

Nature Research Assistant Online Terms of Use

Effective: 24 July, 2025

1. Introduction

- 1.1 These are the terms of use for <https://researchassistant.nature.com> ("**Site**"). The Site is operated by or on behalf of Springer Nature Limited trading as Springer Nature (**we, us** and **our**). We are a limited company, registered in England and Wales. Our registered company number is 00785998, and our registered office is at The Campus, 4 Crinan Street, London, United Kingdom, N1 9XW. Our VAT registration number is GB199440621.
- 1.2 Your use of the Site, along with the Nature Research Assistant service offered on or through the Site (as that service may be renamed or relaunched from time to time) and any of our associated software, tools, features, developer services, documentation, and websites, but excluding any third party products, services, or content ("**Service**") is subject to these terms and by using the Site and/or the Service in any manner you agree to be bound by them. You may also be asked to agree to these terms prior to accessing the Service and/or to acknowledge that these terms apply. If you are entering into these terms on behalf of another individual or entity, you represent and warrant that you have the legal authority to bind that individual or entity to these terms. If you do not agree to these terms, you must not use the Site or any of the Service, including the Beta Services (as defined below).
- 1.3 The Service will be described more particularly from time to time on the Site and may include (without limitation or guarantee of availability) features such as getting feedback on your manuscript, quickly reading and understanding a paper through generated summaries, chatting with the paper, and seeing how a paper fits with the wider literature.
- 1.4 The collection and use of your personal information submitted to or via the Site or the Service is governed by our [Privacy Policy](#), which is hereby incorporated by reference. You acknowledge that you have read and understood the Privacy Policy and that you agree to the collection, use, and sharing of your personal information as described therein (including the collection, use and sharing of personal information within your control).
- 1.5 We reserve the right to change these terms and conditions from time to time by changing them on the Site. The "Last Updated" dated at the top of these terms indicates when the latest modifications were made. Your continued use of the Site or Service (or, where applicable, express agreement to the terms as modified) after such modifications become effective will constitute your acceptance of those changes. If you do not agree to the modified terms, you must discontinue your use of the Site and the Service.

2. Our Service

- 2.1 Subject to your continued compliance with these terms, we grant you a limited, non-exclusive, non-transferable, revocable right to access and use the Service during the Term (as defined below).
- 2.2 The Service is described on the Site. We warrant that the Service will substantially conform to the relevant description on the Site, and otherwise disclaim any representations or warranties not expressly stated in these terms.
- 2.3 You represent and warrant that your use of the Service will be solely for private, educational, personal, scientific or research purposes, and not for commercial

exploitation (for example, by monetising or selling access to summaries the Service produces) or any other purpose unless we have expressly agreed otherwise in writing.

- 2.4 You acknowledge and agree that you are solely responsible for all use you make of the Service and for following good academic, professional, and ethical practice in relation to such use. This includes, without limitation, properly attributing any sources and verifying the accuracy of any information obtained through the Service.

3. Restrictions

- 3.1 We (or our affiliates, licensors or partners) own all right, title, and interest in and to the Service (including all intellectual property and proprietary rights). You only receive the limited rights to use the Service as explicitly granted in this Agreement, and no other rights are granted or implied. You agree that you will not, nor allow anyone else to, directly or indirectly:

