**Peer Review Process**

All manuscripts must be submitted through the Open Journal System (OJS), which guarantees the electronic and auditable record of the interactions between the publication and the authors. Once consigned, the Board of Editors reviews that the originals comply with the objective and scope of the publication, as well as with the [**authors' standards**](https://retos.ups.edu.ec/pdf/retos/Normativa%20Retos%20en%20espa%C3%B1ol%202019%281%29.pdf).

The texts that pass this first screening, continue with the editorial process. All manuscripts are reviewed by the arbitration system of "Double-blind peer-review" experts in the field who do not belongto the authors' institution. This process guarantees the anonymization of documents, authors and reviewers, certifying the transparency, objectivity and impartiality of the review process. The review report and scale used by external reviewerscan be found [**here**](https://retos.ups.edu.ec/pdf/docs/retos/6E-Protocoloevaluacinestudios.pdf)**.**

The entire review process, from the moment of deposit of the manuscripts through the OJS until the completion of the revisions occupies an average time of 4 months, except for incidents. Reviewers, in turn, must also comply with  [**reviewer**](https://retos.ups.edu.ec/pdf/docs/retos/4E-IndicacionesparaRevisoresExternos.pdf) [**regulations**](https://retos.ups.edu.ec/pdf/docs/retos/4E-IndicacionesparaRevisoresExternos.pdf) and the [**reviewer code of ethics.**](https://retos.ups.edu.ec/index.php/retos/about/editorialPolicies#custom-0)

Once the opinions of the external reviewers have been obtained, the decision may be:

* **Accepted:** In which case we will proceed to the layout and publication of the article for the next issue.
* **Accepted with minor changes:** The authors will be notified of the changes proposed by the reviewers, sending them the completed review protocol. In this case, the authors will have a maximum of 7 continuous days to submit the manuscript with the requested changes.
* **Accepted with major changes:** The authors will be notified of the changesproposed by the reviewers, sending them the completed review protocol. In this case, the authors will have a maximum of 7 continuous days to submit the manuscript with the requested changes.
* **Rejected:** In which case the authors will be informed in a reasoned manner, stating the reasons for the rejection and the review protocol completed. Authors may always exercise their right to complain in writing to the Board of Editors of the journal.

In the event that there is a disparity between the opinions of the reviewers, a third reviewer will be sent to settle the divergence. There will be no complaint about the opinion of this third reviewer.

Subsequently, the team of editors will select the 10 publishable articles for the issue based on competitive concurrence, taking into account the acceptance and rejection criteria set out in the General Regulations for Authors.