

How to Get Published in the English Language

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1. Language

- a) **Read in English** - It is important to read English-language web sites on a daily basis to make English your second language (e.g. BBC, *Economist*, *Times*, *New York Times*, *Moscow Times*, etc.,)
- b) **Web Browser** - Use the English language in your web browser. Include English-language publications in your web browser toolbar so you get into the habit daily of clicking on them and reading them. Watch BBC news clips on the BBC web site to listen and practice your English-language.
- c) **Practice Makes Perfect** - Practice your English language with visiting fellows and guests.
- d) **Keep Up to Date With Academic Work** - Do periodic checks on what is being researched and published in your academic field by searching e-versions of academic journals.

2. Media

- a) **Newspapers** – there are many English-language newspapers in former Communist countries (*Moscow Times*, *Baltic Times*, *Kyiv Times*, etc.,) that will all accept freelance contributions.

- b) **Specialist publications** – RFERL, Jamestown Foundation (Eurasia Daily Monitor), Jane's Information Group all accept freelance articles. Offer to write a regular monthly article.
- c) **Blogs** – start a blog for graduate students, young academics and visiting fellows on the Slavic Research Center web site. Most publications are interested in receiving new bloggers who will contribute regularly. RFERL, Jamestown Foundation, Atlantic Councils, think tanks and newspapers in post-communist countries have blogs. Blogs can be short (400-500 words) and up to 800-1000 words. I like my friends blog (<http://foreignnotes.blogspot.com/>) and I also write blogs for the Atlantic Council of the US (http://www.acus.org/new_atlanticist).

3. Academic

a) **Articles** –

Hierarchy of journals: Some academic journals are easier to publish in than others. For example, area studies journals are easier to succeed through the external review process (Problems of Post Communism, Demokratizatsiya, Communist and Post Communist Studies, Journal of Communist Studies and Transition Politics [now East European Politics], East European Politics and Society, Canadian Slavonic Papers, Slavonic and East European Review, etc.). There are medium-level difficulty journals also (Nationalities Papers, Europe-Asia Studies, Slavic Review, Nations and Nationalism, National

Identities, Political Studies, Comparative Political Studies, Journal of Cold War Studies, etc.,). Very difficult journals are usually top-level political science journals (e.g. American Political Science Review, International Security, International Affairs).

Guest Editor: *offer to be a Guest Editor of a special issue of a journal. Editors like to have a break and pass the work to others!*

Joint Articles: *cooperate with an English-language speaking academic to write a joint article.*

External Reviews: *they can be very different, even for the same submitted article. In the majority of cases the reviews are in the middle (Edit and Re-submit), rather than saying the article is great (No Changes are Required) or rejection (Will not Publish). But, if the reviews are not good do not take it to be a personal failure. I have received terrible reviews from one journal and then re-submitted the SAME article to another journal and received fantastic reviews! If the changes the reviewers require are too many for you to undertake (because, for example, they want you to change your argument) or they have rejected your article, then you can write to them: "Thank you. Goodbye." Then you can re-submit to another journal. Remember, there are very many journals to submit articles to.*

Reviewers: external reviews are supposed to only take 3 months but can sometimes take upwards of 9 months. If you have not heard anything after 3 months you should write to the editors asking when he/she expects to receive the external reviews.

b) Book Reviews – every academic journal does not have enough book reviewers and you can write to the Book Review Editor and ask to be a book reviewer. When they receive their next books they will write to book reviewers, give them the list of new books and ask “Would you like to review one of these books.” Book reviews are 800 words long and review articles of 3-4 books are 2,000 words. You could offer to review books in Japanese.

4. Think Tanks

- a) **Visiting Fellows** – many think tanks offer grants for short and long term residence to conduct research and have an office in Washington, Brussels or London (the three cities with many think tanks).
- b) **Papers** – think tanks publish blogs, briefing papers, occasional papers and other publications. Check what they publish and offer to write papers.

5. Postdocs and Visiting Fellows

- a) **Grants** - Apply for short term (semester) and long-term (one year or two year) positions as post-doctoral fellows and visiting fellows. Scholars from post-Communist countries are very good at finding institutions that give grants. You should ask them for suggestions and advice.
- b) **Teaching** - Besides research, you should offer to do some teaching when you are a post-Doctoral Fellow or a Visiting Fellow. This could be 1 or 2 guest lectures or more teaching which is all important to obtain teaching experience.
- c) **Think Tanks** – there are very many in Washington DC, London and Brussels. Look at their web sites and seek what they publish and offer for visiting fellows.
- d) **Policy Centres** – organisations that are involved in democracy promotion such as the National Endowment for Democracy, US Institute for Peace and other organisations also provide fellowships. These are good places to combine research with investigation of the policy making process.

6. Academic and Think Tank Conferences

- a) **Conferences** - Post-Communist Studies, Nationalism and Political Science conferences include AAASS, Association for the Study of Nationalities (to which very few Japanese scholars go), APSA, CAS, BASEES, British Political Science Association and many others.

- b) **Network** – use conferences to make new friends and new academic acquaintances, talk about joint articles and future panels, and join existing research and grant application groups.
- c) **Panels** - Propose panels of Japanese scholars for future conferences.
- d) **Papers** – Propose your own conference papers. These will force you to write a paper and then possibly transform the paper into an academic article.