Guide to Top Journals

–Information on selectivity and turnaround times is taken from the APA Journal Survey, available at https://blog.apaonline.org/journal-surveys/. Many journals self-report different (often much lower) acceptance rates. Journals also sometimes list expected turnaround times on their websites; in my experience, these figures are largely aspirational and cannot be trusted.

–I've only included specialist journals for the sub-disciplines I'm most familiar with. In particular, I've left off all history journals.

–"Selectivity" indicates the proportion of submitted articles accepted; "turnaround time" is average time to initial verdict from the journal; a "desk rejection" is when the journal editor rejects your manuscript without comments; a "soft" word limit is flexible, while a "hard" word limit is not.

Most Prestigious Journals

Generalist Journals

Philosophical Review
Selectivity: 3.5%   Turnaround time: 4.3 months   Word limit: 15,000 (soft)
Pros: Universally regarded as most prestigious journal
Cons: Unbelievably selective; mediocre turnaround time

Mind
Selectivity: 10.8%   Turnaround time: 5.9 months   Word limit: 8,000 (hardish)
Pros: Low desk rejection rate
Cons: Poor turnaround time; low word limit

Nous
Selectivity: 12.7%   Turnaround time: 3.2 months   Word limit: 15,000 (hard)
Pros: Good turnaround time for a top 5 journal
Cons: Only accepts submissions a few months each year, usually in fall/winter; many desk rejections

Journal of Philosophy (J Phil)
Selectivity: 22.6%   Turnaround time: 8.8 months   Word limit: 7,500 (hard)
Pros: May be less selective than other top journals
Cons: Comically slow turnaround time; low word limit

Philosophy and Phenomenological Research (PPR)
Selectivity: 15.9%   Turnaround time: 2.6 months   Word limit: 15,000 (hard)
Pros: Good turnaround time for a top 5 journal
Cons: Only accepts submissions a few months each year, usually in fall/winter; many desk rejections

Specialist Journals

Ethics
Selectivity: 9.2%   Turnaround time: 2.1 months   Word limit: 15,000 (hard)
Pros: Good turnaround time
Cons: None, this is a model journal

Philosophy and Public Affairs (PPA)
Selectivity: 8.3%   Turnaround time: 1.7 months   Word limit: 12,000 (hard)
Pros: Excellent turnaround time
Cons: High (75%) desk rejection rate

Slightly Less Prestigious Journals

Generalist Journals

Australasian Journal of Philosophy (AJP)
Selectivity: 13.1%   Turnaround time: 2.5 months   Word limit: 8,000 (soft); 15,000 (hard)
Pros: Sends almost all submissions out to at least 1 referee; good turnaround time
Cons: Only allowed to submit 2 papers per year; otherwise a model journal

Philosophers' Imprint
Selectivity: 9.5%   Turnaround time: 1.9 months   Word limit: None!
Pros: Open access; no word limit; excellent turnaround time
Cons: May be more selective than comparable journals; many desk rejections; small submission fee

Philosophical Studies
Selectivity: 22.8%   Turnaround time: 4.0 months   Word limit: 10,000 (soft)
Pros: May be less selective than comparable journals; low desk rejection rate
Cons: Mediocre turnaround time

Philosophical Quarterly
Selectivity: 10.2%   Turnaround time: 2.1 months   Word limit: 10,000 (hard)
Pros: Good turnaround time
Cons: May be more selective than comparable journals

Analysis
Selectivity: 10.1%   Turnaround time: 1.1 months   Word limit: 4,000 (hard)
Pros: Lightning-fast turnaround time; premier journal for extremely short articles
Cons: May be more selective than comparable journals; high (78%) desk rejection rate

Specialist Journals

Philosophy of Science
Selectivity: 16.9%   Turnaround time: 3.3 months   Word limit: 9.500 (hard)
Pros: Sends almost all submissions out to at least 2 referees
Cons: Only allowed to submit one paper every six months; otherwise a model journal

British Journal for the Philosophy of Science (BJPS)
Selectivity: 24.4%   Turnaround time: 2.5 months   Word limit: 10,000 (hard)
Pros: Low desk rejection rate; good turnaround time
Cons: None, this is a model journal

Mind and Language
Selectivity: 11.9%   Turnaround time: 5.3 months   Word limit: 10,000 (hard)
Pros: None
Cons: May be more selective than comparable journals; poor turnaround time

Journal of Political Philosophy (JPP)
Selectivity: 11.6%   Turnaround time: 1.4 months   Word limit: 10,000 (hardish)
Pros: Lightning-fast turnaround time
Cons: May be more selective than comparable journals

Journal of Moral Philosophy (JMP)
Selectivity: 11.2%   Turnaround time: 2.6 months   Word limit: 10,000 (hard)
Pros: Good turnaround time
Cons: May be more selective than comparable journals

Less Prestigious Journals
Generalist Journals
Synthese
Selectivity: 36.5%   Turnaround time: 4.0 months   Word limit: Around 15,000 (soft)
Pros: May be less selective than comparable journals; sends almost all submissions to 2 referees
Cons: Mediocre turnaround time

Canadian Journal of Philosophy (CJP)
Selectivity: 13.8%   Turnaround time: 5.5 months   Word limit: 10,000 (soft)
Pros: Low desk rejection rate
Cons: May be more selective than comparable journals; poor turnaround time

Erkenntnis
Selectivity: 25.8%   Turnaround time: 5.9 months   Word limit: 10,000 (hardish)
Pros: Publish in the legendary journal of the logical positivists!
Cons: Poor turnaround time

American Philosophical Quarterly (APQ)
Selectivity: 18.6%   Turnaround time: 2.7 months   Word limit: 7,000 (hard)
Pros: Good turnaround time; low desk rejection rate
Cons: May be more selective than comparable journals; low word limit

Pacific Philosophical Quarterly (PPQ)
Selectivity: 16.6%   Turnaround time: 4.7 months   Word limit: Not listed on website
Pros: None
Cons: May be more selective than comparable journals; mediocre turnaround time

Ergo
Selectivity: 17.5%   Turnaround time: 1.3 months   Word limit: None!
Pros: Lightning-fast turnaround time; open access; no word limit; low desk rejection rate
Cons: May be more selective than comparable journals; small submission fee

Specialist Journals
I will not attempt to include specialist journals at this level, both because there are too many and because it's impossible to determine which journals should qualify.

Quick Lists

<u>Guaranteed Referee Reports</u>
The following journals provide referee reports on almost all submissions:

1. Australasian Journal of Philosophy
2. Philosophy of Science
3. Synthese

A few other journals send a very high proportion of submitted papers out for review:

1. Mind
2. Philosophical Studies
3. British Journal for the Philosophy of Science
4. The Canadian Journal of Philosophy
5. American Philosophical Quarterly
6. Ergo

<u>High Word Limits</u>
Philosophers' Imprint and Ergo, both online, open-access journals, have no official word limit. The following journals have very high word limits:

1. Philosophical Review
2. Nous
3. Philosophy and Phenomenological Research
4. Australasian Journal of Philosophy
5. Philosophical Studies
6. Synthese

<u>Fast Turnaround Times</u>
These journals have fast average turnaround times (less than 3 months):

1. Philosophy and Phenomenological Research
2. Ethics
3. Philosophy and Public Affairs
4. Australasian Journal of Philosophy
5. Philosophers' Imprint
6. Philosophical Quarterly
7. Analysis
8. British Journal for the Philosophy of Science
9. Journal of Political Philosophy
10. Journal of Moral Philosophy
11. American Philosophical Quarterly
12. Ergo