Edinburgh University Press

Book Proposal Guidelines

Edinburgh University Press is pleased to evaluate proposals for books which are suited to our publishing lists. We will only receive proposals and sample material via email attachment (as Word documents not as PDFs). Proposals that clearly fall outside our subject areas will not be considered or acknowledged and printed material will not be returned unless a stamped, addressed envelope is provided.

Only exceptionally will we consider PhD theses (where the author shows exceptional promise and the work is highly marketable and appropriately revised) or conference proceedings (where a publication has been planned to be coherent, marketable and where funding is available).

Our subject areas, and the name and contact details of the relevant commissioning editor, are:

Literary Studies; Sponsored Books
Commissioning Editor: Jackie Jones (Jackie.Jones@eup.ed.ac.uk)

Islamic & Middle Eastern Studies; Politics
Commissioning Editor: Nicola Ramsey (Nicola.Ramsey@eup.ed.ac.uk)

Linguistics & English Language; Film & Media Studies
Commissioning Editor: Vicki Donald (Vicki.Donald@eup.ed.ac.uk)

Philosophy; Classics & Ancient History
Commissioning Editor: Carol Macdonald (Carol.Macdonald@eup.ed.ac.uk)

Scottish History; Scottish Law
Commissioning Editor: John Watson (John.Watson@eup.ed.ac.uk)

Commissioning and Review Process
Your proposal will be read and responded to by the relevant subject Commissioning Editor and sent out for anonymous scholarly peer review if the project fits the editor’s list, and is regarded as both academically distinctive and commercially viable. Your Editor will pass on the readers’ comments as soon as they are complete (generally within 4 to 8 weeks). You will be asked to respond to the reports where appropriate and to amend your outline in response to them if necessary. If, in your Editor’s judgement, the academic and financial criteria for a potentially successful EUP publication have been met, the project will be presented for contract approval to the University’s academic Press Committee and an internal Editorial Committee at the same monthly meeting. Your Editor will inform you of the publishing decision following the meeting and, if the proposal has been accepted, you will shortly be sent a contract.
Preparation of Book Proposals
Proposals should be in the region of 10 pages.

When proposing a book to us, we would appreciate a proposal structured in the following way:

Title
Although provisional at this stage, a good title is vital for the marketing of your book. The main title should be short, clear and informative and may be followed by an explanatory sub-title.

Author
Please include your affiliation.

Headline
Please summarise your book pithily and to command attention in no more than 15 words.

Pitch
Please provide a short, one paragraph (100-150-word) description of your book which summarises in plain English in the present tense the main purpose of your book and its benefits to your reader. Please avoid clichés and often-used words (e.g. ‘accessible’, ‘comprehensive’, ‘path-breaking’, ‘original’, ‘ground-breaking’). You may like to pose some questions which the book answers; and to address your reader. Here is a sample ‘pitch’:

*Literary Criticism: A New History*

Did you know that Aristotle thought the best tragedies were those that ended happily? Or that the first mention of the motor car in literature may have been in 1791 in Boswell's *Life of Johnson*? Or that it was not unknown in the nineteenth century for book reviews to be 30,000 words long? These are just a few of the fascinating facts to be found in this absorbing history of literary criticism. From the Ancient Greek period to the present day, you learn about critics' lives, the times in which they lived and how the same problems of interpretation and valuation persist through the ages.

Key Features
Please provide 3-4 features which clearly describe the distinctive qualities and benefits of your book, e.g. ‘10 case studies each explaining a different aspect of sociolinguistic variation’; ‘Sets out a new agenda for radical democracy which will change the subject as you know it’.

Keywords
Please provide a brief list of keywords which are relevant to your book and which would be primary search terms in a database (e.g. ‘postcolonial’, ‘globalisation’, ‘James Joyce’, ‘Qur’an’, ‘Gandhi’, ‘phonology’, ‘Scottish’, ‘Aristotle’).
Short synopsis of the aims, scope, argument and approach of the book
• The subject area and the way you will approach and present the topics should be stated clearly and a clear impression of the overall structure and level should be provided.
• What themes, concepts and ideas will be developed?
• What depth of coverage will you be offering?
• What will be included and what will be left out (and why)?

Chapter-by-chapter description of content and form
This should include a list of chapters as well as main sub-headings, where appropriate. A paragraph outlining the content of each chapter should also be provided along with an estimated word count for each chapter.

Please include at the end of each chapter description a note of the key authors, texts, case studies or examples which will be covered.

Category of book and readership level
Please specify into which category your book primarily falls:

Textbook: the book will introduce or synthesise (and may also intervene in relevant ways in) a subject area aimed at students with little or no prior knowledge of the subject. It will be a required purchase for all students on a recognised course across a range of institutions.

Scholarly monograph: suitable for academics and researchers in the field. A monograph will be based on original scholarly research and make a notable contribution to the subject.

Reference work: a dictionary, companion or encyclopaedia for students and researchers at all levels. This type of book should collect together, summarise, define or significantly add to information in one topic area.

Market & Readership
• What markets will your book reach (within and outside the UK)?
• Please define your primary readerships.
• Please list the subject area(s) and examples of courses for which the book will be appropriate. If your proposed book is a textbook, please supply information about the courses on which it is likely to be adopted (e.g. title of courses; number of students).

Competition
• Please list competing publications, including details of author(s), title, publisher, date of publication, and price, and comment on what distinguishes your book from the competition.

Word count
This should include any preface, acknowledgements, notes, bibliography and appendices although not the index.
Writing schedule to delivery of complete typescript
Please indicate when you expect realistically and confidently to be able to deliver a complete and final typescript and please include a writing schedule.

Sample material
Please supply a sample chapter or recently published material related to your proposed book.

CV
This should include a list of relevant publications, full postal address, contact numbers and email address.

Readers
Please provide the names and addresses (including email addresses) of four specialist readers (two based in the UK and two in North America) whose opinion of the proposal we might seek.

Books in a Series
If you are proposing a book for inclusion in an Edinburgh University Press series, please list the series title and series editors, and outline the ways in which your book is relevant to the series aims.

Edited Collections
If you are proposing an edited collection the following information will also be required:
• Names and affiliations of suggested authors and a note of whether they have agreed to contribute.
• How are the contributions to be commissioned, collected and edited?
• What quality control and editing procedures will be adopted?

Books with Illustrations
If you wish to propose essential illustrations to accompany the text, please specify types (photographs, maps, diagrams), the number to be included in each chapter and the availability of financial resources to cover the costs of any copyright permissions. Please assume black and white printing unless you have access to funding to cover the costs of colour printing.

These details will help us to review your proposal promptly.

Thank you.