- (a) use the Service in a manner that violates any applicable laws or regulations or contravenes good academic or professional practice, or for any illegal, unethical, harmful, fraudulent, or abusive purpose or activity;
- (b) systematically download, scrape, or otherwise extract any materials, or use any routines designed to automatically search, index or crawl the Service (including full text and metadata), or engage in any activity likely to burden or disrupt the Site or the Service;
- (c) access or attempt to access any aspect of any Service which you have not purchased or subscribed to, or otherwise circumvent or attempt to circumvent any access controls or security measures of the Service;
- (d) interfere with, disrupt, or degrade the performance or integrity of the Service, or use the Service in a way that adversely affects or prevents anyone else's use of the Service;
- (e) disassemble, decompile, reverse engineer, reverse translate, or otherwise attempt to reconstruct, identify, or discover any source code or underlying components of the Service, except to the limited extent permitted by applicable law notwithstanding a contractual prohibition;
- (f) engage in any criminal, fraudulent, or deceptive activity, or impersonate any person or entity in connection with your use of the Service;
- (g) send us any personal information of children under 13 (or the applicable age of digital consent) or allow under 18s to use the Service;
- (h) act in breach of any intellectual property rights or terms applicable to the data or content provided via the Service, except as expressly permitted by applicable law;
- (i) violate or infringe the rights of any person, including rights of privacy, publicity, or intellectual property;
- (j) upload or submit any third-party documents, figures, or other materials (including research papers or other works) if you do not have sufficient rights, permissions, or authority to do so or if such materials do not comply with applicable law or would cause you to be in breach of these terms;

- (k) sublicense, resell, lease, lend, publish, distribute, or otherwise make the Service or any portion of the Service available to any third party, unless expressly authorised by us in writing;
- (l) use the Site or Service in a way that would place an unreasonable technical load or burden on it; or
- (m) engage in any use of the Service that is otherwise prohibited by our acceptable use guidelines (as may be published on the Site from time to time) or any additional terms we may issue from time to time.

4. Content

- 4.1 You may provide content to the Service ("**Input**") and may receive content from the Service as a result of your Input ("**Output**"). Collectively, Input and Output are referred to as "**Content**." You are solely responsible for all Content you create, upload, or otherwise provide, including ensuring that it does not violate any applicable law or these terms, or infringe any third-party rights.
- 4.2 You represent and warrant that you have all necessary rights, licenses, consents, and permissions to provide your Input to the Service and that Input will not violate any applicable law, and you agree to indemnify and hold Springer Nature harmless from any losses, liabilities, or claims arising from your failure to obtain such rights or permissions or from violation of applicable law.
- 4.3 By using the Service, you hereby grant Springer Nature and its affiliates, licensors, and partners a perpetual, worldwide, non-exclusive, sublicensable, royalty-free, and irrevocable licence to copy, distribute, transmit, publicly display, publicly perform, reproduce, edit, translate, reformat, store, host, and otherwise use or exploit your Content, but solely for the following purposes:
 - (a) providing, operating, maintaining, troubleshooting, and improving the Service;
 - (b) complying with applicable laws or regulations; and
 - (c) enforcing our rights under these terms and investigating potential violations.

The licence in this Clause 4.3 survives termination of these terms by any party, for any reason. For the avoidance of doubt, this licence does not grant us the rights to publish commercially (including without limitation in any of our journals) any papers or other materials included in Input. Any such publication would take place in accordance with our normally applicable processes.

- 4.4 You are solely responsible for the use or distribution of any Output, including evaluating such Output for compliance with applicable law and third party rights, accuracy, suitability, or reliability for your use case before using or sharing it. You further agree to exercise good academic, scientific, and professional practice with respect to any reliance on or publication of Output.
- 4.5 Except for the licence granted in Clause 4.3 above, and to the extent permitted by applicable law, you retain all ownership rights in your Input.
- 4.6 To the extent Output contains any material which is, or is derived from, material in which Springer Nature (or its licensors) own intellectual property rights (or Output otherwise engages such intellectual property rights), Springer Nature (or its licensors) retain all ownership in such rights. Nothing in this agreement grants any such ownership to you. Your use of the Service confers no such rights on you and does not extinguish Springer Nature's (or its licensors') ownership therein. If any such rights vest in you (whether by

operation of law or otherwise) as a result of producing the Output, you hereby assign to Springer Nature (including by way of present assignment of future rights) all of your right, title and interest therein.

4.7 You acknowledge that due to the nature of our Service and artificial intelligence generally:

- (a) Output may be incomplete, inaccurate, offensive, or may otherwise not reflect the views of Springer Nature or any of its affiliates. References to any third-party products or services do not constitute endorsement; and
- (b) Output may not always be up to date or accurate. Using our Service may result in Output that does not accurately reflect real people, places, data, research, or facts. You must not rely on any Output as factual information or as a substitute for professional advice or independent research.

