

Funding eligibility guidelines for the Strathclyde Institutional Open Access Fund (IOAF)

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This guidance summarises the criteria for Open Access funding allocation from the Institutional Open Access Fund (IOAF) launched at Strathclyde at the end of 2019.

The main issue that this fund aims to address is the uneven distribution of Open Access funding across Strathclyde departments. This lack of balance stems from the fact that block grant APC funding is tied to funded projects from funders like the UKRI. This effectively limits the OA funding opportunities for researchers in the HaSS and the SBS. Early Career Researchers are also less likely to have any project or departmental funding to cover Open Access publishing fees for their first publications – at a time when they need all the exposure and impact they can get for their papers.

With all this in mind, the rules that will govern funding eligibility are as follows:

- 1.** IOAF funding eligibility must be checked at openaccess@strath.ac.uk *before submission*.
- 2.** IOAF funding will be allocated to journal articles alone. Only in cases where IOAF expenditure is below average will other types of outputs be considered. In these cases, authors will be expected to provide some co-funding from their own sources.
- 3.** No other sources of funding must be available to cover the mandatory OA fee. This means the journal is not covered by any Read & Publish deal (i.e. not listed in [Scifree](#)), the manuscript is not eligible for any central funds provided by research funders and the APC fee cannot be funded from a project grant.
- 4.** The journal where a manuscript is to be submitted must be a well-established fully Open Access title that applies solid peer-review standards; ‘fully OA’ means that the OA publishing fee must be mandatory and not optional.
- 5.** The amount of the APC fee needs to be reasonable and will be a key factor for eligibility: while no funding cap is strictly in place, APCs above £2,000 will rarely be considered for funding.
- 6.** The corresponding author on the manuscript should be a Strathclyde-affiliated author. Exceptions to this rule may be considered when the publication is expected to have a high impact and does not have any other possible source of funding.
- 7.** Where possible, IOAF funding will be preferentially allocated to first publications by ECRs.
- 8.** The funding will be preferentially allocated to publications produced by HaSS and/or SBS authors, even in cases where [5] above is not met.
- 9.** Fees for co-authored manuscripts with other institutions that also have OA funding available may be split with these. For external corresponding authors, the Strathclyde funding will cover up to 50% of the Open Access publishing cost.
- 10.** Extra charges (page, colour, overlength page charges, etc) are not eligible for IOAF funding.
- 11.** No retrospective Open Access will be funded.
- 12.** Funding will be granted on a first come first served basis as long as there is sufficient IOAF budget left.

13. To ensure a balanced Open Access funding distribution across Strathclyde departments and research groups, no more than one publication per research group will be funded from this IOAF within an Aug/July annual budgetary cycle. For the purpose of accounting, the use of the one publication per research group per year will be computed at the time the APC payment is made and *not when the funding is first requested*.

14. Authors whose manuscripts have been granted IOAF funding upon submission but have not yet been accepted by the time (end-of-July) the annual IOAF term finishes should contact openaccess@strath.ac.uk to provide updated information on the manuscript progress;.

15. A manuscript resubmitted elsewhere following a rejection will not 'inherit' the IOAF funding eligibility unless this is previously agreed with the library.