Aim: The RCUK Policy on Open Access aims to achieve immediate, unrestricted, on-line access to peer-reviewed and published research papers, free of any access charge.

Scope: The policy applies to peer-reviewed research papers, which acknowledge Research Council funding, that are submitted for publication from 1st April 2013, and which are published in journals or conference proceedings.

Expectations for researchers: Researchers are expected to publish any peer-reviewed research papers which acknowledge Research Council funding in journals that are compliant with the RCUK Policy on Open Access.

Compliance of journals:
You can seek advice and information from open-access-support@st-andrews.ac.uk
SHERPA/RoMEO is a source of information about journal and publisher policies and the new SHERPA/FACT service will also provide compliance information.

Routes to open access: The Research Councils UK (RCUK) policy supports both ‘Gold’ and ‘Green’ routes to Open Access though RCUK has a preference for immediate Open Access with the maximum opportunity for re-use. The choice of route remains at the discretion of researchers and their research organisation. The University of St Andrews preference is for ‘Green’ open access where possible.

How to comply: To follow the ‘Green’ route you can add the full text (usually your accepted manuscript) of your research outputs in PURE. The article is then made publicly available in Research@StAndrews: Full Text within acceptable embargo periods. Contact open-access-support@st-andrews.ac.uk for advice on embargoes.

To follow the ‘Gold’ route you can publish in an open access journal or a ‘hybrid’ open access journal which offers an open access option for individual articles. The journal must use a Creative Commons Attribution (CC-BY) Licence. Journals usually charge a fee called an Article Processing Charge (APC) at the point of acceptance. The Library has membership and discount schemes available for you to use to reduce the APC costs. To make a claim on the RCUK block grant to pay the APC contact open-access-support@st-andrews.ac.uk

For more detailed steps on how to comply see RCUK Open Access Policy: How to comply from the Library webpages.

Funding: From April 2013 the payment of APCs and other publication charges related to Research Council-funded research are supported through RCUK OA block grants provided to eligible research organisations. Organisations in receipt of RCUK OA block grants are expected to establish institutional publication funds, and the processes to manage and allocate the funds. Institutions may use the block grant in the manner they consider will best deliver the RCUK Policy on Open Access in a transparent way that allocates funds fairly across the disciplines. RCUK expect research organisations in receipt of a block grant to comply with the monitoring arrangements that will be put in place for this policy.

- St Andrews is in receipt of an RCUK OA block grant which is being administered by the Library.
- APCs and other publication charges relating to peer-reviewed research papers can no longer be included within RCUK research grant applications.
Policy evolution, reporting and compliance: RCUK recognises that the journey to full Open Access is a process and not a single event and therefore it expects compliance to grow over a transition period anticipated to be five years; RCUK will undertake a comprehensive, evidence-based review of the effectiveness and impact of its Open Access policy in 2014 and periodically thereafter; RCUK is mindful that the impact of its policy on different disciplinary areas is likely to be varied and has therefore made allowance for a different pace of adjustment by permitting different embargo periods across the disciplines supported by the Research Councils.

How to comply: Help the reporting process by linking publications and projects in PURE. PURE can help to provide acknowledgement to funders and establish relationships with projects and research activities. By linking projects and publications we can expose and promote research outcomes for funded projects.

Quick steps to do this are: In the Metadata editor for your research output, scroll down to the section marked Relations > Click on the Add project button > Search for your funded project by title, author, grant ID or funder > Select Project

Grant and funder acknowledgements: All papers must include details of the funding that supported the research.

How to comply: All published papers should include a sentence in the acknowledgement section using the format: "This work was supported by the XXXX Research Council [grant number xxxx]." in line with guidance from the Research Information Network.

Authors should continue to ensure that 'University of St Andrews' is included in address fields.

Research Data: All papers must, if applicable, include a statement on how the underlying research materials—such as data, samples or models—can be accessed.

How to comply: At minimum provide contact details and an email address. If available provide a URL or citation to the relevant metadata describing the underlying data or to the data itself if access is available. Further information and support for research data is available from the Research Computing webpages and from research-computing@st-andrews.ac.uk.

Help the reporting process by linking Research Data to publications in PURE. Quick steps to do this are: use Add New to create a record for the research data (Research Output > Non-textual form › Data set/Database), scroll down to the section marked Relations > Click on the Add Research Output button > Search for your publication.

This short information sheet can't describe the RCUK policy in full. There are lots of other details to the policy with regard to embargo periods, licenses and the choices to be made to enable open access to research publications. Please do contact us with your questions.

The latest RCUK Policy, guidance and additional information is available from RCUK at RCUK Policy on Open Access

We provide fuller help and support information on the Library web pages at Library Support for Open Access

Contact: open-access-support@st-andrews.ac.uk