



Policy Document
VFAST Transactions on Software
Engineering

VFAST

Version 2024-25

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1 About the Journal

The ***VFAST Transactions on Software Engineering*** is a peer-reviewed scientific journal published by the VFAST-Research Platform. It was established in 2013 and covers the areas of software engineering and its applications. The aim of this journal is to provide an international platform for engineers and academicians all over the world to promote, share, and discuss various new issues and development in the field of software engineering and its application in Machine learning, Bioinformatics, Image processing, Robotics, Artificial Intelligence, and data science.

The Journal has started 4 issues per year from 2021 (January-March, April-June, July-September, and October-December)

ISSN: 2309-3978

Editor-in-Chief: Prof. Hejiao Huang, Department of Computer Science and Technology, Harbin Institute of Technology Shenzhen Graduate School, China

Dr. Farooq Ahmad, Associate Professor, COMSATS Lahore, Pakistan

2 Aims, Objectives and Scope

The ***VFAST Transactions on Software Engineering*** is a peer-reviewed scientific journal published by the VFAST-Research Platform. It was established in 2013 and covers the areas of software engineering and its applications. The aim of this journal is to provide an international platform for engineers and academicians all over the world to promote, share, and discuss various new issues and development in the field of software engineering and its application.

Further aim to make quality publication, for the purpose the research papers are passed through the rigorous peer-review process to ensure originality, relevance, and readability. The journal also seeks clearly written survey and review articles from experts in the field, to promote insightful understanding of the state-of-the-art and technology trends. The Objectives of the Journal are to continue to pursue a high level of research publications and assume leadership in research journals of the field with excellence.

2.1 Scope:

The journal publishes original papers including but not limited to the following fields:

- Automated Software Design and Synthesis
- Automated Software Specification
- Component-Based Software Engineering
- Computer-Supported Cooperative Work
- Formal Methods
- Knowledge Acquisition

- Object-Oriented Technology
- Patterns and Frameworks
- Process and Workflow Management
- Program Understanding Issues
- Programming Languages and Software Engineering
- Reflection and Metadata Approaches
- Reliability and Fault Tolerance
- Requirements Engineering
- Reverse Engineering
- Software Architecture
- Software Design Methods
- Software Domain Modeling and Meta-Modeling
- Software Engineering Decision Support
- Software Engineering Education
- Software Maintenance and Evolution
- Software Process Modeling
- Software Quality
- Software Reuse
- Software Testing
- Software applications in Machine learning, Bioinformatics, Image processing, Robotics, Artificial Intelligence etc.

3 Publisher

VFAST Research Platform G-76, Shaikh Maltoon Mardan, Pakistan Email: manager@vfast.org

4 Privacy Statement

4.1 Introduction

Your privacy is important to the VFAST Research Platform. This privacy statement provides information about the personal information that the system collects and the ways in which the journals uses that personal information.

4.2 Personal information collection

VFAST Research Platform may collect and use personal information that is necessary for the processing and publication of manuscripts submitted to us. This information may include names, affiliation and contact details; including emails, phone numbers and fax numbers.

4.3 Using personal information

Any personal information received by VFAST Research Platform will only be used to: process and publish your manuscript.

- administer this website;
- personalize the website for you;
- enable your access to and use of the website services;
- process your manuscript;
- publish your manuscript;
- send to you communication about your manuscript
- send to you statements and invoices;
- collect payments from you; and
- send you marketing communications.

Where VFAST Research Platform discloses your personal information to its agents or sub-contractors for these purposes, the agent or sub-contractor in question will be obligated to use that personal information in accordance with the terms of this privacy statement.

In addition to the disclosures reasonably necessary for the purposes identified elsewhere above, VFAST Research Platform may disclose your personal information to the extent that it is required to do so by law, in connection with any legal proceedings or prospective legal proceedings, and in order to establish, exercise or defend its legal rights.

4.4 Securing your data

VFAST Research Platform will take reasonable technical and organizational precautions to prevent the loss, misuse or alteration of your personal information.

