



The University of Edinburgh



THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH  
*Library & University Collections*

# Implementing an OA policy aligned to Plan S

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**GREEN:**

DSpace since 2003

Pure since 2011

Over 100,000  
OA publications

92% compliance with  
REF OA policy



**GOLD:**

Ca. £1.0m from UKRI

Ca. £500k from UK  
Medical Charities

Preference for green  
or exclusively Gold  
models over Hybrid



# Policy Environment in the UK

- Medical Charity policies (Wellcome Trust, Cancer Research UK etc.) Since 2005.
- University of Edinburgh Research Publications Policy (2010).
- REF Policy (Research Assessment) Since 2016
- UKRI (seven disciplinary funding councils) Revised 2021 – Plan S.
- European Research Council (FP7, Horizon 2020, Horizon Europe).



- ✓ Stopped paying APCs for individual hybrid-OA
- ✓ Investigating transformative Read & Publish deals
  - Springer Compact agreement
  - Royal Society of Chemistry
- ✓ Preference for Immediate Green OA
  - **New Research Publications Policy to allow this *despite publishers embargoes.***

# Research Publications & Copyright Policy (2021)



**Research Publications & Copyright Policy (2021)**

**Purpose of Policy**  
 This will allow University of Edinburgh researchers to make their journal articles and conference proceedings available on an open access basis as required by research funders under Plan S <https://www.coalition-s.org>.

**Overview**  
 Immediate Open Access to research outputs, with rights retention, is the direction of travel major researcher funders are taking. On 1 January 2021 the Wellcome Trust introduced its new Open Access policy which requires its **grapholders** to immediately make their research outputs open access upon publication and to openly licensed with a Creative Commons attribution **licence** (CC BY).

It is expected that the new UKRI open access policy, which is due to be announced shortly with a start date of 1 January 2022, will have similar elements of rights retention that allow their **grapholders** to make their research outputs freely available by the official final publication date.

Furthermore, the recently announced Horizon Europe **programme**, which is world's largest multinational research and innovation **programme**, will require immediate open-access publishing for all recipients of Horizon Europe research grants. Authors must also retain intellectual-property rights for their papers.

The original Research Publications Policy was originally developed and implemented in January 2010, and **has been revised** in 2021 to bring it in line with research council strategies, policies, and practices.

**Scope: Mandatory Policy**  
 This policy applies to all staff on research contracts.

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**Document control**

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Approving authority: University Executive

Consultation undertaken: Library Committee, College Research Committees, Research Policy Group, Knowledge Strategy Committee, Human Resources Policy Development Group, UCU Scotland.

Section responsible for policy maintenance & review: Library Research Support, Library & University Collections, ISG

Related policies, procedures, guidelines & regulations: N/A.

UK Quality Code: UK Quality Code

Policies superseded by this policy: Research Publications Policy (2010)

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Keywords: Open access, publication, copyright

- Confirms members of staff own the copyright to their scholarly works.
- Upon acceptance of publication each staff member grants the University of Edinburgh a CC BY licence to their publication
- applies to all scholarly articles, authored or co-authored while the person is a staff member
- deposit the AM in a digital repository, with article metadata available immediately upon deposit and the AM being made accessible to the public on the date of first online publication
- Opt out in case of difficulties
- Standard address convention (citations)
- Strongly encourages use of ORCID unique identifiers



# Policy Development Process

- Early work with UK Scholarly Communications Licence Group <https://ukscl.ac.uk/>
- Consultations with University Lawyers and Senior Management
- Consultation with Research Committees across the University
- Consultation with Human Resources and Trade Union representatives (University & Colleges Union Scotland).

# Policy Implementation

- Communications plan being finalised.
- Need to communicate with publishers over the coming months.
- Policy Commences in January 2022
- ‘Soft’ implementation at first – no local sanctions for non-compliance (though there may be funder sanctions from April!)



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# Thank You!

Questions, comments, comparisons?

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