4.8 We will process and store Content in accordance with our Privacy Policy. We will only use Content (in accordance with the licence granted in Clause 4.3 above) as reasonably necessary to provide you with the Service, comply with applicable law, and enforce and comply with our terms and policies.

4.9 When you use any of the Service, you agree and acknowledge (without limitation to the licence granted in Clause 4.3 above) that:

- (a) extracts or segments of your Input will be transmitted to our infrastructure (and, as necessary, to our third-party providers) to generate Outputs. The complete document may remain on your local device, and we will not upload or store the full text unless explicitly stated;
- (b) we may temporarily store Content to facilitate the Service. We may also retain certain text segments and your Output in non-temporary logs or analytics databases, to monitor and improve performance, troubleshoot issues, facilitate your personal account storage and provide the Service, and always in accordance with our [Privacy Policy](#);
- (c) your Input is not used to train our underlying language models unless we separately have permission to do so in relation to the Input; and
- (d) we may cache anonymised or minimal extracts of Content to improve response times for repeated queries from other users of the Service, but we will not disclose your specific uploaded manuscript Input to other users except as aggregated or de-identified data.

4.10 If your institution or organisation subscribes to Springer Nature content, we hereby permit you to input this content into the Service. Clauses 4.2, 4.3, 4.5, and 4.6 shall not apply in respect of such content insofar as the content would be considered Input under this agreement, and all other provisions of the relevant licences that your institution or organisation has in place with us in relation to such content shall continue to apply.

5. Beta Services

5.1 Certain new or experimental features or services we make available within the Service may be offered, and stated as being provided, on a beta or prototype basis ("**Beta Services**"). Beta Services are provided "as-is" for limited testing and evaluation purposes only, and we may suspend, modify, or discontinue them at any time without notice. Beta Services are excluded from any indemnification obligations we may have to

you under these terms. For the purposes of the rest of these terms the Beta Services will be treated as part of the Service and the terms apply to the Beta Services, save that in the event of any conflict between this Clause 5 and the remainder, this Clause 5 will take precedence.

- 5.2 We expressly disclaim all warranties (whether express, implied, statutory, or otherwise) with respect to any Beta Services, including any warranty of availability, uninterrupted or error-free operation, accuracy, non-infringement, merchantability, satisfactory quality, or fitness for a particular purpose. We do not guarantee that any Content associated with or generated by Beta Services will be retained or recoverable if the Beta Services are modified or discontinued.
- 5.3 Without limitation to the remainder of these terms, you acknowledge and agree that you are solely responsible for all use you make of any Beta Services. You assume all risk of loss or damage arising from such use, including any reliance on results, data, or other outputs provided through the Beta Services.
- 5.4 In consideration for our provision of the Beta Services, you agree to provide reasonable feedback to us regarding your experience with the Beta Services, and you grant us a worldwide, non-exclusive, royalty-free licence to use, reproduce, and incorporate such feedback into our products, services and documentation without restriction.

6. Intellectual property rights

- 6.1 We and our affiliates, licensors, and partners own all right, title, and interest (including all intellectual property and proprietary rights) in and to the Service, as well as any software, technology, materials, and content provided through or in connection with the Service (excluding any Input you provide, as set out in Section 4). Except for the limited licences expressly granted to you in these terms, no other licence or right is granted or implied. You shall not remove, obscure, or alter any proprietary notices or markings on the Service or any related documentation.
- 6.2 We welcome your suggestions, ideas, or other feedback regarding the Service ("**Feedback**"). By submitting Feedback, you grant us (and our affiliates, licensors, and partners) a worldwide, non-exclusive, perpetual, irrevocable, sublicensable, royalty-free licence to use, reproduce, modify, distribute, display, perform, and create derivative works of such Feedback for any purpose, including incorporating it into and improving our products, services and documentation without restriction, in all cases without compensation to you.

