

[Subject Line]: Announcing an Interim OA Solution for APS Subscribers in the UK

Dear subscriber,

We are pleased to announce that the American Physical Society (APS) is currently in discussions with Jisc on a new transformative agreement. Our aim is for a transition towards sustainable open access publishing in the *Physical Review* family of journals for researchers, institutions and funders in the UK.

We are fully aware of the requirement for many researchers in the UK to publish open access and the challenges this mandate presents for some authors who wish to publish in the *Physical Review* journals. We also recognize that open access agreements of this type can take some time to arrange and finalize.

APS therefore will enable the automated open access workflow on its hybrid journals, for an interim period and ahead of reaching a formal agreement, for institutions which are Jisc members and which have renewed their APS subscriptions for 2023. Acting in good faith and optimistic that a formal transitional agreement will be reached before mid-year, APS is supporting the interim program by effectively transforming 2023 subscription spend into funds to cover the costs of OA publishing eligible articles accepted during the period, 01 March – 30 June 2023.

Because you have already confirmed your 2023 renewal, and your institution and affiliated authors will automatically be enrolled in this program, unless you prefer to opt out.

Key elements of the program

- Your institution will take on no administrative overhead, as APS will automatically identify qualifying articles based on stated corresponding author affiliation at submission, and automatically opt them into the agreement with no need for article approval from libraries.
- The number of articles published on an OA basis during the period is unlimited.
- All articles eligible under the program will be published on a gold open access basis, meaning they will be immediately open with a CC BY license, thus supporting researchers in complying with the UKRI Open Access Policy, as well as other mandates.
- Authors will pay no article publication charges (APCs) and will retain copyright.
- Full journal access to licensed content will continue for subscribers throughout 2023 whether or not a new transitional agreement through Jisc is reached.
- Fees already paid for 2023 APS subscriptions will be eligible to be applied towards any 2023 costs of a potential new agreement for those institutions wishing to join, and articles published OA during the interim period will also be included.
- If no agreement is reached the interim workflow will end and institutions will pay no additional charges for OA articles sponsored by APS during this period.
- We hope that institutions participating in this interim program will choose to join any new APS-Jisc transitional agreement, but such is not a mandatory condition for participants in this interim program.

If for any reason you wish to opt out of this interim program, please reply to this message with your opt-out request prior to 5pm GMT, 27 February 2023.

We hope that this interim solution will pave the way for authors to continue to publish in their *Physical Review* journal of choice, removing the barriers to open access and allowing feedback on and sampling of our OA workflow ahead of a formal OA agreement. We very much look forward to our transition to open in the UK and working with you to support researchers across the varied fields of physics and related research.

Yours sincerely,

Jeff Lewandowski
Director of Publishing
American Physical Society

Workflow & Eligibility

The intention of this interim solution is that corresponding authors from your institution publishing in any *Physical Review* hybrid journal will be able to publish on an open access basis, with a CC BY license, without paying any APCs. This will apply to articles accepted for publication 01 March through 30 June 2023, with no limit on number of articles.

Our goal is to ensure all eligible articles are published OA while minimising overheads for authors and libraries.

Eligible Authors are

1. officially affiliated with a UK subscribing institution eligible for a future Jisc agreement, and
2. identified as the corresponding author in the initial instance of submission of a manuscript to one of the participating Journals.

Eligible Articles

1. are submitted by a confirmed Eligible Author,
2. list a UK subscribing institution as the primary affiliation of the Eligible Author,
3. are accepted for publication by a Participating Journal during the Interim Period, and
4. are of one of the article types acceptable under the policies of the Participating Journal, including but not limited to: Regular Articles, Letters, Rapid Communications, Reviews, Perspectives, and Short Papers.

Participating Journals:

Physical Review Letters
Physical Review A
Physical Review B
Physical Review C
Physical Review D

Physical Review E
Physical Review Applied
Physical Review Fluids
Physical Review Materials

The interim solution will not include publishing in “gold” fully open access journals; however use of UKRI funds to publish in these fully open access journals is permitted, and we will be discussing with Jisc the inclusion of fully open access journals in the potential transitional agreement.

Article Cap

There is no cap during the interim period, and eligible authors may publish unlimited articles.

License

All eligible articles will be published on an Open Access CC BY license with authors retaining copyright.