

Myths about PNAS

Learn the truth about common misconceptions regarding publishing in PNAS.

The screenshot shows the PNAS website homepage. At the top, there are navigation links: Submit, About, Contact, Journal Club, and Subscribe. The institution is listed as the National Academy of Sciences. There are links for Log in and Log out. The PNAS logo is prominently displayed, along with the text "Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America". A search bar is present with the placeholder text "Keyword, Author, or DOI" and a search icon. Below the search bar is an "Advanced Search" link. A secondary navigation menu includes Home, Articles, Front Matter, News, Podcasts, and Authors. Under the "NEW RESEARCH IN" section, there are three dropdown menus for "Physical Sciences", "Social Sciences", and "Biological Sciences". A featured article is displayed with a large image of a coastline and the text: "Researchers report an association between ocean warming and trends in continental humidity and temperature." To the right of the article is a "Current Issue" section with a "Submit" button. Below that is a "Sign up for Article Alerts" section with an email input field and a "Sign up" button.

Myth #1: You need to know a member to publish in PNAS.

False: 95% of submissions come directly from authors, not through National Academy of Sciences (NAS) members.

The preferred route of submission is through the Direct Submission track rather than the NAS member Contributed track.

A distinguishing feature of PNAS is that an NAS member makes the final decision for every paper. Although authors are asked to suggest the names of NAS members in fields related to their Direct Submissions, authors do not need to have any relationship with an NAS member.

Myth #2: PNAS is a life sciences journal.

False: 25% of articles are in the physical sciences, social sciences, or mathematics.

To make its coverage more representative of the disciplines that comprise the NAS, PNAS has issued a Call for Papers in the Physical and Social Sciences.

Myth #3: PNAS doesn't allow preprints.

False: PNAS has a long tradition of allowing preprints. Preprints with Creative Commons licenses are allowed.

Find out more about the licenses that govern the use of PNAS content here: www.pnas.org/site/aboutpnas/licenses.xhtml

Myth #4: PNAS is a for-profit publication.

False: PNAS is a self-supporting nonprofit academic journal run by top scientists across more than 30 disciplines.

All articles are evaluated solely on their scientific merit by peers—not by staff editors. Accepted papers must be of exceptional scientific importance and intelligible to a broad scientific audience. To learn more, visit: www.pnas.org/site/misc/reviewprocess.pdf

Myth #5: PNAS isn't open access.

False: All content is freely available within 6 months of publication, and authors have the choice to publish their articles using the open access option.

More than 34% of PNAS authors make their papers open access, and content such as Colloquia, Front Matter magazine content, and Special Features are always free. PNAS is compliant with funders worldwide (e.g., NIH, HHMI, Gates, the Medical Research Council, the Wellcome Trust). PNAS is free in more than 115 developing countries.

Myth #6: PNAS only publishes research articles.

False: In addition to more than 3,000 research articles, PNAS offers [Front Matter magazine content](#), [teaching resources](#), [Science Session podcasts](#), [researcher profiles](#), and more!

Myth #7: PNAS only publishes work from the United States.

False: Although PNAS is the official journal of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America (NAS), the journal encourages exceptional submissions from all countries. About 46% of articles published in PNAS come from outside the United States.

PNAS welcomes authors, editors, and reviewers from around the globe.