

Submitting a Proposal – Guidelines for Authors

Routledge is keen to consider proposals for new books. We can offer:

- Expertise in legal publishing – Our editorial, marketing, and production team specialises in publishing law books and so have extensive experience and knowledge of the law market.
- Global distribution and marketing – We have a dedicated international sales team, and unlike many other UK publishers a significant proportion of our sales come from overseas.
- Quality design and production values – Our books are produced efficiently, quickly and attractively using the latest technology.

The proposal you submit to Routledge will allow us to evaluate your publishing project and to understand how your proposed book might fit with our existing publishing programme. Furthermore, it will enable us to solicit constructive and detailed feedback from academics or professionals to ensure the broadest possible appeal for your book.

The Proposal

The following notes are designed to help you prepare your proposal and your co-operation in following our recommendations will ease our task of evaluation and aid you in your objectives.

We would suggest that your proposal would be between 7- 8 pages in length, excluding sample chapters, or a draft manuscript. Please bear in mind that your proposal may be read by people who are experts in your field as well as those who do not have a legal background.

When preparing your book proposal, please provide us with the following information:

Title

- What is the title of your proposed book?

Synopsis

- Please provide a brief synopsis of the book, summarising the subject, your aims, scope and general approach, and the intended audience.
- How many pages/words do you think your book will be?
- Will there be any diagrams/illustrations/photographs? If so, how many?
- What stage is your writing project currently at, and how long do you think it will take you to complete the book?

Content

- Please provide a detailed table of contents for the book. This should include sub-headings and short paragraphs explaining what will be included in each chapter.
- If sample chapters or a draft manuscript are available, please send them to us or let us know when they will be available.

The Market

Please take some time to share your vision of the market with us.

- Why is a new book needed? What existing gaps/requirements does your book fill?
- Who will be the primary audience for your book? Is your proposed book aimed at undergraduates, postgraduates or professionals? Is there a secondary market for the book?
- What courses would the book be used on?
- Is it a supplementary text which would provide secondary reading for undergraduate or postgraduate students?
- Is it a research monograph, which will sell primarily to academic libraries and other academics?
- How will your book differentiate itself from competing texts?
- Is the subject area of the proposal widely taught or taught, or researched?
- Would this subject have international appeal outside your own home country? If so, where?

Along with your proposal it will also be necessary to include:

1. One or two sample chapters or a draft manuscript, if available.
2. A curriculum vitae for all authors, and notes on any other contributors.

Additional Information for author submitting PhDs

- In the case of PhDs we would prefer to see the entire manuscript, or thesis, as well as a proposal.
- **We need to know:** Which parts you will cut or modify? What specifically are the aspects of the work as it stands which are designed to satisfy your examiners, but which you think are not suitable for a book and which you plan to change? How will you draw out and expand the main findings and conclusions? How will you be adapting the language and style, as well as annotation and references? Is the thesis in an area of increasing academic and research interest?

Additional Questions for Edited Collections

- Is the book of a consistent academic quality?
- Are the chapters structured logically and integrated around a coherent central theme?
- Will you be providing a detailed introductory chapter and a conclusion?
- Will the case studies be appropriate for an international audience?
- What percentage of the material has been published before?

What will happen next?

External feedback

Our Editorial team will evaluate your proposal and we will then invite feedback from academic specialists in this area. We normally solicit 2 or 3 reports from academics and ask them to give us independent advice on the content, quality and potential market based on your proposal or manuscript. You should expect this process to take roughly 6-8 weeks (although this can take longer out of term time or at busy times).

Editorial Board

If the reviews have been positive and you are keen to proceed, our editors will submit a formal proposal for the consideration of our Editorial Board.

The Final Stage

Provided your proposal is accepted, we will then issue a draft contract. Once we have agreed on terms, you should sign and return the contract with an agreed date for delivery of the draft chapters or manuscript. Upon delivery, your book will be handed over to a Production Editor who will oversee the copy-editing and production process. We will then publish, market, and sell the book.