

From Assessment to Impact: Institutional Open Publishing at
Innopharma Education

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Aims & Objectives

- Elevate Learner Scholarship: To provide a dedicated, high-quality platform for the publication of student-led research, practice reflections, and case studies, transforming "hidden" coursework into visible, citable professional scholarship
- Bridge the Industry-Academic Gap: To connect the practice-based learning produced by our mature, professional students with wider industry, regulatory, and academic audiences, fostering a more transparent and evidence-based exchange of knowledge
- Advance Open Scholarly Norms: To democratise access to research by operating as a fully open-access journal with zero article processing charges, while modelling the principles of equity, inclusivity, and transparency in scholarly communication.
- Enhance Professional Capacity: To equip learners and staff with transferable skills in academic writing, critical evaluation, and editorial processes through scaffolded, mentorship-led support and the provision of open-access editorial resources

Contribution Snapshot

Date and Timeframe

2024-Ongoing

Focus

- Open pedagogy (student co-creation, open publishing)
- Open professional development / capacity building
- Open infrastructure and platforms

- Research, evaluation, or scholarly inquiry into open education

Disciplines

- Business, Administration and Law
- Education
- Health and Welfare
- Teaching and Learning

What level(s) of your institution does this work affect?

- Across multiple modules
- Across multiple programmes
- Academic unit/school/faculty level
- Institutional level

Frameworks, Policies, or Strategies Aligned

- Framework Alignment: Supports the National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning and the National Policy on Open Science and Research by fostering a culture of open scholarship.
- Open Pedagogy: Leverages student co-creation to move work from assessment to professional impact, directly contributing to SDG 4 (Quality Education).
- Capacity Building: Directly enhances staff and student research capabilities through scaffolded editorial mentorship and the provision of open-access authoring guides.
- Equity & Inclusion: Removes barriers to participation for mature, part-time professionals, aligning with national goals for inclusive, lifelong learning in higher education.

Useful Resources

- https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.14136/220
- https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.14136/279

Overview

Project Overview: Innopharma Insights

Innopharma Insights is an institutionally led, open-access journal established to transform practice-based student scholarship into citable, reusable contributions for the pharmaceutical, life sciences, and technology sectors. Historically, the work of our learners—typically mature, part-time professionals—remained hidden beyond the assessment cycle. This journal provides a supported, safe pathway for learners (QQI Level 6 to Master's) to publish their work, effectively bridging the gap between student assessment and professional impact.

Alignment with Open Education Priorities

The initiative advances core open education priorities: Open publishing, student involvement, OER scholarship, equity, access, open pedagogy, and capacity building.

Impact & Evidence (2025–2026)

2 issues published (Jan 2025 & Jan 2026)

20 articles published in total

13 student-led contributions

0 article processing charges (fully open access)

Successful institutional profile raising and staff CPD in editorial practice

Quality Assurance & Methodology

Our editorial process is designed to be developmental, ensuring scholarly grounding through editorial screening, guided revision, and step-by-step author mentorship. To further support our contributors, students have access to a suite of specialised guides, including:

From Dissertation to Publication: A Guide for Innopharma Insights

From Dissertation to Extended Literature Review

From Dissertation to Opinion Article

We also maintain consistent AI disclosure policies and use institutional repository hosting for persistent access.

Future Directions

Our roadmap includes:

DOI assignment for all articles

Application for DOAJ indexing

Implementation of Altmetric and impact analytics

Integration of a "Writing for Publication" module in curricula

Formalizing student representation on the editorial board

Student Perspectives

"I am honoured that you recognise the merit of my work and would be delighted to be a part of this inaugural issue."
(Student Contributor, Volume 1)

"A wonderful Christmas present. I am so happy about this publication."
(Student Contributor, Volume 1)

"I would be honoured to have my work contribute towards something bigger."
(Student Contributor, Volume 2)

Editorial Team

Colm O'Connor (Editor-in-Chief); Áine Behan, Jennifer Manning, Victoria Buckley, Jennifer Campbell, Catriona Horgan, and Michelle Ryan.

Quality/Scholarly Approach

Innopharma Insights employs a developmental, mentorship-led editorial process designed to bridge the transition from student assessment to professional scholarship. Our approach moves away from purely punitive or high-stakes gatekeeping, instead focusing on scaffolded support that ensures scholarly integrity at every stage.

Our key processes include:

Guided Editorial Screening: Every submission undergoes an initial editorial review for scope, scholarly grounding, and alignment with the journal's standards.

Structured Author Mentorship: Authors are paired with an editor-mentor who provides constructive, actionable feedback. This process assists learners in converting existing coursework (e.g., dissertations) into appropriate publication formats.

Specialized Resource Integration: We provide contributors with a dedicated suite of editorial resources, including:

From Dissertation to Publication: A Guide for Innopharma Insights

From Dissertation to Extended Literature Review

From Dissertation to Opinion Article

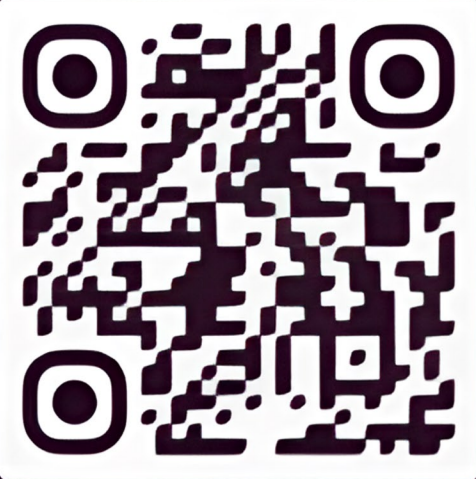
AI Policy & Integrity: We apply a consistent, transparent policy regarding AI-generated content, requiring clear disclosure and documentation for any AI-assisted tools used in the research or writing phase.

Accessibility & Persistent Access: Once finalised, all articles are hosted in our institutional repository, ensuring stable, persistent access (via a handle) and compliance with open access standards.

Revision Process: The process is iterative and collaborative, allowing students to refine their work, learn about the publishing lifecycle, and gain confidence as scholarly contributors without the anxiety of traditional blind peer review.

This methodology has proven effective in converting high-quality, practice-based student work into accessible, citable assets while fostering long-term scholarship capacity among our mature, professional student body.

SCAN ME



Volume 1 PDF

SCAN ME



Volume 2 PDF

Scholarly Contribution and Influence

Innopharma Insights bridges the gap between learner assessment and professional scholarship. To date, we have published 20 articles across two issues, including 13 student-led contributions that serve as a reusable evidence base for the sector.

Our impact is reflected in positive student feedback and the formalisation of editorial mentorship as a core pedagogical practice.

Dissemination of our model is ongoing, including presentations at the 2026 Academic & Special Libraries (A&SL) conference and the upcoming 2026 CONUL conference. The journal continues to elevate our institutional profile and catalyse sector-wide discussions on accessible pathways for professional, practice-based publishing.

Key Insights

- The greatest barrier to open publishing for learners is not quality - it is the absence of a supported, safe pathway. A brief editorial guide, a named editor-mentor, and a standing call for contributions remove this barrier at minimal institutional cost at any HE level.
- By converting practice-based assessment into open scholarship, we have created a scalable, zero-cost model that empowers mature professionals to contribute meaningful evidence to their sectors
- Our dissemination efforts at the 2026 A&SL and CONUL conferences demonstrate a growing sector-wide interest in mentorship-led, institutional publishing as a sustainable path for inclusive open research.

2025

Innopharma Insights

Volume 1



2026

Innopharma Insights

Volume 2



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