7. Confidentiality

- 7.1 You recognise that you may receive business, technical, or financial information, materials, or other subject matter in your use of the Service which (a) is designated as confidential at the time of receipt, or (b) should reasonably be understood to be confidential under the circumstances of its provision and receipt (together, "**Confidential Information**").
- 7.2 You agree that you will:
 - (a) use the Confidential Information solely to exercise your rights or fulfil your obligations under these terms;
 - (b) take reasonable measures to protect the Confidential Information and prevent any unauthorised use or disclosure; and
 - (c) not disclose the Confidential Information to any third party except as expressly permitted in these terms or with our prior written consent.

- 7.3 The obligations in Clause 7.1 do not apply to any information that:
- (a) is or becomes generally available to the public through no fault of yours;
 - (b) was in your lawful possession prior to receipt from us and was not obtained from us;
 - (c) is rightfully disclosed to you by a third party without restriction on disclosure; or
 - (d) is independently developed by you without use of or reference to the Confidential Information.
- 7.4 You may disclose Confidential Information only to your employer, professional advisors and agents who have a need to know such information for the purpose of you complying with these terms and who are You Recipient remain responsible for any breach of these confidentiality obligations by your employer, professional advisors and agents. You may disclose Confidential Information to the extent required by law, court order, or governmental authority, provided that you use reasonable efforts to give us prior notice (to the extent legally permitted) so we may seek a protective order or other remedy.
- 7.5 You acknowledge that the processing of your Content by us and our third-party providers is necessary for us to provide, maintain, and improve the Service. We will treat your Content as Confidential Information under this Clause 7 unless otherwise permitted by these terms or our Privacy Policy (for example, where anonymised or aggregated data is used for analytics). This Clause 7 does not limit our right to:
- (a) log, store, or analyse your Content as described in these terms (including Clause 4 and our Privacy Policy); or
 - (b) take any action required by law or reasonably necessary to investigate potential violations of these terms or non-compliance with applicable law.
- 8. Registering with us**
- 8.1 To use the Service, you must register an account with us by completing the registration form available on the Site. You only need to register once, provided you continue to meet the eligibility criteria in these terms and keep your account in good standing.
- 8.2 To register and remain registered, you must satisfy the following minimum eligibility criteria:
- (a) You must be at least 18 years of age; and
 - (b) You must not be disqualified from registering pursuant to any eligibility criteria we may publish from time to time on the Site (which may apply to specific parts of features of the Service).
- 8.3 You are responsible for ensuring that you meet all eligibility requirements before registering or using any particular Service or feature. By registering, you represent and warrant that you meet all applicable eligibility criteria.
- 8.4 When registering, you must provide us with accurate, complete, and up-to-date information (including your name and email address). You agree to keep this information current and to promptly update your account details if any changes occur. You are responsible for all information you provide, and we reserve the right to suspend or terminate your account if any information is found to be incomplete, inaccurate, or misleading.

- 8.5 We may, in our sole discretion, refuse registration requests or revoke account access if we believe you do not meet the eligibility criteria, have violated these terms, do not comply with our acceptable use policy, or for any other lawful reason.

9. Username and password

- 9.1 Upon registration for an account with us, you will be asked to create a username and password. You must keep your username and password confidential at all times and use it only to access and use your account and not for any other purpose. You are the only authorised user of your account and, accordingly, you must not disclose your username and/or password to anyone else. You should [contact us](#) immediately upon discovering any unauthorised use of your account or error in the operation of your username and/or password. Any breach of these terms and/or any use of your account by anyone to whom you disclose your username and/or password will be treated as if the breach or use had been carried out by you, and will not relieve you of your obligations to us.

