5-7 questions for which a thorough response is expected. Please encourage the interviewee to elaborate on their answer. Do not use 'yes/no' questions but instead phrase them as open-ended questions.
- The interview piece should also biography of the interviewee (150 words maximum). The submission, excluding the abstract and biography, should be 800 words maximum. However, if the author argues that a greater word count is more suitable for their submission, the Senior Editor or Editor-in-Chief may grant permission for additional words.

Structure/Format:

- The biography of the interviewee should address the interviewee's affiliations, area of expertise, or role within the community. It should also include a one-sentence description of their current work.
- The abstract should brief the reader about the project or community service that will be discussed in the interview and should reflect on the significance of the work conducted by the interviewee.
- The remainder of the submission should consist mainly of the questions asked and subsequent paragraphs narrating the interviewee's answers.
- The interview can be conducted with faculty members and students at McMaster, members of the community involved in research (academic or community-based), or science related events within the Hamilton community. Some examples of interviewees may include but are not limited to professors inside or outside the Faculty of Science, health lawyers, Environment Canada government officials, and many more. Please ensure that your submission has an overarching scientific theme (i.e. hard sciences, public health and wellbeing, environmental sciences, or social sciences).
- The questions should focus on the project mission, planning, and findings as well as consider any challenges or limitations, The questions should also ask information about the researcher's career and work. Questions for the community members should focus on highlighting events, positive impacts on the community, and/or challenges within the community and potential solutions.
- To ensure your interview meets the interdisciplinary scope of the journal, we encourage authors to submit interview questions to SciWise prior to conducting the interview.

References:

- If any references were used (e.g. if any background information is included that was not taken from the interview), they are to be submitted in the APA 7 format. In-text citations in the APA 7 format (superscripts) are required.

Acknowledgements (Optional):

- If desired, the author can include an acknowledgements section accompanying the main piece. This section could be used to describe sources of inspiration or acknowledgement of assistance or funding received by the author.

INNOVATIVE IDEA PROPOSAL

We recognize that students at McMaster are future community leaders. This submission type is a distinct and flexible category that allows students to report on emerging community concerns and raise awareness on issues that require attention. Here, the author will pitch a proposal that could benefit a particular community or community service within Canada. The proposal should involve some scientific element or concepts; for example, offering an education program for family and friends of individuals affected by mental illness requires knowledge of basic etiology of the given disorder. Please note, this submission does not accommodate scientific research project proposals or current research investigations. The following guidelines outline the structure and format for submitting a proposal/pitch to SciWise:

Title Page:

- Please use this template to record the logistical details of your publication, including the submission title and information about all authors/illustrators of the piece.

Illustration(s):

- If the submission has accompanying illustrations, please submit them in digital format in the original file (e.g. Photoshop). Not all formats will be acceptable; in this case, the author will be contacted immediately, and a plan of action will be formulated to incorporate the artwork.
- If the submission has no accompanying art piece, the author must contact SciWise to arrange a meeting to discuss the production and composition of illustrations. Alternatively, the author may include a message along with their written submission outlining what they wish to see as an accompanying art piece or indicating that they wish to leave it open to the imagination of the Illustrative team.
- To respect the integrity of the work our Designers dedicate to your submission; we ask that no more than two rounds of modifications be made to the proposed illustration.

Word Count:

- Appreciating that students at McMaster are community-oriented and that proposals entail thoughtful, careful, and detailed planning, the word count for this type of submission is kept at a minimum of 800 and a maximum of 1200 words. However, if the author argues that a greater word count is more suitable for their submission, the Senior Editor or Editor-in-Chief may grant permission for additional words.

Structure/Format:

- A proposal/pitch should contain three main sections: background, proposal, and limitations. The piece will commence with background information pertaining to the community/community service and identification of the problem tackled by the project. The subsequent section should

outline the solution and plan for its execution, featuring any required resources, any stakeholder, and a rough, tentative timeline. The final section should list and elaborate on limiting steps towards the achievement of the project incentives and identify whether the limitations could or could not be overcome with proposed efforts.

