Figure sizes: pixels for a width and a resolution

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Pixels = width in mm ÷ 25.4 × dpi, rounded. Your journal's instructions have the last word; the blank rows are for its widths.

Width (mm)	Where it fits	Pixels at 300 dpi	Pixels at 500 dpi	Pixels at 1,000 dpi
90	Elsevier, single column	1,063	1,772	3,543
140	Elsevier, one and a half columns	1,654	2,756	5,512
190	Elsevier, full width	2,244	3,740	7,480
159	A4 page with 2.54 cm margins	1,878	3,130	6,260
	Your journal:			
	Your journal:			

Which resolution (Elsevier, checked 29 Sep 2026): 300 dpi for halftones, 500 dpi for combination art, 1,000 dpi for line art ("purely black and white with no tints or gradations"). Vector files (EPS, PDF) are "resolution independent". Adding pixels to a small picture afterwards does not improve it.

The dpi a file has = its pixels ÷ (width in mm ÷ 25.4). A picture 2,000 pixels wide printed at 190 mm: 2,000 ÷ 7.48 = 267 dpi.

Excel · Excel and Google Sheets · A2 width in mm, B2 dpi, D2 pixels you have

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C2 (pixels needed)   =ROUND(A2/25.4*B2,0)
E2 (dpi you have)    =D2/(A2/25.4)
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Copy the formulas from the web page, where each copy button gives the exact text: evensift.com/guides/prisma-diagram-word/

Type and lines (Elsevier): text 7 pt at the printed size as a rule of thumb, subscripts and superscripts no smaller than 6 pt; lines 0.25 pt, and 0.1 pt at the very least. Arial (or Helvetica), Courier, Symbol or Times (or Times New Roman).

In Word for Windows ("File" › "Options" › "Advanced" › "Image Size and Quality"): select "Do not compress images in file", and set "Default resolution" to "High fidelity" (in Microsoft 365 the default is 220 ppi). Place the figure "In Line with Text", in a paragraph of its own.

A caption to adapt: Figure [n]. PRISMA 2020 flow diagram of the search and selection of studies. Template from Page MJ, McKenzie JE, Bossuyt PM, et al. BMJ 2021;372:n71 (CC BY 4.0).

Sources: Elsevier artwork sizing, artwork types, artwork overview and artwork FAQ (elsevier.com, checked 29 Sep 2026). Microsoft Support: Turn off picture compression; Change the default resolution for inserting pictures in Office; Reduce the file size of a picture in Microsoft Office (checked 29 Sep 2026). The full guide, with every source: evensift.com/guides/prisma-diagram-word/

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