

Alison Norwood (IDS Publishing Manager, June 2022)

Open Access

Open Access (OA) material is digital, online, **free of charge**, and free of licensing restrictions. Its main application is for academic journal articles and books and it is not just about being able to access, read and download these from publisher websites, it is also important that the material contained in the work may be **re-used** (without always having to seek permission from the publisher) through application of the CC BY Creative Commons licence. A second option for publication is through a research repository.

Open Access raises the profile of research published from developing countries by allowing readers to view content without payment or relying on an organisational library subscription.

Who does the policy apply to?

UKRI award holders must follow their Open Access requirements when publishing a research publication acknowledging UKRI funding. Lead authors of journal articles need to be aware of ensuring that the article is compliant.

What are the key points from the policy?

Immediate open publication is required for peer-reviewed journal articles.

Route 1: For immediate paid access (known as ‘gold’) only journals which are fully open or subscription journals included in a Jisc-approved Transitional Agreement will be eligible.

Route 2: For immediate publication via a repository (known as ‘green’) only journals which do not impose an embargo period will be eligible.

For all journal articles a Data Access Statement must be included, even where there are no data associated with the article or the data are inaccessible.

Preprints are **not** in-scope of the policy.

There is also a requirement for monographs, book chapters, and edited collections published from 1 January 2024 to be made Open Access within 12 months of publication.

When is policy compliance required?

The policy is already in effect. UKRI’s updated policy requires immediate open access for peer-reviewed research journal articles submitted for publication from 1 April 2022.

How do I make my article open?

Route 1: Publish the research article Open Access in a journal or publishing platform which makes the Version of Record immediately open via its website. (*Note:* Version of Record definition – the final peer-reviewed, edited, and typeset version of a research article that is published).

The Version of Record must be free and unrestricted to view and download. It must have a Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) licence.* To check journal compliance see the [Journal Checker Tool](#).

The publisher may impose an Article Processing Charge (APC). Publishers may waive APCs for authors in developing countries – check relevant publisher website for details before submission of article.

Route 2: Publish the research article in a subscription journal and deposit the Author's Accepted Manuscript in an institutional or subject repository at the time of final publication. (*Note:* Author Accepted Manuscript definition – the author's version of a research article that has been peer-reviewed and is accepted for publication, prior to editing and typesetting by the publisher. It may otherwise be known as the 'author manuscript' or 'final author version' or 'post-print').

The deposited version must be free and unrestricted to view and download. It must have a CC BY licence.* Importantly – a publisher-requested delay or 'embargo period' between publication of the Version of Record and Open Access of the repository-deposited version is **not** permitted. To check journal compliance see <https://v2.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo/>.

The publisher should not impose an APC.

***Licence:** Journal articles should be available with a CC BY licence (or, in special cases with UKRI permission, a CC BY-ND licence). For route 2, it is possible to include a Rights Retention Statement in the manuscript in order to retain author rights to the article (rather than transferring them to the publisher), whilst granting the publisher a licence to publish the article.

Venue: Authors can publish their research article in the journal or platform they consider most appropriate for their research, provided UKRI's Open Access requirements are met via either Open Access route. Newer platforms, such as [Octopus](#), are directly responding to new Open Access requirements. Generally, journals in the sciences are currently more likely to offer Open Access options than those in the humanities.

Funding: The Royal Veterinary College has some Transformative Agreements with publishers which enable the author to directly draw down on pre-paid APCs. For more details see www.rvc.ac.uk/research/about/open-access/Jisc-Wiley-OA-agreement. Where these do not apply to a journal the author may apply for payment of APCs through a separate institutional block grant.

However, UKRI recognises that there are different Open Access contexts internationally, and it may be that an author based at a non-UK research organisation does not have access to a repository or immediate Open Access options. Therefore, UKRI may permit a policy exception for an author based at a non-UK research organisation. To request an exception the grant holder should contact openaccess@funding.ukri.org. (*Note:* it is anticipated, however, that as a GCRF award-holder, RVC will cover most APCs.)

Further resources

UKRI Open Access Updated Policy released: 6 August 2021 ([UKRI announces new Open Access Policy – UKRI](#))

Policy link: [UKRI open access policy – UKRI](#)

Explanation of policy changes: [UKRI Open Access Policy: explanation of policy changes – UKRI](#)

Responsibilities: [Making your research publications open access – UKRI](#)

Data consists of underlying research material as defined by [UKRI-020920-ConcordatonOpenResearchData.pdf](#).

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