- If any prior steps have been taken towards the initiation of the project, this could be outlined in an additional section.
- Note, that SciWise does not fund or provide any resources for the completion of the project, however, we work towards developing outreach strategies to potentially connect the author of the proposal with other students, community partners, and faculty members at McMaster University.

References:

- References are to be submitted in the APA 7 format. In-text citations in the APA 7 format (superscripts) are required.

ARTICLE ABSTRACT

The purpose of an article accessible abstract is to present scientific information to the public in an accurate and engaging way. The following guidelines outline the structure and format for submitting an accessible abstract to SciWise.

Title Page:

- Please use this template to record the logistical details of your publication, including the submission title and information about all authors/illustrators of the piece.

Illustration(s):

- If the submission has accompanying illustrations, please submit them in digital format in the original file (e.g. Photoshop). Not all formats will be acceptable; in this case, the author will be contacted immediately, and a plan of action will be formulated to incorporate the artwork.
- If the submission has no accompanying art piece, the author must contact SciWise to arrange a meeting to discuss the production and composition of illustrations. Alternatively, the author may include a message along with their written submission outlining what they wish to see as an accompanying art piece or indicating that they wish to leave it open to the imagination of the Illustrative team.
- To respect the integrity of the work our Designers dedicate to your submission, we ask that no more than two rounds of modifications be made to the proposed illustration.

Word Count:

- Abstracts must be concise and only include relevant information. They must contain a maximum of 250 words.

Structure/Format:

- Accessible abstracts are designed to educate the general public about current research, such as a scientific discovery, disease outbreak, or new medical treatments. The writing must use factual information and must have a scientific basis.
- The abstracts must be free of scientific jargon and have no run-on sentences.
- The title of the abstract must be descriptive, appealing, and no longer than 10 words in length. It is used to catch the attention of the reader and make the abstract relevant to a diverse audience.
- The content usually contains the five "W's" (who, what, where, when, why) and "how" of your topic. The introduction to the abstract must include relevant background information and define any jargon terms or acronyms to ensure understanding for a wide audience.
- Finally, the abstract typically ends with a concluding paragraph to reiterate the importance of the topic and provide an overall takeaway statement for the reader, including implications on future events or scientific discoveries.

References:

- References are to be submitted in the APA 7 format. In-text citations in the APA 7 format (superscripts) are required.

RESEARCH MANUSCRIPT

The purpose of a research manuscript is to present any primary research conducted by a McMaster faculty member. The research must be your own and all participants must authorize the publishing.

Title Page:

- Please use this template to record the logistical details of your publication, including the submission title and information about all authors/illustrators of the piece.

Illustration(s):

- If the submission has accompanying illustrations, please submit them in digital format in the original file (e.g. Photoshop). Not all formats will be acceptable; in this case, the author will be contacted immediately, and a plan of action will be formulated to incorporate the artwork.
- If the submission has no accompanying art piece, the author must contact SciWise to arrange a meeting to discuss the production and composition of illustrations. Alternatively, the author may include a message along with their written submission outlining what they wish to see as an accompanying art piece or indicating that they wish to leave it open to the imagination of the Illustrative team.
- To respect the integrity of the work our Designers dedicate to your submission, we ask that no more than two rounds of modifications be made to the proposed illustration.

Word Count:

- Research manuscript must be concise and only include relevant information. They must contain a maximum of 1000 words.

Structure/Format:

- Research manuscripts have a very strict structure, guidelines found below:

  Title: short and engaging

  Author names: listed in format (Last name, First name), based on contribution. If equal contribution, then listed alphabetically.

  Introduction (150-300 words): A concise and clear description of the relevant background of your study. The research question and hypothesis included at the end.

  Methods (100-200 words): Description of how data was collected, diagrams can be included if needed.

  Results (100-200 words): state the results of your experiment, with figures and describe them. Include statistical tests (ex: t-test, statistical significance, etc). Include figure captions that state the sample size, as well as biological and technical replicates, if applicable)

  Discussion (150-300 words): This section should link your results back to your research question. You should explain how/whether your findings fit with current knowledge and present why the findings are important. Include appropriate next steps stemming from your findings.

References:

- References are to be submitted in the APA 7 format. In-text citations in the APA 7 format (superscripts) are required.