10. Changes to the Service and terms

- 10.1 We continually review and update our Service offerings, and therefore reserve the right, in our sole discretion, to make changes to any aspect of the Service (including without limitation to add, modify, or remove features from the Service) or to these terms from time to time. We will give you as much notice as reasonably possible of any significant changes. You may choose to accept these changes or terminate your subscription without penalty. If you wish to terminate your account or subscription, you must notify us before the date on which the changes come into effect (as indicated in our notice). If you continue to use the Service after the changes take effect, you will be deemed to have accepted the updated terms.
- 10.2 You acknowledge that your acceptance of these terms is linked to your user account (via your Springer Nature ID) and not to any specific device. Once you have accepted these terms on your account, you will generally not be required to re-consent when accessing the Service. However, we reserve the right to request that you re-confirm your acceptance of these terms at any time (for example and without limitation, in the event of material changes or if we consider a long period has passed since your last acceptance).

11. Service suspension and termination

- 11.1 The term of our agreement with you in relation to your use of the Service will commence upon the earlier of your online acceptance of these terms or the date you first use the Service, and will remain in effect until terminated in accordance with these terms or until we cease to make the Service available to you, whichever is earlier ("**Term**").
- 11.2 You can stop using our Service and end your relationship with Springer Nature at any time by terminating your account but you must notify us on customerservice@springernature.com if you wish to do so.
- 11.3 We may, from time to time, with or without prior notice, temporarily suspend the operation of any Service and/or the Site (in whole or in part) for repair or maintenance work or in order to update or upgrade any contents, features or functionality.
- 11.4 We may, with or without prior notice, terminate these terms and/or suspend and/or terminate any Service and/or your use of your account in the event that:
- (a) you have breached any of these terms, in particular but without limitation Clause 3.1(b);
 - (b) we are required to do so to comply with applicable law;

- (c) you breach our acceptable use policy; or
 - (d) your use of the Service could cause risk or harm to us, our users, or anyone else.
- 11.5 If you have breached these terms, we may take such action as we deem appropriate. Such a breach by you may result in our taking, with or without notice, all or any of the following actions:
- (a) issue of a warning to you;
 - (b) immediate, temporary or permanent withdrawal of your right to use any Service and/or the Site;
 - (c) legal proceedings against you, including without limitation for reimbursement of all recoverable loss and damage resulting from the breach; and/or
 - (d) disclosure of all relevant information to law enforcement authorities as we reasonably feel is necessary.
- 11.6 The responses described above are not limited, and we may take any other action we deem appropriate.
- 11.7 If we terminate your account, we will make reasonable efforts to notify you in advance so you can export your Content or your data from the Service, unless it is not appropriate for us to do so, we reasonably believe that continued access to your account will cause damage to us or anyone else, or we are legally prohibited from doing so.
- 11.8 If you believe we have suspended or terminated your account in error, you can file an appeal with us by contacting us at the contact details provided in clause 15.
- 11.9 Upon termination of any Service or your account, for any reason:
- (a) all rights granted to you under these terms will immediately cease; and
 - (b) you must promptly discontinue all use of the relevant Service.
- 11.10 Upon termination or expiration of our agreement with you, the provisions that are intended by their nature to survive termination will survive and continue in full force and effect in accordance with their terms, including confidentiality obligations, limitations of liability, and disclaimers. Termination or expiration will not affect any rights or obligations which have accrued under these terms up to the date of termination or expiration.

12. Warranties

- 12.1 Except as expressly stated in Section 2.2, the Service (including any content on or features of the Service and any Output) are provided on an “as is” and “as available” basis. To the fullest extent permitted by applicable law, we disclaim all implied warranties, conditions, and other terms, including (without limitation) any implied warranties of merchantability, title, non-infringement, satisfactory quality, or fitness for a particular purpose. We do not warrant that the Service (or any portion thereof) will be uninterrupted, secure, error-free, or that Content will be accurate, reliable, complete, free of defects, or not lost or damaged. We further disclaim any warranties arising from course of dealing, usage, or trade practice.

