



Nottingham Trent
University

Annual Statement on Open Research: 2025/26

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OPEN Research

Unlocking the power of research for real-world change

1. Introduction

This is the first Annual Statement on Open Research (OR) produced by Nottingham Trent University (NTU). It covers the academic year of 2025/26 and provides a summary of OR-focused initiatives undertaken and an indication of those planned for the ensuing year.

NTU is committed to facilitating and maintaining an institutional culture of open research. The emphasis on culture reflects the University's view that an Open Research (OR) environment enables and promotes research excellence. Our commitment to OR is aligned with the priorities of funders, publishers and the expectations of the public and set out clearly in the University's [Open Research Position Statement](#). OR initiatives are overseen by the University Open Research and Research Integrity Committee, which has strategic oversight and leadership of OR and research integrity, and the ecosystem which supports them.

2. Initiatives delivered in 2025/26

The 2025/26 academic year has seen a range of OR-focused initiatives delivered or commenced covering a spectrum of OR areas of practice, created with and for the benefit of researchers at different career stages. A summary of these activities is set out below.

2.1 Open Research Week 2026

NTU ran in-house OR Weeks in 2023/24 and 2024/25. These weeks attracted registrations from diverse disciplinary backgrounds, career stages and role type at NTU, with the numbers of attendees quadrupling for Open Research Week 2025. In 2025/26, NTU partnered with Midlands Innovation universities and the Open University to deliver a sector-level programme. The Week saw contributions from NTU researchers and postgraduate researchers (PGRs), Cleveland Barnett, Samantha McLean, Adam Varney, Rachel Leman, Paulina Pawlikowska and Hannah Jenkins and Chase Staras, as well as professional services colleagues, Katie Woodhouse Skinner and Rachel Handforth. The series of sessions reached 283 attendees from 113 schools, businesses and institutions across five continents, including countries such as Kenya, Pakistan, India, Saudi Arabia, Peru and the Philippines. A [curated collection of event recordings](#) have been archived and are freely and publicly available in perpetuity.

2.2 Open Research Awards 2026

For the third consecutive year, NTU ran OR Awards to recognise the implementation and impact of OR practices employed by NTU researchers in research projects across the institution. A total of 49 applications were received from representatives of

all Schools, from individuals and teams, academic and professional service staff, as well as PGRs. A total of 11 submissions were recognised. In common with those receiving recognition in previous years, the submissions will be written up and presented as case studies on the [NTU website](#), while Awards will be presented at the annual NTU Researcher Network Conference.

2.3 Launch of the NTU Open Research Archive (NORA)

In May 2026, NTU launched its new institutional repository, the [NTU Open Research Archive \(NORA\)](#). NORA is the system NTU uses to securely store, showcase and share research and scholarly outputs created by NTU colleagues and postgraduate researchers. The launch of NORA marked an important step forward in NTU's commitment to OR. By bringing a broad range of research outputs, including data, into one central platform, NORA supports greater visibility, accessibility and impact for the work produced across the University.

2.4 Revised NTU Publications Policy (including Rights Retention)

In tandem with the launch of NORA, the University published its [revised Publications Policy](#). The updated policy sets out a clearer approach to publishing and sharing research openly, making this a significant step forward in NTU's Open Research agenda. It aligns institutional publishing practices with REF 2029 Open Access (OA) requirements and the UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) OA Policy, making it easier for NTU authors to meet funder and REF expectations. The inclusion of Rights Retention empowers authors to retain control over sharing of their work and reinforces the University's commitment to making OR a routine and achievable part of scholarly practice.

2.5 Open Research Module for PGRs

A two-year pedagogic research project commenced in 2025/26 to develop a compulsory digitally delivered training intervention to equip PGRs with the requisite skills and knowledge to practise Open Research confidently, critically, and in context. The module is currently being co-created with postgraduate researchers, supervisors, professional services colleagues, and Open Research specialists through surveys, co-design workshops, and iterative user testing. This approach allows the project to examine where expectations of openness converge, where they conflict, and what kinds of support researchers need to apply open practices in their own methodological and disciplinary contexts. The project has been pre-registered and the module will be available in beta in July and August for review by key stakeholders.

3. Initiatives planned for 2026/27

3.1 Open Research Week 2027

The University is again committed to hosting and/or participating in an Open Research Week in the 2026/27 academic year. Decisions on the format and focus are still to be taken, but the dual intention of any OR Week will be to showcase the range and success of approaches to supporting and embedding OR practices, and also to provide opportunities for NTU researchers and research-enabling colleagues to be exposed to good practice elsewhere.

3.2 Open Research Awards 2027

NTU Open Research Awards will again be run in 2026/27 given the persistent interest in them as well as the quality and variety of submissions. Options will also be considered to engage with sector-level OR Awards which would augment rather than replace the NTU Awards.

3.3 Launch and evaluation of the Open Research Module for PGRs

The module will launch in September 2027. All current PGRs will be invited to complete the module and feedback in the first year that the module is live. The expectation is that all PGRs enrolling from 2026/27 onwards will complete the module.

3.4 Embed NTU's Open Qualitative Research Community of Practice

A group of researchers and PGRs have expressed interest in establishing and building a network to support open qualitative research practice. In 2026/27, this group will focus on building resources about how to make qualitative research accessible, reproducible, reliable and inclusive.