UKRI Open Access Policy from 1 April 2022

UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) announced its [updated open access policy](#) in August 2021.

The new policy will apply to:

- peer-reviewed research articles submitted for publication from **1 April 2022**

- monographs, book chapters and edited collections published from **1 January 2024** (unless already under contract).

Outputs funded in whole or in part by the UK Research Councils must meet the UKRI Open Access requirements.

Please note that this is not the announcement of the next Research Excellence Framework (REF) open access policy, only the UKRI policy. However, UKRI have made it clear that compliance with their open access policy will also ensure compliance for the next REF.

UKRI will be providing up to £46.7 million per year to UK universities to support the implementation of the policy. This substantial increase to the UKRI block grant recognises the costs involved to meet the new policy requirements, as well as the inclusion of monographs in the policy (£3.5 million has been ring-fenced to support monograph publishing). Full details of the terms and conditions of the block grant and funding for research articles will be made available by UKRI in November/December 2021 and for monographs by 2022.

If your paper is funded by UKRI and you would like to use block grant to pay for Open Access fees, please email the GRO team at gro@gold.ac.uk with your grant number and required Open Access fee for information and support. The GRO team will check paper eligibility, provide details for the most up-to-date procurement processes and funder requirements, and work with publishers to coordinate the payment process.

The details of the policy are still to be fully announced in some areas and this page will be updated when UKRI provide further guidance. Any questions about the policy should be directed to gro@gold.ac.uk

The main points from the updated open access policy are summarised below.

Peer reviewed research articles

Peer reviewed research articles submitted for publication on or after **1 April 2022** which acknowledge funding from UKRI will need to be made open access from the date of publication. The policy applies to all peer reviewed research articles and conference papers published in proceedings with an International Standards Serial Number (ISSN).

There are two routes to compliance:

- Gold route: Making the Version of Record free and unrestricted to view and download on the publisher's website from the date of publication

- Green route: Making the Author's Accepted Manuscript (AAM) free and unrestricted to view and download on a repository from the date of publication

All articles must be made open access by the date of publication with no embargo period, and be published with a CC BY licence unless UKRI has agreed, as an exception, to allow publication under CC BY-ND.

The use of UKRI funds for publishing in a 'hybrid' journal (a subscription journal with a paid open access option) that is not part of a transitional agreement will not be permitted. Our Read and Publish agreements are examples of transitional agreements.

Monographs, book chapters and edited collections

There is a new requirement for monographs, book chapters and edited collections published from 1 January 2024 which acknowledge funding from UKRI to be made open access.

Further guidance on complying with the book publishing policy will be provided from UKRI in 2022 and this page will be updated in line with policy announcements.

The policy does not apply to trade books, scholarly editions, exhibition catalogues, scholarly illustrated catalogues, textbooks, and all types of fictional works and creative writing. However, a trade book is considered to be in scope of the policy where it is the only output from a UKRI-funded research project.

There are two routes to compliance:

- Making the Version of Record free to view and download on the publisher's website within 12 months of publication
- Making the Author's Accepted Manuscript (AAM) free to view and download on a repository within 12 months of publication. The policy allows the author and publisher to agree the appropriate version to self-archive on a repository.

The open access versions of monographs, book chapters and edited collections must be published under a Creative Commons licence. UKRI has expressed a clear preference for a CC BY licence, but other Creative Commons licences including CC BY-ND and CC BY-NC are permitted.

In 2022 UKRI will publish guidance on a number of exceptions set out in their monographs policy. The key exceptions awaiting further guidance are:

- Exceptions around the use of third-party materials where permissions for reuse in an open access book cannot be obtained.
- Exemptions where the only appropriate publisher is unable to offer an open access option that complies with the policy.

Help and Support

If you would like any more information about the policy or have any questions about how this affects your work, please email gro@gold.ac.uk.