Review Process

HOW TO SUBMIT

To submit your piece to SciWise, please access SciWise's Open Journal Systems platform by following this link: https://journals.mcmaster.ca/sw. Please consult the guidelines outlined in this article: https://docs.pkp.sfu.ca/learning-ojs/en/authoring.

PEER REVIEW PROCESS

The Editorial Board at SciWise conducts a multistage, double-blind peer-review process. Upon receiving the submission and deciding to admit it to the editing stage, the Editor-in-Chief assigns the piece to a Senior Editor to undergo initial screening which entails the verification of abidance to the guidelines outlined in this manual. Given that the submission met all requirements, it is assigned to two or more Editors for the initial round of peer-review. Editors are not aware of the identity of the author and strive to conduct an unbiased review of the structure, grammar, relevance, and validity of the content. This round is anticipated to take anywhere from one to four weeks, depending on the type of submission. The piece will then be returned to the author for incorporation and/or consideration of the edits, and the author will be given a deadline by which the work has to return to the journal for further consideration. The Editors will check that all edits have been addressed by the author, and conduct the second round of review, likely to last between one to three weeks. Similarly to round 1, the author will address the edits and return the submission. Finally, Editors will either consider the third round of review or proceed to copyediting prior to forwarding the submission for formatting by the Creative Board. Prior to sending the piece to the author, the Editor-in-Chief and Senior Editor will ensure the validity and appropriateness of the edits and will also address any questions and concerns regarding the review process.

All submissions at SciWise will have an accompanying art piece, whether submitted by the author or created by the members of our Creative Board in consultation with the author of the work. The illustration process will commence as early as round 1 for some submissions, but mostly, this will be initiated during round 2 of the peer-review process. To respect the integrity of the work our Designers dedicate to your submission, we ask that no more than two rounds of modifications will be made to the proposed illustration.

Prior to publishing, the author will be able to view the submission the final time to suggest copy edits and check their personal information. The submission will then be published and displayed on all SciWise's platforms.

SUBMISSION DECISIONS

Submissions that enter the copyediting stage are considered accepted. However, until then, submissions that do not t the scope of the journal or where the edits from the review are not incorporated by the given deadline may be wait-listed or rejected at any time and reassessed later. All wait-listed and rejected submissions will receive justification for such a decision. The author should incorporate and/or address the provided comments prior to re-submitting their work. There is no limit to the number of times the author resubmits their piece.

PLATFORMS

The primary publication platform will consist of a webpage (a centralized source of all publications) and social media platforms (Instagram and Facebook to share new submissions on a rolling basis). This is where our cherished readers can access our publications and interact with the author, as well as locate the information pertaining to the submission and peer-review process, our team members and application to the team, view any announcements, and make a submission. Those wishing to make a submission to SciWise will be forwarded to the Open Journals System platform to review policies and liabilities regarding the process. This platform is used for conducting a review process and is primarily used by our executive members of the Editorial team.

Overall, SciWise strives to engage the audience by consistent activity on our social media platforms: Facebook (@SciWiseMcMaster) and Instagram (@SciWise). These platforms will feature links to our publications, access to application forms, and any other announcements. The webpage can be found at: https://journals.mcmaster.ca/sw. For any inquiries regarding SciWise and the submission process, please contact us via email sciwise@mcmaster.ca.

COPYRIGHT POLICY AND AUTHOR'S LIABILITY

The integrity of submissions made to SciWise by our authors is taken with respect and integrity. We also recognize that the work we publish is original. As such, anyone who wishes to share or adapt any content in the journal is to adhere to the copyright guidelines outlined by the Attribution NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International (CC BY-NC-SA 4.0) license. Find more information on the rights and liabilities of this license by following this link https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/. For those submissions that are part of the author's coursework, we ask the author to consult the instructor of the course to receive

permission to publish your work. For those citing any publication in SciWise, please abide by the academic integrity guidelines outlined by McMaster University. SciWise is not held liable for any plagiarism that the students may commit in their academic work. **Authors can only submit their work for publication to one journal at a time.**

SCIWISE EXECUTIVE ROLES

Overall, the team will consist of directors, an editorial board, design board, and a managerial board. The editorial, design, and managerial board will consist of several positions which are outlined and described below. All members of the Editorial Board, most members of the Creative Board, and the Secretary are to attend weekly meetings unless specified or agreed upon otherwise. Other members are to be in regular contact throughout the week and be readily available during meeting times.

