



University of
St Andrews

Open access policy

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Purpose	Detailing the University's approach to open access to ensure the widest possible access to its research publications.

Version number	Purpose / changes	Document status	Author of changes, role and school / unit	Date
2.0	Revised to align with Intellectual Property Policy		Head of Open Research	31/01/2022

The University of St Andrews is strongly committed to ensuring the widest possible access to its research outputs. Making these outputs more readily available to read and share increases the potential for citation, reuse and impact. Research outputs are defined as published or publicly presented results of research work completed at the University. Outputs in scope of this policy are defined by the University's Intellectual Property (IP) Policy as 'materials of a scholarly nature'. These scholarly materials would typically be those submitted for research assessment, and include published reviews, original journal articles, books, book chapters, published conference papers and data underpinning publication. Materials of a scholarly nature will normally have been subject to peer review, recognising that the nature of peer-review can vary across disciplines.

The University encourages its researchers to provide Open Access to research outputs so that they are online and freely available, meeting the requirements of the growing number of research funders in the UK and internationally who now encourage or mandate Open Access. Such access should be subject to proper attribution and should be governed by the University's IP Policy.

The University believes that the UK should adopt an approach to Open Access that supports and is credible to researchers, is sustainable and makes the best use of resources. Our academics, researchers, staff and students must be free to publish in the venue of their choice.

Related policy: Intellectual Property policy - <https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/policy/research-external-work/intellectual-property-policy.pdf>

Preferred Method of Open Access for Publication

Journal Publication

Open Access publication in journals is now required by a number of research funders – notably UKRI and the Wellcome Trust. Our preference in respect of publishing in journals is for Open Access by means of the Green route. Open Access divides into 'Gold' (in the form of Open Access journals) and 'Green' (in the form of Open Access repositories)¹. Green Open Access enables authors to publish their article in the traditional way, and to self-archive a version² of the article within an institutional or other repository for free public use.

Thus the Green approach provides most of the benefits of Open Access in a cost-effective way. It builds on our existing research information management system (known as Pure)³ and the digital repository of full-text institutional research publications⁴. These services are also able to import information about papers authored by St Andrews researchers from subject and other repositories and subsequently feed St Andrews publications to larger aggregations of research publications and search engines.

We also support 'Gold' Open Access which may involve paying Article Processing Charges (APCs) to publishers of Open Access journals or signing up to 'transitional agreements' with publishers. This route may be required in particular circumstances, such as when an author wishes to publish in a fully open access journal which requires an APC in order to publish, or when immediate Open Access of the final published version is required or preferred. The Open Access team administers Open Access publication funds which are available to academic authors in certain cases where Article Processing Charges require to be paid⁵.

¹ For fuller definitions, see The SPARC Open Access Newsletter Open Access Overview by Peter Suber: <http://legacy.earlham.edu/~peters/fos/overview.htm#repositories>

² This will be a peer-reviewed accepted manuscript. It may or may not have been copy-edited by the publisher.

³ See <https://risweb.st-andrews.ac.uk/admin/login.xhtml>

⁴ St Andrews Research Repository. See <https://research-repository.st-andrews.ac.uk/>

⁵ At present, these funds mainly cover UKRI- and Wellcome-funded articles, but their scope should increase to include other funders over time. The Open Access team can advise on this.

To achieve Green Open Access compliance, researchers should record their publications in Pure at the time of acceptance, and deposit an accepted manuscript in the University's repository via Pure. They should also ensure that research data associated with the published work is openly available where possible, and research data access is compliant with the research funder guidelines.

Related policy: Research Data Management policy: <https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/policy/research-open-research/research-data-management-policy.pdf>

Monographs and book chapters

We encourage academic authors to consider Open Access publication of monographs where possible. Some research funders have introduced requirements for Open Access to monographs, edited collections, book chapters and other long-form material and we support alignment with these policies.

Responsibility for Policy

The Open Access Policy is overseen and approved by the Research, Impact and Innovation Committee. Administration of Open Access compliance, Article Processing Charges and local repository services is undertaken by the Open Access Team. Strategic management of the activities is provided by the Open Research Working Group, consisting of academic staff and representatives of the Library, Research and Innovation Services and the Principal's Office.

Support

Open Access support and further information is available from the Open Access support [team](#) and [webpages](#).

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Version number	Purpose / changes	Document status	Author of changes, role and school / unit	Date
1.1	Extend review date, update OA web link, amend RCUK to UKRI	Approved	Head of Open Research, RIS	05/04/2021
2.0	Revised to align with Intellectual Property Policy	Draft	Head of Open Research	31/01/2022