

Guidelines for scientific authorship¹

These guidelines were ratified by the Faculty Board on 2025-03-05 and are effective from the same date.

Registration number HS 2025/70

¹

This is a translation of the Swedish version (Riktlinjer för vetenskapligt författarskap, registration number HS 2025/69.) In the event of any discrepancy, the Swedish version of this document shall prevail.

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1 Introduction

At the University of Skövde (the University), the Vancouver rules are applied, which include recommendations for how scientific authorship should be defined². The guiding principle is that authorship should accurately reflect the researcher's contribution to the research, its reporting, and responsibility for the content of the article.

2 Four criteria for authership

According to the Vancouver rules, an author of a scientific publication must meet all four of the following criteria. The Swedish Sociological Association has provided a translation of the criteria³, which is presented below.

"Anyone listed as an author must:

1. have significantly contributed to the publication, for example, by being responsible for or contributing to its fundamental idea, design, data collection, data processing, theory development, analysis, or interpretation. They must also
2. have written the original manuscript alone or with others, and/or have significantly participated in the subsequent revision work with contributions of a scientific nature. Furthermore, they must
3. have approved the final version of the publication. Finally, they must
4. be able and willing to publicly defend the publication and its results."

This means that only those who meet all four conditions can be authors of a scientific publication. It follows that those who have provided support to the publication (for example, in the form of funding, administration, sharing of data, or language editing) should not be considered authors of the publication. Individuals who have supported the publication but have not contributed substantially according to the four criteria above may be acknowledged in the publication's acknowledgments section.

The Vancouver rules also provide recommendations for how support from artificial intelligence (AI) should be handled². Since each author must be able to publicly defend the publication's accuracy, integrity, originality, and its results, chatbots (such as ChatGPT) cannot be

² The Vancouver rules were developed by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors. More information can be found at <https://www.icmje.org/>.

³ www.sociologiskforskning.se/sf/SSFguidelines

listed as authors. Only humans can therefore be listed as authors. If AI has been used for data collection, analysis, or figure generation, this should be specified in the publication's methods section. If AI has been used as support in writing, this should be mentioned in the publication's acknowledgments section.

3 Author order

The author group determines the order of authorship. The author who has contributed the most work should be listed first, followed by the authors in the order that reflects their contribution. If two authors have made an equal contribution, shared first authorship may be applied. This can be noted, for example, as a footnote in the article. Additionally, subject-specific traditions should be followed.

4 Document effective from

This document is effective from 2025-03-05 and replaces the Guidelines for scientific authorship (dnr HS 2019/970).