4.5 Cross-border data transfers

Information that the VFAST Research Platform collects may be stored and processed in and transferred between any of the countries in which the VFAST Research Platform operates to enable the use of the information in accordance with this privacy policy.

In addition, personal information that you submit for publication on the website will be published on the internet and may be available around the world.

You agree to such cross-border transfers of personal information.

4.6 Updating this statement

VFAST Research Platform may update this privacy policy by posting a new version on this website.

You should check this page occasionally to ensure you are familiar with any changes.

5 Submission

5.1 Submission Preparation Checklist

As part of the submission process, authors are required to check off their submission's compliance with all of the following items, and submissions may be returned to authors that do not adhere to these guidelines.

- The submission has not been previously published, nor is it before another journal for consideration (or an explanation has been provided in Comments to the Editor).
- The submission file is in OpenOffice, Microsoft Word, RTF, or WordPerfect document file format.
- **Format of the Research Paper:** After the acceptance, authors will require to make the manuscript as per the format: VTSE Template,
- **The originality of the Work:** As per our policy, VFAST considers only original papers that have not been published elsewhere and are not currently under consideration by another conference/journal. In addition, if authors have used their own previously published work or work under review as a basis for their manuscript, they are required to cite the previous work and indicate how the manuscript presents novel contributions beyond those of the previous work. For sequence similarity the Turnitin software shall be used, the required threshold should be less than 20% and the individual rate should be less than 5%..
- VTSE is an open-access journal with publishing fees of Rs. 25000

5.2 Author Guidelines

Manuscripts ([VTSE Latex Template](#)) should be typewritten in English on one side only with wide margins using single spacing throughout on pages of size: letter (8.5*11) double-column of column width 3.38 and spacing 0.25 with further requirements as described given below:

- The front page should contain the article title font size 16, Times New Roman, author's names are of size 10, and affiliation of font size 10, Times New Roman, abstract size 10, Times New Roman and italic; and keywords size 10, Times New Roman. The abstract should have 150-250 words and should be intelligible to general readers without recourse to the main text. A list of notations should be avoided, but new notations and departures from standard use should be explained in the text.
- Articles should, in general, begin with an introduction that adequately covers the literature and scope of the paper. Each section in the paper should be numbered. Each article

should have, in general, a conclusion or discussion section. Any appendices should follow the Reference section.

- Proper figure preparation is essential for optimum reproduction of line drawings and photographs. Figures and Tables should be placed as part of the text and should be numbered. Reprints, if needed, should be ordered as soon as the article is accepted for publication.
- References should be listed at the end of the main text in IEEE style. All in-text citations (references) should be listed in order, that is, [1], [3,4], [6-9], etc.

References :

[1]. G. Eason, B. Noble, and I. N. Sneddon, "On certain integrals of Lipschitz-Hankel type involving products of Bessel functions," Phil. Trans. Roy. Soc. London, vol. A247, pp. 529–551, April 1955.

[2]. J. Clerk Maxwell, A Treatise on Electricity and Magnetism, 3rd ed., vol. 2. Oxford: Clarendon, 1892, pp.68–73.

5.3 Copyright Notice

Authors who publish with this journal agree to the following terms:

- Authors retain copyright and grant the journal right of first publication with the work simultaneously licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution License \(CC-BY\)](#) that allows others to share the work with an acknowledgment of the work's authorship and initial publication in this journal.
- Authors are able to enter into separate, additional contractual arrangements for the non-exclusive distribution of the journal's published version of the work (e.g., post it to an institutional repository or publish it in a book), with an acknowledgement of its initial publication in this journal.
- Authors are permitted and encouraged to post their work online (e.g., in institutional repositories or on their website) prior to and during the submission process, as it can lead to productive exchanges, as well as earlier and greater citation of published work (See [The Effect of Open Access](#)).



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution License \(CC BY\)](#).

5.4 Privacy Statement

Introduction

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Using personal information

Any personal information received by VFAST Research Platform will only be used to process and publish your manuscript.

- administer this website;
- personalize the website for you;
- enable your access to and use of the website services;
- process your manuscript;
- publish your manuscript;
- send to you communication about your manuscript
- send to you statements and invoices;
- collect payments from you; and
- send you marketing communications.