DIRECTOR(S) (1-2):

The director(s) will oversee all of the processes, meetings, and events that occur within the organization. Specifically, this includes the planning and execution of team meetings, organizing timelines and setting deadlines for submissions and team initiatives. A key responsibility for directors is to ensure and maintain a high degree of quality of all publications by overseeing and collaborating with the editorial, design, and managerial boards of executive members. The director(s) may hold additional roles in SciWise (e.g. Editor-in-Chief, Creative Director). The director(s) will also be responsible for representing the journal by ensuring that the organization has a broad outreach to students and represents the values of the SIS at McMaster University. The director(s) must have previous experience editing written pieces and they are to conduct periodic workshops with the Editorial Board to brief and instruct the editorial process.

To be eligible, the candidates must satisfy all of the following criteria:

- o Pursuing an undergraduate degree in any field.
- o In level II or above at the time of commencement of the new role.
- o Have at least one year of experience in the organization as part of any of the boards. Preference will be given to those who demonstrate writing and leadership prociency.

Directors for the 2025-2026 year: Maya Elfizy and Leen Ramahi

EDITORIAL BOARD

Editor-in-Chief (1):

The Editor-in-Chief is responsible for overseeing and managing the editorial board and ensuring high quality of publications. Their responsibilities involve overseeing the double-blind review process, ensuring editorial guidelines are met, and assigning pieces to Senior Editors. The Editor-in-Chief will facilitate collaboration with the Creative Board, oversee meetings, and monitor submissions and deadlines. The Editor-in-Chief must have previous editing experience and demonstrate strong science communication skills. They are also responsible for conducting editing workshops and ensuring the quality and efficacy of the editing process and editing team.

To be eligible, the candidates must satisfy all of the following criteria:

- o Pursuing an undergraduate degree in any field.
- o In level II or above at the time of commencement of the new role.
- o Have at least one year of experience in the organization as part of the Editorial Board.

Editor-in-Chief for 2025-2026 year: Maya Elfizy

Editors (4-8):

Editors will conduct the double-blind peer-review process for all types of submissions. They will be responsible for conducting content, structure, syntax, grammar, and other forms of editing and copyediting. Editors are to remain professional and unbiased and should demonstrate dedication and willingness to review any submission. Editors will not be in direct contact with authors but are to direct their questions in concern to their editing partner, the Senior Editor, and/or the Editor-in-Chief. Finally, Editors may also be requested to compose and submit pieces for review.

To be eligible, the candidates must satisfy all of the following criteria:

- o Pursuing an undergraduate degree in any field.
- o In level I or above at the time of commencement of the new role.
- o Have some experience in writing and reviewing others' written work.

Interviewer (1):

The interviewer will give personal insight into the research and innovation conducted at McMaster University or in collaboration with the Hamilton community. They also play an integral part in introducing such efforts and topics to the public. The student must conduct an interview with a researcher or innovator that has been approved by the Editor-in-Chief and then redact an article.

To be eligible, the candidates must satisfy all of the following criteria:

- Pursuing an undergraduate degree at McMaster in any field.
- In level I or above at the time of commencement of the new role.
- Have some experience in contacting interviewees, interviewing and writing.

Abstract Author (1):

The purpose of an article accessible abstract is to present current research, such as a scientific discovery, disease outbreak, or new medical treatment to the public in an accurate and engaging way. The abstract author will be responsible for writing 1-2 abstracts per semester (depending on number of submissions).

To be eligible, the candidates must satisfy all of the following criteria:

- Pursuing an undergraduate degree at McMaster in any field.
- In level I or above at the time of commencement of the new role.
- Have some experience in reading scientific articles and writing accessible abstracts

Poem Author (1-2):

As SciWise is the intersection of art and science, the poem author will create one poem per semester, it can be of any structure (sonnet, limerick, haiku, narrative, epic, couplet, acoustic, or free verse among others). However, the poem must still have a clear goal and theme (to evoke emotions, to educate the reader, to explain) and should include scientific concepts.

