



# Guidelines for scientific authorship<sup>1</sup>

These guidelines were ratified by the Faculty Board on 2019-12-11 and are effective from the same date.

Dnr HS 2024/208

---

<sup>1</sup> *This is a translation of the Swedish version (Riktlinjer för vetenskapligt författarskap, registration number HS 2019/970. In the event of any discrepancy, the Swedish version of this document shall prevail*

## Table of contents

1	Introduction.....	2
2	Four criteria for authorship.....	2
3	Authorship order .....	3
4	The document is effective from.....	3
	Appendix 1 - The Four Criteria of Scientific Authorship According to the Vancouver Rules .....	4

# 1 Introduction

At the University of Skövde (the University), the international standard Vancouver-rules for scientific authorship <sup>2</sup> are applied. These rules describe the criteria for determining whether a researcher is eligible as an author or co-author of a scientific publication.

In essence, these rules dictate that an author of a scientific work should be able to publicly assume responsibility for the publication as a whole. It is important that authorship accurately reflects the researcher's contributions to the research and how the research is reported. In case of uncertainty, contact can also be made with the Research Ethics Group, which, among other things, is tasked with increasing research ethics awareness at the University.

## 2 Four criteria for authorship

According to the Vancouver-rules, an author of a scientific publication must meet all four criteria listed below. The Swedish Sociological Association <sup>3</sup> has provided a translation of the criteria, which is reproduced below. The original English text is available in Appendix 1.

“The individual identified as an author must:

1. have significantly contributed to the publication, for example, by being responsible for or contributing to its fundamental idea, design, data collection, data processing, theory development, analysis, or interpretation. They should also
2. alone or together with others, have written the original manuscript and/or significantly participated in the subsequent revision work with scientific contributions. Furthermore, they should
3. have approved the final version of the publication. Finally, they should
4. be able and willing to publicly defend the publication and its results.”

This means that only those who meet all four conditions can be considered authors of a scientific publication. Consequently, individuals or entities that have supported the publication (for example, through funding, administration, data sharing, or language editing) should not be considered one of the authors of the

---

<sup>2</sup> The Vancouver-rules are developed by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors. More information is available at [codex.vr.se/etik2](http://codex.vr.se/etik2). This page also provides an overview of various initiatives, in addition to the Vancouver-rules, that have emerged in recent years to address the issue of scholarly authorship—a matter complicated by disciplinary and cultural traditions.

<sup>3</sup> [www.sociologiskforskning.se/sf/SSFriktilinjer](http://www.sociologiskforskning.se/sf/SSFriktilinjer)

publication. Persons who have supported the publication but have not contributed substantially according to the four criteria above may be acknowledged in the publication's acknowledgments section.

### **3 Authorship order**

The author group determines the authorship order. First, the author who has contributed the majority of the work should be listed, followed by the authors in an order that reflects their contributions. If two authors have made an equivalent contribution, shared first authorship may be applied. This can be noted, for example, in the form of a footnote in the article. Additionally, disciplinary traditions should be followed, such as having the last author be the senior researcher who has served as a supervisor and/or scientific guarantor of the work

### **4 The document is effective from**

These guidelines were ratified by the Faculty Board on 2019-12-11 and are effective from the same date.

## Appendix 1 - The Four Criteria of Scientific Authorship According to the Vancouver Rules

The Vancouver-rules <sup>4</sup> consist of four criteria for scientific authorship. All four criteria must be met in order for someone to be considered as an author of the publication. The four criteria are listed below:

1. substantial contributions to the conception or design of the work; or the acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data for the work; AND
2. drafting the work or revising it critically for important intellectual content; AND
3. final approval of the version to be published; AND
4. agreement to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

This means that only those who fulfill all four criteria above can be listed as authors of the publication. This also means that those who have supported the publication in other ways (for example through financing, administration, sharing of data or proofreading) are not considered authors of the publication. Those who have supported the publication, but who have not substantially contributed according to the four criteria above, should only be listed in the publication's acknowledgement section. Huvudrubriken för bilagor har ett eget rubrikformat som listas i innehållsförteckningen.

---

<sup>4</sup> The Vancouver Rules are developed by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors. More information can be found on [codex.vr.se/etik2](http://codex.vr.se/etik2).