Where VFAST Research Platform discloses your personal information to its agents or sub-contractors for these purposes, the agent or sub-contractor in question will be obligated to use that personal information in accordance with the terms of this privacy statement.

In addition to the disclosures reasonably necessary for the purposes identified elsewhere above, VFAST Research Platform may disclose your personal information to the extent that it is required to do so by law, in connection with any legal proceedings or prospective legal proceedings, and in order to establish, exercise or defend its legal rights.

Securing your data

VFAST Research Platform will take reasonable technical and organizational precautions to prevent the loss, misuse or alteration of your personal information.

Cross-border data transfers

Information that the VFAST Research Platform collects may be stored and processed in and transferred between any of the countries in which the VFAST Research Platform operates to enable the use of the information in accordance with this privacy policy. In addition, personal information that you submit for publication on the website will be published on the internet and may be available around the world. You agree to such cross-border transfers of personal information.

Updating this statement

VFAST Research Platform may update this privacy policy by posting a new version on this website. You should check this page occasionally to ensure you are familiar with any changes.

6 Journal Policies

6.1 Open Access Policy

The journal allows readers to freely read, download, copy, distribute, print, search, or link to the full texts of its articles and to use them for any other lawful purpose. This journal provides immediate open access to its content on the principle that making research freely available to the public supports a greater global exchange of knowledge.

6.2 Archiving and Preservation Policy

The VFAST Transactions on Software Engineering (VTSE) recognizes the importance of long-term access to scholarly content. We are committed to ensuring the continued accessibility of our published articles even if the journal ceases publication.

Multiple Layers of Backup and Accessibility:

- **Redundant Storage:** All of our electronic content, including website files and manuscripts, is stored on three separate servers along backup remotely with Continuous Data Protection with R1soft.
- . This ensures that content remains online and accessible to readers even if one server experiences an issue. Backups are continuously updated, and in the event of a server failure, we expect to restore full functionality within 24-36 hours.
- **Abstracting/Indexing Services:** Our published articles are registered with reputable Abstracting/Indexing services. These services not only store essential information about articles but may also archive metadata and even full-text versions. This provides an alternative access point for researchers seeking specific articles, independent of our main website.

Long-Term Archiving Plan:

In addition to the measures described above, we are actively developing a plan for the long-term electronic backup and preservation of our content. We are considering established archiving services like CLOCKSS and PubMedCentral to ensure our content remains accessible for future generations of scholars. We will update this section with details of our chosen archiving partner once finalized.

6.3 Publication Scheduling

1. Until 2020, the magazine was published annually
2. From 2021, the magazine is published quarterly

6.4 Review Policy

The journals use a double-blind review policy, which means that the reviewers and authors don't know the names of each other.

Steps in the Peer-Review Process

The peer-review process of VTSE described in the following table:

| No. | Step | Estimated Time (Days) |
|-----|---|-----------------------|
| 1 | Internal Review by the Editor | Maximum 7 days |
| 2 | Review Process after the successful initial step | 30-40 days |
| 3 | Communication of review reports to authors for minor/major revision | Maximum 7 days |
| 4 | Submission of the revised paper | 15 days |
| 5 | Submission of Compliance reports to the reviewers in case of major revision | 7 days |
| 6 | Acceptance of paper (on successful submission of revised paper) | 7 days |

Table 1: Peer-Review Process of VTSE

Total days from submission to Acceptance: 83 days

- Paper is returned to authors if it does not meet the initial screening in the first step.
- Paper is rejected/Accepted with minor changes/ Accepted with Major Changes in step2
- Final Acceptance within 3 months after step1.

Note: Authors are requested to revise the paper carefully in accordance with the reviewers' suggestions to avoid unnecessary delay in the review process.

6.5 Publication Ethics

VFAST Transactions on Software Engineering (VTSE) is a peer-reviewed journal dedicated to the advancement of education and social science research with excellence. The Journal doesn't compromise on quality and originality of research and followed the standard rules of publication ethics. In the journal all submitted manuscripts passes through plagiarism test as an initial screening. Further, it goes through Single-Blind peer review process. The final editorial decision of Acceptance/ Acceptance with minor revision/ Acceptance with major revision or Rejection depends on the reviewers recommendations.

