University of Strathclyde Glasgow

Open Access Policy

Prepared by:	Open Research Action Group (ORAG)
Approved by:	University Senate on the recommendation of the University Research & Knowledge Exchange Committee (RKEC).
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Review process:	To be reviewed as and when required by the ORAG.
Related policies and procedures:	**Sector/Funder:** REF 2029 Open Access Policy (Dec 2024) UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) Open Access Policy (Feb 2023) Wellcome Trust Open Access Policy (Jan 2025) **University of Strathclyde:** Institutional Rights Retention Policy (January 2024) Institutional Repository (Strathprints) Takedown Policy Research Publications Guidance (Feb 2023) Research Code of Practice (March 2023) Code of Practice for Postgraduate Research Students (Sept 2023) Research Data Management and Sharing Policy (March 2023) Intellectual Property and Commercialisation Policy (March 2023)

Introduction and purpose

1. The University of Strathclyde (hereafter 'the University' is committed to promoting the research and knowledge of the University to the widest possible audience through Open Research practices. This policy outlines the University's support for Open Access, one of the tenets of Open Research. This policy promotes the aims of Strathclyde 2030, the University of Strathclyde Research Publications Guidance and the established institutional practice of complying with the Research Excellence Framework (REF) Open Access Policy.
2. This policy should be read alongside other relevant University and sectoral policies and guidance listed in the cover sheet, and it supersedes previous University open access guidance.
3. The purpose of this policy is to:
    i. Enable the University to disseminate its research and scholarship as widely as possible; and
    ii. Support University authors to meet external open access requirements.
4. Questions relating to this policy should be directed to the University's Open Access team at openaccess@strath.ac.uk.

Scope

5. This policy applies to all authors or co-authors who are affiliated with the University (hereafter 'Authors'). Publishing activities are carried out by Authors at all levels across the University, therefore the requirements to make eligible publications open access includes all University staff (including honorary and visiting) and students who publish while affiliated with the University. This is in line with the definition outlined in section 1.3 of the Research Code of Practice:
    i. *All University staff (regardless of contract type) engaging in research activities.*
    ii. *All University students engaging in research activities.*
    iii. *Any individuals who do not fall within (i) and (ii) above but who are otherwise associated with the University and are authorised to use the University's name, facilities and/or services when engaging in research activities (such persons would include, for example, those holding visiting, honorary or emeritus status).*
6. It is the responsibility of all Strathclyde authors to ensure that they meet this policy, even if they are not the corresponding author.
7. This policy applies to all articles, authored or co-authored while the individual is a member of staff or student at Strathclyde. This includes conference proceedings published with an International Standard Serial Number (ISSN).
8. This policy does not apply to preprints. A preprint is a version of an article that precedes formal peer view and publication in an academic journal.
9. This policy does not apply to monographs, books, book chapters, edited collections or other research outputs although the University strongly encourages authors to make them as openly available as possible.
10. This policy applies to all in scope outputs that have been submitted for publication from 1 September 2025, the start date of this policy.
11. Authors who are in receipt of funding from organisations such as UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), the Wellcome Trust, European Commission, etc., must also adhere to their funder's open access policies and ensure that all outputs related to this funding complies with their stated policies.

Policy requirements

12. From 1 September 2025, all in-scope articles submitted to journals by University authors must be deposited in the institutional repository within 3 months of the acceptance date and made open access with a Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) licence (see Appendix A for more information on licence types). There are multiple routes available for Authors to comply with this Open Access Policy:

i. Green Open Access via the Institutional Rights Retention Policy

Green open access is where the author publishes in a journal and then deposits the accepted version of this article into a subject or institutional repository. The University of Strathclyde has an Institutional Rights Retention Policy that allows authors to make the accepted manuscripts of in-scope outputs open access immediately on publication with a CC BY licence. All outputs covered by the Open Access policy will automatically be compliant if deposited in accordance with the University of Strathclyde's Institutional Rights Retention Policy. Authors should ensure their accepted manuscripts are deposited in the institutional repository via Pure within three months of acceptance.

ii. Diamond Open Access

Diamond open access is a publication model where journals or similar platforms do not charge fees to either the author or reader. Diamond Open Access journals that do not require an article processing charge (APC) can be found using resources such as DIAMAS and the Directory of Open Access Journals. Authors must ensure that their outputs are published with a Creative Commons licence and deposited in the University's institutional repository via Pure.

iii. Gold Open Access via Read & Publish deals or APC payment

Gold open access includes outputs where the final published version of the output is made open to everyone, often requiring the payment of a fee or Article Processing Charge (APC).

a. The University subscribes to a number of Read & Publish deals where eligible corresponding authors can publish Gold open access at no additional cost to themselves. Authors must select a CC BY licence when using University Read & Publish deals or when an APC has been paid. Authors must ensure that the published version is deposited in the University's institutional repository via Pure.

b. Authors in receipt of external research funding have the option of using the funds provided to the University by specific funders to make eligible publications open access. Authors should contact openaccess@strath.ac.uk prior to submission to ensure the output meets their funder's open access requirements and are eligible for APC support.

c. Institutional Open Access Fund - The IOAF is a small fund provided by the University to meet the cost of publishing in fully Open Access journals where the Authors have no other funding available to cover these APCs. Preference for funding from the IOAF will be given to Early Career Researchers. Further guidance can be found on the Funding Open Access webpage, and Authors can contact openaccess@strath.ac.uk to check eligibility.

13. All outputs covered by this policy must be deposited in the institutional repository via Pure. Information on how to do this can be found in the Pure guidance pages on Sharepoint.
14. Where the University of Strathclyde author is not the corresponding author and/or is not able to select the required Creative Commons licence, they can meet the requirements of this policy by following the Institutional Rights Retention route noted above (12.i.).
15. The University recognises that there may be cases, and outside of an individual's control, where it may not be possible to use a CC BY licence. In these cases, it may be possible to apply an alternative Creative Commons licence after discussion with the Open Access team.
16. Authors must also include a Data Access Statement for all publications, and any related research data must be deposited in accordance with the University's Research Data Management and Sharing Policy.

Further guidance and support

17. A general overview of the University's Open Access support and guidance can be found on the Library Open Access Information webpage.
18. Authors can consult the University's SciFree website to find journals that are included in our current Read & Publish deals.
19. Questions relating to this policy should be directed to the Open Access Team by email at openaccess@strath.ac.uk.

Appendix A: Creative Commons Licences

For information, a summary of Creative Commons Licences is given below. Authors may wish to consult the more comprehensive overview of available licences from Creative Commons.

- **CC 0** – the work is in the public domain and the creator(s) has given up their copyright. There are no conditions on how the work can be used.
- **CC BY** – anyone can distribute, remix, reuse and re-share the work as long as they provide attribution to the original creator(s).
- **CC BY-SA** – anyone can distribute, remix, adapt/build upon the original as long as they provide attribution to the original creator(s) and the resulting work is licenced under the same terms as the original.
- **CC BY-NC** – anyone can distribute, remix, adapt/build upon the original, but only for non-commercial purposes. They must also provide attribution to the original creator(s).
- **CC BY-NC-SA** – anyone can distribute, remix, adapt/build upon the original, but only for non-commercial purposes, and the resulting work is licenced under the same terms as the original. They must also provide attribution to the original creator(s).
- **CC BY-ND** – anyone can distribute the original work, though they cannot adapt the work in any way and attribution must be given to the creator(s).
- **CC BY-NC-ND** – anyone can distribute the original work, though they cannot adapt the work in any way, and it cannot be used for commercial purposes. Attribution must be given to the creator(s).