

Guidelines for Doctoral Publication Requirements and Predatory Journals

This guide has been prepared in light of the **Cyprus International University (CIU)** Graduate Education and Training Regulations, **YÖDAK** criteria, and the Senate decisions dated **September 18, 2024**. It aims to help doctoral students manage their academic publication processes, avoid the trap of "predatory/dubious" journals, and ensure awareness regarding Plagiarism Detection (Turnitin).

1. PhD Graduation Publication Requirement

To establish a doctoral thesis defense jury, the candidate must fulfill the following academic publication criteria during or after the thesis stage:

- **Scope and Content:** The published article must be a **research article** produced directly from the doctoral thesis work. "Review" type publications are not accepted.
- **Supervisor Approval:** Before submitting a manuscript derived from the thesis to any journal, the **approval of the thesis/project supervisor** must be obtained.
- **Affiliation Requirement:** The institutional address of the student on the published article must be stated as "**Cyprus International University**".
- **Co-Authorship:** If the article is clearly derived from the thesis, names other than the student and supervisor may be included; however, the **student and supervisor must be at the top of the author list** for the publication to meet acceptance criteria. Still, a crowded author list will always be questioned.
- **Web of Science (WoS) Requirement:**
 - The article must be published in journals indexed under **SSCI** (Social Sciences Citation Index), **SCI-Expanded** (Science Citation Index Expanded), or **AHCI** (Arts and Humanities Citation Index).
 - **Exception for Law Programs:** In Law PhD programs taught in Turkish, a minimum of **two articles** related to the thesis field must be published in journals determined by the Inter-University Academic Coordination Board (ÜAKK).
 - **Changes in Web of Science (WoS) Status:**
 - **Dropped Journals:** If a journal is dropped from the index after publication but the article remains visible in the WoS system, the

requirement is considered met. If the article is not visible, a new publication is required.

- **"On Hold" / "Suspended" Journals:** If a journal is suspended after publication but the article still appears in WoS, it is accepted. If the article does not appear, the requirement is not met; the student may either wait for the status to change (within maximum time limits) or publish a new article.

IMPORTANT NOTE: These WOS rules are determined by the Higher Education Academic Coordination Board (composed of YÖDAK members and university rectors) and are audited by YÖDAK.

2. Guide to Avoiding Predatory (Suspicious) Journals

According to the Senate decisions effective from **September 19, 2024**, a publication must fall within the "safe zone" to be valid for graduation or academic promotion:

- **Safe (Non-Predatory) Journals:**
 - **Q1, Q2, and Q3 Journals:** Journals in these quartiles are **not** considered predatory, regardless of whether they charge an Article Processing Charge (APC).
 - **Q4 Journals (Free):** WoS Q4 journals that do not charge any editorial or publication fees are considered safe.
 - **Q4 Journals (Paid - Exceptions):** Q4 journals that charge a fee are only considered safe if they are the official organ of a branch association, university, institute, or an established scientific institution; started publication before 2010; or operate on a subscription basis.
- **Signs of Predatory Journals:**
 - Inclusion in "Predatory Journal" lists defined by YÖK or ÜAK.
 - Outlets focused on commercial gain rather than academic quality, those treating peer-review as a formality, or those guaranteeing publication within a few days/weeks.

CRITICAL WARNING: The regulations in this guide are subject to change based on decisions by the Inter-University Academic Coordination Board, YÖDAK, or the University Senate. In case of discrepancies, the most recently announced official legislation prevails. Students are responsible for following and implementing current rules.