To ensure the integrity of scholarly publishing: publisher, editors, reviewers and authors are required to follow the following ethical standards

Duties of Publisher:

As per the standards defined by Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) the publisher of VTSE is responsible for:

1. To define the relationship between publisher, editor and other parties in a contract
2. To respect privacy (for example, for research participants, for authors, for peer reviewers)
3. To protect intellectual property and copyright
4. To maintain the confidentiality of the submitted research work
5. To maintain Authorship – Transparency and integrity (for example, conflicts of interest, research funding, reporting standards – Peer review – Appeals and complaints)
6. To review journal policies periodically based on international standards of publication ethics
7. To implement code of conduct for editors, reviewers and authors
8. To maintain the integrity of the record
9. To investigate suspected research and publication misconduct
10. To Publish corrections, clarifications, and retractions
11. Publish content on a timely basis

Duties of Editors:

Editor is responsible for:

1. To check the submitted manuscript with the scope of the Journal
2. To check the similarity (if the overall similarity is more than 19% or one source similarity is more than 5% then straight away rejected)
3. To evaluate manuscript only for their intellectual contents without regard to the nature of author, institution or other influential reasons
4. To maintain the information of submitted manuscript confidential to anyone other than reviewers, section editors and publisher
5. Not to use the disclosed unpublished material and idea of the submitted manuscript for his/her own research

Duties of Reviewers:

Reviewers are responsible for:

1. To review that manuscript for which they feel qualified
2. To evaluate a manuscript in the assigned and agreed bracket time
3. To maintain the information of submitted manuscript confidential
4. To conduct review objectively and should not use personal criticism of the author
5. To identify the relevant published work which is not cited

6. To take notice and inform the editor if they get any type of substantial similarity in idea or in text
7. To keep confidential the ideas obtained through peer review and must not use for personal advantage
8. To not take the manuscript for evaluation, in case, of any conflicts of interest based on any connection with authors or institutions related to the submitted research

Duties of Authors:

1. Authors should submit original research with objective discussion of its significance. A manuscript should contain existing ideas with references and contribution with logical evidences
2. Authors are bound to make available the raw data if they asked to provide in connection with a paper for editorial review
3. Authors must adhere to the publication requirements of VTSE during submissions, such as the copyright license agreement and copyright transfer as mentioned in "[authorGuidelines](#)".
4. Authorship should be limited to those who have made a significant contribution to the conception, design, execution, or interpretation of the reported study
5. It is to make sure that all authors have seen the final approved version and they have no conflict in submission
6. It is to make sure that all authors should disclose that they have no conflict of interest in this submission and possible publication

6.6 Authorship Policy

VFAST Transactions on Software Engineering (VTSE) adheres to the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) guidelines for authorship to ensure the proper attribution of intellectual contributions to published articles. This policy aims to promote fairness, transparency, and accuracy in scholarly recognition.

Criteria for Authorship:

- **Substantial contributions to the conception and design of the study, acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data.** Contributions must be significant and directly impact the scientific content of the paper.
- **Drafting or revising the paper or intellectual content.** Authors should be actively involved in shaping the written document and its scientific message.
- **Final approval of the version to be published.** All authors must agree to the content and its accuracy before submission.

Order of Authorship:

- The order of authorship should reflect the relative contributions of authors to the work. Authors should discuss and agree upon the order before submission.

- Significant contributors who do not meet all authorship criteria may be acknowledged in the Acknowledgements section.

Responsibilities of Authors:

- Authors are responsible for ensuring that all contributors are appropriately listed and that no one is unjustifiably excluded.
- Authors should disclose any potential conflicts of interest to the Editor-in-Chief before submission.
- Authors must be prepared to respond to questions about their contributions and collaborate with co-authors to address any issues related to authorship.

Addressing Disputes:

- In case of disagreements regarding authorship, VTSE follows the COPE guidelines for resolving authorship disputes. Authors are encouraged to discuss the issue openly and objectively.
- If a resolution cannot be reached, the Editor-in-Chief may seek an independent opinion or involve relevant professional bodies.

