

Writing for...

academic journals

There is an increasing amount of research into college HE, exploring, for example, professional identity, developing an HE ethos, scholarship and teaching observations. However, this is a fraction of the entire output of published HE educational research and, significantly, it is largely produced by researchers based in universities.

With an increasing focus on scholarship in college HE it is likely that colleges will be producing work that would make a valuable contribution to the research base and will be thinking about 'going public'. While Boyer's scholarships encompass a range of ways of doing this, the academic journal article still remains a valid option.

This possibility might feel challenging to college HE teachers who do not consider themselves traditional academics and who will find the guidance below useful.

PROCESS

1. Read abstracts in recent journals in your field to find the ones most relevant (see list below for examples).

2. Read a few full articles in these, paying attention to content themes, writing style, format and structure.

3. Choose a journal (remember that you can only submit to one at a time and they have different lead times).

4. Read guidance for authors for your chosen journal, which will guide you on word limits, structure, formatting, referencing and submission.

5. Consider co-authorship. Do you have colleagues or students who could research and write with you?

6. Plan, outline, and write – be preparing to draft, edit and redraft numerous times and get feedback as you go.

7. Submit your article with a cover letter. Check the requirements of the journal carefully – some use particular online submission systems.

8. Use the reviewers' feedback to revise your paper and decide whether you are happy to make changes and, if so, resubmit.

9. Resubmit, explaining how you responded to feedback in your cover letter. Celebrate the publication of your research article!

Journal of Further and Higher Education **Research in Post-compulsory Education**
Studies in Higher Education **Journal of Vocational Education and Training**
International Journal of Lifelong Learning
International Journal for Academic Development
Journal of Adult and Continuing Education