

Manuscript Guidelines for Scholarly Essay
Sri Lanka Journal of Buddhist Studies
Buddhist and Pali University of Sri Lanka

1. About the Journal

The *Sri Lanka Journal of Buddhist Studies*, a prestigious double-blind peer-reviewed journal, has been published by the Buddhist and Pali University of Sri Lanka since 1987. Over the years, it has upheld a tradition of academic excellence, featuring contributions from renowned Buddhist scholars in Sri Lanka and esteemed universities worldwide. Although its publication was briefly interrupted, we are proud to announce its revival in 2025, marking the continuation of its legacy in advancing scholarly research in Buddhist studies. The journal is published biannually, in June and December, and welcomes original research articles, book reviews, and scholarly essays.

2. Journal Scope and Focus

We accept papers covering all aspects of Buddhist Studies, including but not limited to;

- Historical and textual studies
- Philosophy and ethics
- Buddhist art, culture, literature and archaeology
- Contemporary Buddhist movements
- Comparative studies

3. Scholarly Essays

Scholarly essays submitted to the *Sri Lanka Journal of Buddhist Studies* should demonstrate scholarly rigour, original insight, and a clear engagement with existing academic discussions in Buddhist Studies and related fields. Authors are expected to present a well-argued critique supported by evidence, textual analysis, or theoretical reasoning.

4. Manuscript Formatting

Title Page

The title page should be a separate page before the main text and include the following information in order:

Title:

A concise and informative title, not exceeding 15 words (excluding special cases). Avoid abbreviations and formulae.

Author(s) and Affiliation(s):

Provide the given name and family name of all authors.

Indicate each author's affiliation using a lowercase superscript letter.

Include the full postal address, country, email, and ORCID ID for each author.

Corresponding Author:

Clearly indicate the corresponding author for both publication and post-publication correspondence.

Sponsoring Information:

If the research is funded or supported by an organization, please provide relevant details.

Submission Type:

Clearly state whether your submission is a book review, research article or a scholarly essay.

5. Preparation of Manuscript

Abstract:

A concise and factual abstract of 150–300 words is required.

It should briefly state the background, objectives, methodology, principal results, and major conclusions of the study.

Avoid references, but, if necessary, cite them in full without linking to the reference list.

The abstract should be a single paragraph.

Keywords:

Provide up to five keywords after the abstract.

Arrange them alphabetically.

Avoid general terms, plurals, and phrases with multiple concepts (e.g., “and,” “of”).

Only use abbreviations well-established in the field.

Article Structure:

Authors should organise the essay clearly using the following structure or any other similar appropriate logical structure.

i. Introduction

- Present the topic, background and significance.
- State thesis statement, main argument, the aim and scope.

ii. Context and Background

- Briefly outline relevant literature or theoretical frameworks.

iii. Critical Analysis and Discussion

- Evaluate arguments, methodologies, textual interpretations, or empirical findings.
- Provide comparative insights where appropriate.
- Support claims with evidence, quotations, or references to primary/secondary sources.
- Highlight implications, strengths, weaknesses, or contradictions.
- Offer alternative interpretations or new insights.

iv. Conclusion

- Summarise key points.
- Indicate the contribution of the essay to the field.
- State the suggestions, recommendations or any other final comment.

Subsections:

1., 2., 3. (main sections)

1.1, 1.2 (subsections)

1.1.1, 1.1.2 (further subsections)

(The abstract is not included in section numbering.)

Figures, Tables, and Equations:

Figures (graphs, diagrams, photos, etc.) should be clear, in black and white, and embedded within the manuscript. Each figure must be captioned and sequentially numbered according to the prescribed referencing style.

Tables should not exceed A5 size (portrait format). They must be embedded, captioned, and sequentially numbered.

Equations and Formulae should match the text size and be formatted appropriately.

References:

Follow APA 7th Edition referencing style.

Refer to: <https://apastyle.apa.org/>

Acknowledgments:

Include acknowledgments at the end of the manuscript before the reference list.

Mention individuals who contributed to the research but are not listed as authors (with their permission).

Acknowledgments should be added only after the review process is completed.

Biographical Note:

Provide a short biography (max. 200 words) along with a photograph at the end of the article.

6. Technical Guidelines

Formatting

Font:

Times New Roman

Text Size:

12-point, single-spaced, one-column format, justified

Main Title:

14-point bold, centered

Subtitles:

12-point bold, left aligned

Page Size:

A5 (21 x 29.7 cm)

Figures & Tables:

Must be sized as they will appear in print and placed within the text accordingly.

Word Limit:

Manuscripts should be between 3,000 and 8,000 words, including abstract, references and appendices.

Conflict of Interest

Authors must disclose any financial, personal, or professional conflicts of interest that could influence their work within three years of the study.

Funding Statement

All sources of research funding should be disclosed, including grants or funding for publication costs.

Changes in Authorship

Authors must meet authorship criteria, contributing substantially to the research.

The order of authorship should be mutually agreed upon.

7. Indexing & Abstracting

The journal is actively seeking indexing in relevant databases. Initially, it will be registered with Sri Lankan Journals Online and Semantic Scholar.

8. Frequency of Publication

The journal is published biannually in June and December.