Additional Considerations:

- Honorary authorship (e.g., granting authorship to someone who made no significant contribution) is strictly discouraged.
- Guest authorship, where someone is invited to contribute but did not participate in the research, is also discouraged.
- VTSE reserves the right to retract articles where authorship is found to be fraudulent or inaccurate.

This policy is intended to promote responsible authorship practices and ensure the integrity of published research in VTSE. We encourage authors to familiarize themselves with these guidelines and to consult the Editor-in-Chief with any questions or concerns.

6.7 Advertising Policy

Advertising Policy for VFAST Transactions on Software Engineering

1. **Independence from Editorial Decisions:** All advertisements and commercially sponsored publications in VFAST Transactions on Software Engineering remain independent from editorial decisions. The journal does not endorse any product or service marked as an advertisement or sponsored by a third party.
2. **Advertisement Review and Standards:** VFAST Transactions on Software Engineering reserves the right to decline advertising that could damage the journal's brand or is incongruent with its content. Advertisements for products or services known to be harmful to health, such as tobacco and alcohol, will not be accepted.

3. **Truthfulness and Clarity:** Advertisements must be truthful, verifiable, and clearly identify the advertiser and the product or service being offered. Exaggerated or misleading content, including text and artwork, is not permitted.
4. **Content Sensitivity and Withdrawal:** Advertisements must not be indecent, offensive, or related to personal, racial, ethnic, sexual orientation, or religious content. Upon request from the Editor(s)-in-Chief or Publisher, advertisements deployed online may be withdrawn from the journal site.
5. **Targeted Campaign Restrictions:** Treatment- or drug-specific campaigns cannot be targeted to specific articles or pages related to the advertised product. Advertisers may not link to articles using keywords or target advertising based on article content.
6. **Compliance with Legislation:** Advertisements for drug-specific campaigns must comply with relevant European and UK advertising legislation. Advertisers must provide marketing authorization and product characteristics information.
7. **Editorial and Advertising Distinction:** Advertisements and editorial content must be clearly distinguishable. Sponsored supplements must be labeled as such, and if applicable, their review process should be explicitly stated.
8. **Editorial Independence:** Editorial decisions are not influenced by sponsors or advertisers, and marketing decisions do not affect editorial processes.
9. **Adverse Advertisement Requests:** Requests for advertisements outside standard positions require approval from the editorial team within two business days.
10. **Complaints Handling:** Complaints regarding advertisements should be directed to VTSE@vfast-iccass.com

Advertising Standards Authorities:

- Complaints about published medicines advertisements are investigated by the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) and are monitored for compliance with British Codes of Advertising and Sales Promotion.
- The Prescription Medicines Code of Practice Authority (PMCPA) considers complaints about prescription medicines advertising under the ABPI Code of Practice for the Pharmaceutical Industry.

Note: This policy is effective as of 10/02/2024.

For further information or inquiries, please contact us at the Journal Contact Information.

6.8 Copyright Policy

VTSE supports open access principles and operates under the terms of the Attribution 3.0 License (CC-BY). This license permits others to distribute and copy articles, create extracts, abstracts, and other revised versions or derivative works, including translations. It also allows inclusion in collective works such as anthologies and text or data mining, even for commercial purposes.

Under the CC-BY license, users must:

- Credit the author(s) appropriately.
- Not represent the author(s) as endorsing their adaptation of the article.
- Refrain from modifying the article in a manner that damages the author's honor or reputation.

By publishing with VTM, authors grant permission for their work to be freely accessed, distributed, and adapted under the terms of the CC-BY 3.0 License.

We believe that this open-access model encourages collaboration, innovation, and the dissemination of scholarly research.

For more details about the [CC-BY 3.0 License](#), please refer to the Creative Commons website.

[Licenses Deed](#)

[Legal Code](#)

6.9 Plagiarism Policy

Plagiarism involves presenting language, text, thoughts, ideas, or expressions from other authors as one's own original work. This encompasses self-plagiarism, including duplicate or redundant publication, text recycling, and salami slicing. VFAST Transactions on Software Engineering (VTSE) adheres to the guidelines, standards, and policies of COPE and the Higher Education Commission (HEC), Pakistan, regarding plagiarism.

