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The *Biochemical Journal* places emphasis on the prompt publication of **Full-length Papers** (on average about 6 months after receipt), **Rapid Papers** (on average within 3 months of receipt), **Reviews** and **BJ Letters**. It is the Journal's policy to publish papers in English in all fields of biochemistry, provided that they make a sufficient contribution to biochemical knowledge. Papers may include new results obtained experimentally, descriptions of new experimental methods of biochemical importance, or new interpretations of existing results. Theoretical contributions will be considered equally with papers dealing with experimental work. All work presented should have as its aim the development of biochemical concepts rather than the mere recording of facts. Preliminary or inconclusive experiments should not be described.

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The paragraphs below are a summarized version of information provided in the Biochemical Society's *Policy of the Journal and Instructions to Authors* [*Biochem. J.* (1986) **233**, 1-24]. Copies are available from the Editorial Office.

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2. **Rapid Papers** (four printed pages maximum)
3. **Letters** (two printed pages maximum)
4. **Reviews** (usually solicited)

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Full-length Papers should not normally exceed eight printed pages, including figures and tables. Longer papers may be acceptable if their content justifies their length. Indeed, the Board's desire to restrict the length of papers should not lead authors to split their work into two or more shorter papers. For example, a single paper

consisting justifiably of ten printed pages will normally be considered more favourably than two papers each of six pages dealing with the same material. Authors should remember that short papers are generally published with the least delay.

All papers that can be accommodated in four pages of the Journal will be treated as **Rapid Papers**. They receive priority treatment and it is aimed for their publication to be within 3 months of receipt. However, the criteria of reviewing and the appearance of Rapid Papers in the Journal are identical with those of Full-length Papers. In order to achieve the accelerated schedule, reviewers are asked to deal with the paper within 48 h and proofs of accepted Rapid Papers are not normally supplied to authors. However, authors are given details of any editing of Rapid Papers at the same time that the typescripts are sent to the printer, with a request that any essential amendments be sent to the Editorial Secretary as soon as possible. The scientific editorial staff in the Editorial Office check the proofs to ensure that they tally exactly with the edited typescripts and make any necessary alterations indicated by the authors.

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