

All for the future.



South-Eastern Finland
University of Applied Sciences

Article Processing Charges at Xamk

Cai Weaver, Language Specialist

Development Services, Kouvola Campus.

cai.weaver@xamk.fi



South-Eastern Finland
University of Applied Sciences

OA Publishing at Xamk

- **Our APC processes aim to improve the impact of our work by making it openly available whenever possible.**
 - These processes are designed to support scientific publishing.
 - The APC process is a partnership between Library Services (Information Specialists) and RDI Development Services (Publication Specialists & Language Specialists).
- **We advise staff to primarily look for open publication channels that are covered by FinElib agreements or do not charge a fee.**
 - Projects are encouraged to include APCs in their budget.
 - We have a limited centralised fund to cover APCs as a last resort.
 - The budget resets yearly.



South-Eastern Finland
University of Applied Sciences

APC process started in 2022

- 2022: Paid everything (books, articles, image rights, printing charges) until the budget was gone.
- 2023: We implemented some limited criteria for APCs and updated our guidance for staff.
- 2024: We conducted a review and made the criteria more restrictive to only pay for Peer Reviewed Articles.
 - We added [guidance to LibGuides](#) and re-wrote our intranet guidance in clearer language.



South-Eastern Finland
University of Applied Sciences

Current APC Process

1. The author completes [a form](#) before sending the article to the journal.
 - The same process applies if a project is paying for the APC.
 - All APCs are recorded in a common ledger account (kirjanpitoili) to track the amount we pay.
2. The query arrives in a joint Teams channel and Excel spreadsheet.
 - Library Services checks the FinElib agreements
 - Development Services reviews the publication and checks the budget.
3. If there are no discounts or fee waivers, or the publication channel looks predatory, we try to locate alternative channels where they can publish their article OA without charge.
4. If we agree to pay the fee, we allocate/reserve the money in the budget (e.g., for 2025 or 2026).
5. The author is in contact with us throughout the publication process, and if there are delays or the article is rejected, we will reallocate the money accordingly.
6. The invoice is sent to process owner, checked, and forwarded to finance.
 - The budget spreadsheet is updated.
7. The author reports the publication and APC amount in JUSTUS.



South-Eastern Finland
University of Applied Sciences

APC Criteria

- The article must be a peer-reviewed research article (publication type A1, A2, A3 in the Ministry of Education and Culture's publication data collection).
 - We do not pay printing or licensing costs (e.g., if the journal adds extra costs for colour printing).
 - We do not cover the open access publishing costs of scientific books (C1) or edited works (C2).
- The APC must be paid to the corresponding author, and they must have an active Xamk affiliation when submitting the article.
 - Authors with double affiliations (e.g., doctoral researchers) should ask their university for funding if the article is part of their dissertation.
- The journal must be open access or hybrid and of 'good' quality. For example:
 - JUFO, SNIP 1.0, the journal is included in DOAJ.
 - The journal's editorial board includes well-known researchers in the field.
 - The peer review process should be transparent and detailed on the journal's website.
- The article is published under a Creative Commons license.
- The article does not receive APC funding from a project or other sources.
- The amount of the APC fee must be reported in euros in the JUSTUS service.



South-Eastern Finland
University of Applied Sciences

Good Practices & Challenges

- **Customer service mentality**
 - Common publishing & language services form
 - Assisting the author in finding alternative “free” or discounted publication channels.
 - Involved in the publishing process early on.
 - Identifying predatory publications.
- **Scientific writing coaching**
 - Support with writing articles and finding places to publish.
 - We usually edit the articles before publication and can intervene.
- **Cooperation between library and development services.**
- **Guidance**
 - Clear language when possible
 - Guides: APCs, licences, finding open & free journals, predatory publishing.
- **Finding publication channels**
 - More ‘closed’ channels are switching to an APC model and removing ‘paywalled’ options.
 - Balancing act: free vs impact, cheap vs good
- **Peer review & budget allocation**
 - A year’s budget might be entirely allocated by February, but we might end the year with a surplus.
 - Maintaining the common ledger account.
 - RDI Projects often finish before the APC is due.
- **Terminology**
 - FinElib can be difficult to navigate
 - Staff are heavily reliant on our services
- **OA books & Finnish publications**
 - Budget is mostly allocated to English language publications
 - OA books can give more publication points than articles...



South-Eastern Finland
University of Applied Sciences



All for the future.