VTSE conducts similarity checks using TURNITIN, and reports are communicated to authors. According to the policy, the required threshold is up to 19% overall, with no more than 4% from a single source.

6.10 Citations Policy

The following guidelines outline crucial principles for responsible authorship and citation practices, aligned with the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) guidelines:

Accurate and Relevant Citations:

- All articles, regardless of their nature, must support claims with relevant and up-to-date literature. Citations should not be used solely for embellishment or padding.
- Ensure the cited source directly supports the claim being made and is not misrepresented.

Ethical Self-Citation:

- Self-citation is acceptable when relevant and justified to build upon your previous work or establish connections within your research program. However, excessive self-citation solely to inflate citation counts is unethical and unacceptable.
- Avoid manipulating author lists or collaborating with others for the sole purpose of increasing citations.

Balanced References:

- Select references fairly and objectively, representing the field's breadth and diversity. Do not prioritize citing articles published in the same journal as your submission without compelling justification.
- Avoid omitting relevant work, even if it contradicts your findings. Transparency and comprehensiveness are essential.

Consequences of Citation Manipulation:

- Manuscripts identified as manipulating citations will be rejected. In severe cases, the author's institution may be informed.
- Authors have a responsibility to report any instances of editors or reviewers encouraging citation manipulation to the publisher.

Upholding Ethical Standards:

- By adhering to these guidelines, authors contribute to maintaining the integrity and trustworthiness of research and scholarly communication.

By embracing ethical citation practices, authors ensure the responsible advancement of knowledge and contribute to a credible and trustworthy research ecosystem.

6.11 Data Sharing Policy

VAWKUM Transactions on Software Engineering (VTSE) encourages authors to share data underlying their research in a responsible and ethical manner. This policy aims to promote transparency, reproducibility, and advancement of scientific knowledge.

Data Availability:

- Authors are encouraged to make research data underlying their published articles publicly available at the time of publication, whenever possible.
- Data should be deposited in reputable repositories relevant to the field, with clear access instructions provided in the article.
- VTSE supports journals that utilize the FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable) data principles.

Exceptions:

- Data sharing may be restricted due to ethical considerations, privacy concerns, or legal restrictions. Authors should clearly explain any limitations in data availability and justify their reasoning.
- In such cases, authors should provide sufficient information in the article to allow for independent verification of the research findings.

Responsibilities of Authors:

- Authors are responsible for ensuring data quality and accuracy.
- Authors should clearly document data collection methods, analysis procedures, and any relevant tools used.

Duties of Publisher:

- Authors should provide sufficient metadata to facilitate understanding and reuse of the data.

Support for Data Sharing:

- VTSE acknowledges the challenges associated with data sharing and encourages authors to consult institutional policies and support services.
- We may offer guidance on identifying suitable repositories and best practices for data preparation and documentation.

6.12 Publication Fee

All articles published in VTSE are openly accessible and freely available online immediately after publication. This is made possible through an Article Processing Fee (APF), which covers the spectrum of the publishing services we offer. This includes the provision of article production and hosting, the connection to abstraction and indexing services, and customer service. The APF, payable when your manuscript is editorially approved before its publication, will be paid either by you or by your funder institution, or employer.

The publication fee is actually the processing charges which are set minimum in order to promote our slogan of "Spreading ideas" without heavy financial constraints, the set fee is Rs. 25000/- only.

Publication Fee: The fee for paper publication is Rs. 25,000. This fee is essential for maintaining the standard of the journal, covering costs associated with editorial processes, publication infrastructure, and other expenses.

Sources of Funding:

1. **Higher Education Commission (HEC) Grant:** The Higher Education Commission provides grants to support journals in maintaining academic standards.
2. **Authors Fee:** We establish a nominal fee for authors to affordably access a quality platform for publishing their research. This fee adequately covers our expenses for running the journal and associated operations.

