

***Elements* Publication Guidelines and Procedures**

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As the Senior Principal Editor for Geochemistry of *Elements Magazine*, I will take the audience through the long journey of putting together an *Elements* thematic issue from the first stage of submitting a proposal to *Elements*' Editorial Board to the publication of the proposed issue. From when the proposal has been accepted into *Elements*' lineup to the issue's publication date, 22 months will have gone by, none of which are redundant or without a procedural deadline on the near horizon. There is no wiggle room. The timeline must be strictly respected by Guest Editors and authors alike to allow for smooth and timely printing and shipping and to honor commitments made to *Elements*' advertisers who foot part of the bill for *Elements*. It is among the Principal Editor's responsibilities to ensure that everybody sticks to the timeline. Each issue is being handled by a Guest Editor team, which is being overseen by one of the three acting Principal Editors to whom the issue in question has been assigned. The authors refer to the Guest Editors, who refer to the Principal Editor. Only in cases of unforeseen problems will the Principal Editor step in and interact directly with the authors. I will further go through the ground rules that apply to the articles constituting an *Elements* thematic issue as well as the variety of feature columns that can be engaged to complement the thematic article collection. A special trait of *Elements* that make it different from standard geoscience articles is its usage of plain English free of scientific jargon and understandable at the level of first year geoscience graduate students. Another responsibility of the Principal Editor is to review all the articles and feature columns making up the issue to ensure that they all hang together in a complementary and logical manner with minimum to no overlap. As a consequence, authors can expect three rounds of peer review and revision: by (1) the Guest Editors; (2) several external reviewers; and (3) the Principal Editor. This extensive review process guarantees that an issue meets the high standards of *Elements*.