To be eligible, the candidates must satisfy all of the following criteria:

- Pursuing an undergraduate degree at McMaster in any field.

- In level I or above at the time of commencement of the new role.
- Have some experience in poem creation.

Short Story Author (1):

As SciWise is the intersection of art and science, the short story author will create one short story per semester. The story may take on a variety of styles such as narrative, speculative fiction, fable, allegory, or experimental prose. Each story must have a clear goal and theme, whether to evoke emotions, educate the reader, or explain a concept, and it must be directly connected to scientific ideas or discoveries in a meaningful and accessible way.

To be eligible, the candidates must satisfy all of the following criteria:

- Pursuing an undergraduate degree at McMaster in any field.
- In level I or above at the time of commencement of the new role.
- Have some experience in poem creation.

CREATIVE BOARD

Chief Creative Officer (1):

The Chief Creative Officer (CCO) role will entail managing and guiding the creative process. They will be in direct communication with the Directors and Senior Editors regarding the required illustrations, photographs, formatting, and journal and website design. The CCO will be responsible for distributing work among all members of the Creative Board to ensure that all illustrations are completed in a timely manner. The CCO is expected to facilitate collaboration between the members of the Creative Board, and to conduct training, if required, for Designers. The CCO may have access to the author's identity and is to preside and facilitate any communication between the parties. The CCO is also responsible for creating social media posts and formatting the journal issue.

To be eligible, the candidates must satisfy all the following criteria:

- Pursuing an undergraduate degree in any field.
- In level II or above at the time of commencement of the new role.

- Have some experience in illustration with regular access to digital illustration software.
- Have at least one year of experience in the organization as part of the Creative Board.

Chief Creative Officer for 2025-2026 year: Leen Ramahi

Illustrative Designers (4-8):

Designers will partake in illustrating for submissions that have passed the initial screening of the submission. They will be in direct communication with the Creative Directors regarding the theme of the submission and may have access to the author's information to request meetings with the author and discuss the suitability of their illustrations for the piece. Designers will also be required to collaboratively create the logo, illustration for the cover of the journal (and back page shall it be printed), and format the final submissions prior to publication. Designers may create illustrations for website design or posters for advertisement upon request. All work is to be done using digital software. Finally, they will be responsible for taking and editing the team photos and any other photographs as requested by the author and the rest of the team.

To be eligible, the candidates must satisfy all of the following criteria:

- Pursuing an undergraduate degree in any field.
- In level I or above at the time of commencement of the new role.
- Have some experience in illustrating and have regular access to digital illustration software.

Comic Author (1):

The Comic Author is responsible for producing and illustrating 1 comic per semester. The comic can be drawn in black and white, greyscale, or colour. The comic usually conveys a story through the use of characters and a plot; however, abstract ideas are also accepted. Most importantly, it must include scientific information: for example, a researcher making a new discovery, or a virus overtaking a human population. Fictional and non-fiction comics are accepted, with no restrictions on genres and tone, the freedom is yours.

To be eligible, the candidates must satisfy all of the following criteria:

- Pursuing an undergraduate degree in any field.

- In level I or above at the time of commencement of the new role.
- Have some experience in story creating, illustrating and have regular access to digital illustration software.

Finance VP (1)

The Finance VP is responsible for developing budgets, tracking journal expenses, applying for student union grants, and collaborating with the Marketing Team to secure sponsorships.

To be eligible, the candidates must satisfy all of the following criteria:

- Pursuing an undergraduate degree in any field.
- In level I or above at the time of commencement of the new role.
- Have some experience in budgeting, fundraising, or handling money.

Marketing VP (1)

The Marketing VP is responsible for designing and executing marketing campaigns, managing our Instagram and other social media platforms, creating engaging graphics and promotional materials, and ensuring consistent branding across all platforms.

To be eligible, the candidates must satisfy all of the following criteria:

- Pursuing an undergraduate degree in any field.
- In level I or above at the time of commencement of the new role.
- Have some experience in social media content creation (Instagram posts, stories, reels, or similar).