updated July 2026

University of Exeter policy for central open access funds

The policy was agreed at the meeting of REIG in December 2020. Updated in July 2026 to incorporate changes (approved by RIEC) to the eligible author policy, and scope of the institutional fund. This information document summarises the policy and scope of the open access funds.

1. Background

The University has central open access funds administered by the Open Research team (Library)

- UKRI open access block grant
- Wellcome Trust open access block grant
- British Heart Foundation open access fund
- Institutional open access fund

2. Aims and Rationale

The policy is underpinned by the rationale that the transition to full and immediate open access to all research outputs is best served by supporting fully open access journals and publisher agreements that deliver better value for money to the University, compared to paying individual article-level fees.

This policy will allow the Open Research team to manage central OA funds to ensure that:

- academic freedom is protected - researchers can publish in the journal of their choice
- the University receives the best value for money from payments made to publishers
- authors can comply with funder open access mandates
- open access funding is distributed fairly across the University

3. Management of funds

Funds will be prioritised to support:

- Open access publishing fees where these are essential to publication i.e. in fully open access venues
- Publisher agreements that include a publishing element

4. Scope of Expenditure

UKRI open access block grant

- open access publishing fees (APCs) in fully open access journals
- publish costs in publisher agreements, according to UKRI guidance for the use of funds towards these*
- other costs specified by UKRI as eligible in the terms and conditions for the grant

*UKRI will phase out funding for publication in hybrid journals, even when these are included in publisher agreements, from 2028-2029

Wellcome Trust open access block grant

- APCs in open access journals (listed in DOAJ) where publisher deposits to PubMed Central
- other costs as outlined in guidance from the Wellcome Trust

Wellcome Trust no longer fund publishing in hybrid journals, even when these are included in publisher agreements.

Institutional open access fund

- APCs in fully open access journals
- open access publishing fees for monographs, book chapters
- other costs as approved by RIEG/19/98 including data publication charges, open research initiatives, open access compliance, support training and campaigns

Additional clarifications

Can researchers still publish in hybrid journals?

The policy does not prevent researchers from publishing in hybrid journals, many hybrid journals are included in publisher agreements: when the Exeter author is *corresponding author*, publish open access without publishing fees, as the Library has already paid for this.

If your chosen journal is not included in an agreement, publish on a subscription basis (not open access) without paying any publishing fees and upload the accepted manuscript to ORE. Include a Rights Retention statement (*"For the purpose of open access, the author has applied a Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) licence to any Author Accepted Manuscript version arising from this submission*") at submission, to ensure we can make the accepted manuscript immediately open access in ORE without embargo and under the CC BY licence.

Can researchers still comply with REF open access policy?

Researchers can publish in hybrid journals and comply with REF open access policy by uploading the accepted manuscript to ORE within 3 months of acceptance, free of charge. There is no requirement in the REF policy for researchers to pay open access publishing fees, or to publish open access on the publisher website.

How does this affect funded research outputs in co-authorship with another institution?

If a paper acknowledges funding, it must comply with the funder policy, even if the funded author is not lead or corresponding author. Discuss funder obligations with co-authors before submitting. To publish open access using Exeter's funds or publisher agreements, corresponding author must have an eligible Exeter affiliation. If you cannot publish open access on the publisher website, comply with your funder by self-archiving in ORE / PubMed Central using Rights Retention.

Where can researchers discover open access options in journals?

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