

Publishing: What? Why? Where?

For PhD students in Educational Sciences in Italy, belonging to the scientific-disciplinary sectors (SSD) PED/02, D11/1, and D11/2, it is essential to carefully plan publications to foster a solid academic career.

Selection of journals and publishing venues

- **A-ranked or scientific journals (see PDFs):** Focus on journals classified as qualified by the National Agency for the Evaluation of the University and Research System (ANVUR). These journals are highly recognized, and publications in them carry significant weight in academic evaluations.
 - **Scientific Journal:** A publication that meets ANVUR's scientific criteria, such as having a qualified editorial board, double-blind peer review procedures, and recognized dissemination within the scientific community.
 - **A- ranked Journal:** In addition to fulfilling the requirements of a scientific journal, an A-Ranked journal is recognized for international excellence, rigorous double-blind peer review procedures, and high impact within the field. These journals are often included in major national and international databases.
- **Indexed journals:** Publishing in journals indexed in international databases such as Scopus or Web of Science increases the visibility and impact of research. These journals are typically classified as A-ranked.
- **Recognized publishers:** For monographs or book chapters, choose prestigious publishers recognized by ANVUR. There is no list, but the criteria are similar for publication in A-ranked or scientific journals.

Implications for PhD students in SSD PED/02, D11/1, and D11/2

Publishing in A-ranked journals can have several positive implications:

- **Research evaluation:** Publications in A-ranked journals are highly valued in academic evaluation processes, such as the National Scientific Qualification (ASN). These publications can significantly contribute to meeting the required thresholds for qualification for higher academic roles.
- **Career Advancement:** A strong scientific output in A-ranked journals enhances a PhD student's academic profile, increasing opportunities for positions such as tenure-track researcher (RTT) or other academic roles.
- **Recognition in the scientific community:** Publishing in high-prestige journals helps consolidate a researcher's reputation within the scientific community, facilitating collaborations and participation in significant research projects.

Research evaluation criteria

In the field of Educational Sciences, often classified as a non-bibliometric sector, research evaluation is based on qualitative rather than quantitative criteria like Impact Factor. Key aspects include:

- **Quality and relevance of publications:** Emphasis is placed on the depth and originality of contributions, as well as their relevance in the educational field.
- **Monographs and book chapters:** These works are highly valued, especially if published with recognized prestigious publishers.
- **Contributions in journals with ISSN and volumes with ISBN:** Articles in journals with ISSN and contributions in books with ISBN are considered significant indicators of scientific output. DOIs are an essential quality criterion.
- **Double-blind peer reviewed publications:** Ensuring that publications undergo a rigorous peer review process guarantees research quality and reliability.
- **Impact on the scientific and professional community:** The influence exerted through citations, adoption of proposed methodologies, or practical implementation of research is an indicator of the work's relevance.
- **Participation in research projects:** Active involvement in national or international research projects demonstrates the ability to collaborate and contribute to sector progress.

Looking Ahead: Thresholds and Requirements for an Academic Career

- **National Scientific Qualification (ASN):** To access academic roles such as associate or full professor, obtaining ASN is necessary. This requires meeting specific quantitative and qualitative publication thresholds, which vary by SSD.
- **Research Quality Evaluation (VQR):** Academic institutions are periodically assessed through the VQR, which analyzes publication quality. Positively contributing to this evaluation can influence career opportunities.

Post-Doctoral Career Strategies

- **Diversification of publications:** In addition to scientific articles, consider publishing books, book chapters, and popular articles to reach a broader audience.
- **International collaborations:** Establishing collaborations with researchers and institutions abroad can enrich academic profiles and open new research opportunities.
- **Conference participation:** Presenting work at national and international conferences increases visibility and fosters professional networking.

Reminder: Requirements for RTT Positions

- **Doctorate degree:** A relevant PhD is required for the applicable academic competition sector.
- **Post-doctoral experience:** While not always mandatory, post-doctoral experience strengthens candidacy, demonstrating research continuity and maturity.
- **Scientific output:** A significant scientific output, with publications in nationally and internationally recognized journals, is essential.
 - **Publications in A-ranked journals:** Publications in ANVUR A-Ranked journals are highly valued.
 - **Monographs and book chapters:** Publishing monographs or book chapters with prestigious publishers positively contributes to evaluation.
- **Participation in research projects:** Engagement in national or international research projects, particularly in leadership roles, is a qualifying factor.
- **Teaching activities:** University teaching experience, even as a tutor or assistant, is often positively considered.