

Queen's University Belfast Open Access Policy

Introduction

Queen's University Belfast is committed to supporting open access (OA) for the purposes of preservation, increased dissemination and potential increased impact of research undertaken by its researchers. The University is committed to ensuring timely and accurate open access to publically funded research and supporting public funder mandates for open access to research.

REF Eligibility

[Current HEFCE policy](#) states that in order for a journal article or conference paper to be eligible for REF 2021, the final peer-reviewed manuscript version of the publication must be deposited in an institutional or subject repository within 3 months of acceptance.

Taking into consideration the need for systems to be developed to support deposit-on acceptance, during the first two years of the policy (1 April 2016 – 1 April 2018), outputs can be deposited up to three months after the date of publication. HEFCE plan to review this flexibility in their Policy in Autumn 2017.

Funder Mandates

Most major funding bodies, including [RCUK](#), [Wellcome Trust](#) and others, have an open access mandate. It is the responsibility of author(s) to ensure they meet funder requirements for open access. This includes ensuring the selected journal of publication allows an open access option compatible with funder requirements.

The Policy

In support of open access, funder mandates and the HEFCE policy for REF 2021, the Research and Postgraduate Committee and the Research Systems Policy Group have agreed that from 1 November 2015 onwards:

- Authors must deposit the final manuscript version of all peer-reviewed journal articles, conference papers and book chapters in Pure within 3 months of publication.
- Authors are encouraged to deposit the final manuscript version of other types of research outputs (e.g. reports, books) in Pure at the earliest date possible.

Where possible, and in line with current copyright legislation and publisher licence restrictions, the final manuscript version of the research publication will be made available open access on the Research Portal.

Research publications that contain confidential information, are to be commercialised, or for other legal commitments cannot be made open access, will not be made available on the Research Portal.

Support and Guidance

Research and Enterprise and the Library will work collaboratively to provide support and compliance with this policy.

The Library at Queen's is responsible for:

- Providing open access training and education to authors
- Verifying and enriching bibliographic data submitted to Pure
- Verifying that the correct manuscript version has been deposited in Pure, applying appropriate embargos, copyright and licence statements
- Reporting to funders on compliance.
- Reporting on internal and external (e.g. REF) compliance

Research and Enterprise at Queen's is responsible for:

- Providing Pure training
- Reporting on internal and external (e.g. REF) compliance
- Maintaining and developing Pure and Research Portal.

Paid Gold Open Access

Where the author has elected to make the published version of their output available via paid gold open access, the requirements of the HEFCE policy do not apply. The Library will provide the following additional support:

- The Library administers block grants from the [RCUK and Wellcome Trust/COAF](#) to support the cost of paid gold open access. The RCUK Block Grant is restricted to fully open access journals only.
- The Library supports a select number of [institutional memberships](#) to various publishers. These institutional memberships may provide article processing charges (APCs) at reduced rate or no-cost to the individual author.

FAQs and Further Assistance

The [Queen's University Belfast Open Access LibGuide](#) provides information regarding open access, funder requirements and gold open access funding. The open access email account (openaccess@qub.ac.uk) is managed by the Open Access Team and all enquiries are responded to within 3 working days.

Definitions

Open access	Free and unrestricted online access to research publications.
Green open access	The deposit of the final manuscript (post peer-review) version of a research output in an institutional repository or subject repository.
Gold open access	Immediate OA in the journal of publication, sometimes incurring an article process charge (APC) fee.
Bibliographic details	Publication details including authors, title, dates, abstract and unique identifiers (DOIs, handles, etc.).
Final manuscript version	Final manuscript of the publication, after peer review and editing has occurred, but before publication. Usually a text file and without the publisher's typesetting and formatting.
Pure	The University's current research information system (CRIS) used for storing information about research activities.
Research Portal	The University's public facing institutional repository of open access research outputs.

Authors	Any member of staff or research student at Queen's University Belfast who publishes a research output.
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Policy endorsed by: the Research and Postgraduate Committee and the Research Systems Policy Group.

Policy effective date: 1 November 2014.

Policy updated: 1 October 2017.

Policy review date: 1 October 2018

http://libguides.qub.ac.uk/ld.php?content_id=18819187