13. Our liability

- 13.1 Nothing in these terms shall limit or exclude our liability to you:

- (a) for death or personal injury caused by our negligence;
 - (b) for fraudulent misrepresentation;
 - (c) for breach of any term implied by the Consumer Rights Act 2015 and which, by law, may not be limited or excluded; or
 - (d) for any other liability that, by law, may not be limited or excluded.
- 13.2 Subject to this, if you are a consumer and not a business customer, in no event shall we be liable to you for any business losses, and if you are a business customer, in no event shall we be liable to you for any indirect or consequential losses, or for any loss of profit, revenue, contracts, data, goodwill or other similar losses, and any liability we do have for losses you suffer arising from your use of the Service shall not exceed £100 and is strictly limited to losses caused by our breach of these terms and/or that were reasonably foreseeable. Losses are “reasonably foreseeable” only if they were an obvious consequence of our breach or if they were contemplated by both you and us at the time you first agreed to these terms.
- 13.3 You acknowledge that the Service (including any Output) are provided in accordance with these terms, and we shall not be liable for:
- (a) any reliance you place on the accuracy, completeness, or suitability of any Content;
 - (b) loss, corruption, or unauthorised disclosure of data resulting from your failure to comply with these terms or to use reasonable security precautions; or
 - (c) any direct or indirect failure to perform, or delay in performing, any obligation caused by events or circumstances beyond our reasonable control (including acts of God, natural disasters, war, civil unrest, strikes, internet failures, or governmental actions).

14. General

- 14.1 All notices given by you to us must be given in writing to the address set out at the end of these terms. We may give notice to you at either the email or postal address you provide to us when placing an order.
- 14.2 If we fail to enforce any of our rights, that does not result in a waiver of that right.
- 14.3 If any provision of these terms is found to be unenforceable, all other provisions shall remain unaffected.
- 14.4 There are no intended third party beneficiaries to these terms, and it is your and our specific intent that nothing contained in these terms will give rise to any right or cause of action, contractual or otherwise, in or on behalf of any third party.
- 14.5 You may not assign or transfer any rights or obligations under these terms. We may assign or transfer our rights or obligations under these terms to any affiliate or subsidiary or any successor in interest of any business associated with our Service.
- 14.6 These terms may not be varied except with our express written consent.
- 14.7 These terms and any document expressly referred to in them represent the entire agreement between you and us.

14.8 These terms shall be governed by English law, except that (if you are a consumer and not a business user) and if you live in a country of the European Union, there may be certain mandatory applicable laws of your country which apply for your benefit and protection in addition to or instead of certain provisions of English law.

14.9 You agree that any dispute between you and us regarding these terms will only be dealt with by the English courts, except that (if you are a consumer and not a business user) and if you live in a country of the European Union, you can choose to bring legal proceedings either in your country or in England, but if we bring legal proceedings, we may only do so in your country.

15. Contacting us

15.1 Please submit any questions you have about these terms or any complaint or concern in relation to any Service ordered by email to researchassistant@nature.com or write to us at:

Springer Nature Limited
The Campus, 4 Crinan Street
London N1 9XW

16. Copyright complaints

16.1 We respect the intellectual property rights of others, and we request that our visitors do the same. It is our policy to terminate the accounts of users who repeatedly infringe the rights of others. If you believe that your intellectual property rights have been infringed, you may notify our copyright agent, who can be reached at:

Springer Nature Limited
The Campus, 4 Crinan Street
London N1 9XW
Attention: Legal Department
Email: copyrightagent@springernature.com
Phone: +44 7833 4000

Please include all of the following in your notification:

- (a) A physical or electronic signature of the person authorised to act on behalf of the owner of an exclusive copyright that is allegedly infringed;
- (b) a description of the copyrighted work you claim has been infringed;
- (c) a description of where the material you claim is infringing is located on the site;
- (d) your address, telephone number, email address and all other information reasonably sufficient to permit us to contact you;
- (e) a statement by you that you have a good faith belief that the disputed use is not authorised by the copyright owner, its agent or the law; and
- (f) a statement by you, made under penalty of perjury, that the above information in your notice is accurate and that you are the copyright owner or authorised to act on behalf of the owner of an exclusive right that is allegedly infringed.