

The UKRI published its new [Open Access policy](#) in August 2021. It takes effect on 01 April 2022.

Policy Scope

The Open Access requirements apply to all UKRI-funded manuscripts¹ **submitted** from 01 April 2022 to be published as peer-reviewed research articles (including reviews) or conference papers in a journal, proceeding (with an International Standards Serial Number, ISSN), or publishing platform.

The policy will also cover monographs, book chapters and edited collections **published** from 01 Jan 2024.

What do I need to do?

If your manuscript acknowledges one or more UKRI-funded projects (inc. Innovate UK) then you **must** consider the way Open Access will be achieved. This is best done as early in the research process as possible, and the Open Access team may be able to assist with your choice of title to submit to – we have long-standing experience of advising on OA, and Read & Publish agreements specifically.

There are two main compliant routes with the UKRI Open Access policy. Please note that “Gold OA” via a [Read & Publish deal](#) is the route of first preference for Strathclyde corresponding authors:

1. **“Gold OA”** – Immediate open access publication of the article on the publisher/journal website, with the licensing (CC-BY) and technical requirements satisfied by the publisher;
2. **“Green OA”** - *Immediate and unrestricted* deposit of the accepted author manuscript (AAM) in a technically compliant digital repository under a CC-BY licence.

“Gold OA” compliance is achieved by either publishing – at no cost – in a journal covered by one of the Library’s Read & Publish deals OR paying a standalone Article Processing Charge (APC) directly to an eligible journal. The ‘Funding Open Access’ webpage lists the journal titles included in our [Read & Publish](#) deals but you are encouraged to send us a list of titles under consideration and we will confirm which ones qualify. The Library also manages the UKRI block grant to cover APC payments and is keen to receive Gold OA funding requests prior to manuscript submission. Note that APCs for “hybrid” journals (those that charge full subscription fees and also an additional fee to make individual articles Open Access) will no longer be an eligible cost on the open access UKRI block grant (or any other UKRI grant).

“Green OA” compliance is achieved by depositing the accepted author manuscript (AAM) in PURE, which is then transferred to the Strathprints repository to meet the technical requirements. In order for this route to be feasible, a specific wording suggested by the UKRI needs to be included in the acknowledgements section of the accepted manuscript (right after the reference to the UKRI-funded project):

"For the purpose of open access, the author has applied a Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) licence to any Author Accepted Manuscript version arising from this submission."

This is the so-called Rights Retention Strategy (RRS), and it may in some cases be the sole route to comply with the UKRI policy, so authors are strongly recommended to include this clause in **all** their UKRI-funded work. An [RRS webpage](#) is available and questions about it are welcome. Dissemination sessions tailored by research field or UKRI-funded project are also being offered upon request.

Newly-founded online resources like the [Journal Checker Tool](#) or the [Transitional Agreement Look-Up Tool](#) aim to provide automated mechanisms to allow UKRI-funded researchers to easily find out what compliant routes there may be available for a given candidate title for submission. While these do get fully updated (new Read & Publish deals are being signed every month, with a large Elsevier one announced on [23 Mar 2022](#)), checking with the Open Access team may be the simplest option.

¹ from grants as well as PhD studentships

New UKRI Open Access Policy - Briefing

This briefing is not a comprehensive guide. Please contact openaccess@strath.ac.uk with any questions.