Journal Publication Fee Submission Process: Publication fees for the journal are to be submitted through bank transfer to the following account: **Account Title:** VFAST Research Platform **Account Number:** 55600081001049018 **IBAN:** PK80 BAML 5560008100104901 **Bank:** Bank Al Habib Limited

Please ensure that the transaction details are accurately filled in to facilitate the processing of your publication fee.

6.13 Direct Marketing Policy

This policy outlines the ethical and professional standards for conducting direct marketing activities on behalf of the VFAST Transactions on Software Engineering (VTSE). It applies to all forms of communication promoting the Journal, including emails, mailings, phone calls, and online advertising.

2. Guidelines:

- **Target Audience:** Direct marketing efforts shall be aimed at individuals or groups with a demonstrably legitimate interest in the Journal's field of study. Identifying information should be obtained ethically and legally.
- **Frequency and Tone:** Communication frequency shall be reasonable and respectful, considering recipient preferences and avoiding excessive contact. Language should be informative, professional, and objective, without exaggerated claims or misleading information.
- **Transparency and Accuracy:** All marketing materials must accurately represent the Journal and its publisher, including details about editorial focus, peer-review process, publication fees, submission guidelines, and the publisher's ethical standards.
- **Opt-Out Mechanism:** Each communication shall offer a clear and readily accessible opt-out option for recipients to unsubscribe from future marketing messages.
- **Compliance with Regulations:** All activities must comply with relevant anti-spam and data privacy regulations in applicable jurisdictions, including obtaining informed consent for data collection and processing.

3. Continuous Improvement:

The Journal will regularly review and update this policy to reflect best practices, ethical considerations, and changes in relevant regulations. Feedback from recipients and stakeholders will be actively sought to inform improvements.

4. Alignment with COPE and CORE:

This policy strives to align with the ethical principles and guidelines promoted by the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) and the Committee on Research Ethics (CORE), focusing on transparency, accountability, and respect for research integrity.

6.14 Retraction Policy

As per the COPE Retraction Policy <https://publicationethics.org/node/19896>, VFAST Research Platform adopt the same as mentioned below:

Key points

Editors should consider retracting a publication if:

- They have clear evidence that the findings are unreliable, either as a result of major error (eg, miscalculation or experimental error), or as a result of fabrication (eg, of data) or falsification (eg, image manipulation)
- It constitutes plagiarism
- The findings have previously been published elsewhere without proper attribution to previous sources or disclosure to the editor, permission to republish, or justification (ie, cases of redundant publication)
- It contains material or data without authorisation for use

- Copyright has been infringed or there is some other serious legal issue (eg, libel, privacy)
- It reports unethical research
- It has been published solely on the basis of a compromised or manipulated peer review process
- The author(s) failed to disclose a major competing interest (a.k.a. conflict of interest) that, in the view of the editor, would have unduly affected interpretations of the work or recommendations by editors and peer reviewers.

Notices of retraction should:

- Be linked to the retracted article wherever possible (ie, in all online versions)
- Clearly identify the retracted article (eg, by including the title and authors in the retraction heading or citing the retracted article)
- Be clearly identified as a retraction (ie, distinct from other types of correction or comment)
- Be published promptly to minimise harmful effects
- Be freely available to all readers (ie, not behind access barriers or available only to subscribers)
- State who is retracting the article
- State the reason(s) for retraction
- Be objective, factual and avoid inflammatory language

Retractions are not usually appropriate if:

- The authorship is disputed but there is no reason to doubt the validity of the findings
- The main findings of the work are still reliable and correction could sufficiently address errors or concerns
- An editor has inconclusive evidence to support retraction, or is awaiting additional information such as from an institutional investigation
- See also [Expressions of Concern](#) Forum discussion.
- Author conflicts of interest have been reported to the journal after publication, but in the editor's view these are not likely to have influenced interpretations or recommendations or the conclusions of the article.

Related resources:

- [Undisclosed conflict of interest in a published article](#), flowchart
- [The scientometrics of retractions](#), COPE European Seminar 2019
- [Retractions: a publisher's perspective](#), COPE European Seminar 2019
- [Guías para la retractación](#), Spanish translation