NTU library
Open access and funded research

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Research funders and open access

Most research funders require grant-holders to make their publications open access. If you do not comply with your funder's policy, part of your existing grant could be withheld, and you may not be eligible for future funding.

RCUK policy on open access

All journal articles, reviews or conference papers submitted for publication after 1 April 2013 and funded in whole or in part by the Research Council must be made available in an open access form.

Researchers are now expected to publish their RCUK funded peer-reviewed articles and conference papers in journals compliant with the RCUK Policy on Open Access. The policy also specifies that all papers must include information on:

- the funding that supported the research
- how to access any underlying research materials such as data, samples or models.

The RCUK has also provided a set of FAQs for researchers seeking to comply with their new OA policy.

RCUK Compliant Journals

The RCUK states that a journal is compliant with their policy if either of the following applies:

1. Green route – "the journal consents to deposit of the final Accepted Manuscript (which may otherwise be known as the 'final author version' or 'post-print') in any repository, without restriction on non-commercial re-use and within a defined period. No APC will be payable to the publisher." This is often known as the green open access route. In STEM disciplines, RCUK will accept a delay/embargo of no more than six months between on-line publication and the final Accepted Manuscript becoming open access. For AHSS papers (mainly funded by the AHRC and the ESRC), the maximum embargo period is 12 months.
2. Gold route - "the journal provides, via its own website, immediate and unrestricted access to the final published version of the paper, which should be made available using the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) licence, and allows immediate deposit of the final published version in other repositories without restriction on re-use. This may involve payment of an 'Article Processing Charge' (APC) to the publisher." This is often known as the gold open access route. Papers published under the "Gold Open Access" route must be published under a CC-BY licence, the terms of which include unrestricted re-use of content (with proper attribution).

The following flow chart may assist you when considering how to make your work open access. The SHERPA/FACT service will provide information on whether your target journal complies with the funder's policy, but your Research Support Librarian will be able to help you with this.

Green open access

Upon acceptance you need to deposit your final manuscript into the university institutional repository (IRep). The paper will be made open access after any publisher embargo. You can add material to IRep using the online submission system PubSub. Further information is provided in our PubSub user guide.

Funding for gold open access

If your paper arose from a grant from one of the RCUK funding bodies, and you submitted your paper on or after 1st April 2013, you may be entitled to access the NTU open access fund. You will need to complete the NTU open access fund form before submitting your paper to a journal. Following consultation with your Research Support Librarian, the form should be submitted to your School Research Coordinator.

Other funding bodies

Click on the links below for the open access policies of the funding bodies listed:

- Arthritis Research UK
- British Heart Foundation
- Cancer Research UK
- European Research Council
- Horizon 2020
- Leverhulme Trust
- Wellcome Trust

A full list of funders with open access requirements can be found on the SHERPA/JULIET website.

For further advice and support please contact the Library Research Team