

Open Access Publishing Policy

1. Background

- 1.1. In 2012 the Government accepted the recommendations of the Working Group on Expanding Access to Published Research¹ led by Dame Janet Finch.
- 1.2. In the intervening decade Open Access (OA) publishing has been supported by the worldwide research community to the extent that estimates indicate that more than half of all published papers worldwide are published as OA and leading HEIs such as the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine are publishing more than 90% of papers as OA².
- 1.3. A major push towards OA publishing has come from organisations such as cOAlitionS and UKRI, with funders increasingly insisting on OA publication as a condition of funding.
- 1.4. The Research Excellence Framework (REF) incorporates its own OA policy, making compliance with this essential for a positive REF submission outcome.

2. Purpose and scope

- 2.1. The purpose of this policy is to outline Plymouth Marjon University's position on OA publishing, and it applies to all University staff and all research outputs, including journal articles and longform publications such as monographs, book chapters and edited collections.
- 2.2. Excluded from this policy are textbooks, book reviews, trade books, lesson materials and other outputs not resulting from original research.

3. The University's position

- 3.1. Plymouth Marjon University is committed to its values and sees making its research open and accessible as part of creating an inclusive world where access to research is free to people worldwide, regardless of income status.
- 3.2. The University is committed to ensuring that its research output, to the greatest extent, is made open access.
- 3.3. The University expects that staff will be responsible for ensuring that their research outputs are made open access in accordance with this policy and the direction of funding agencies.

¹ <https://www.researchinfonet.org/finch/>

² [CWTS Leiden Ranking - Ranking 2023 - London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine](#)

- 3.4. The academic publishing landscape is currently fluid as it transitions from a pay-to-read model to a pay-to-publish model. Staff are expected to check the latest advice on the Library web pages³.
- 3.5. To help authors, a glossary of Open Access terms can also be found on the Library's Antler pages.

4. Benefits of Open Access

- 4.1. **Discoverability:** The University's repository⁴, an essential part of ensuring OA compliance, makes Marjon's research outputs findable by search engines, directories and databases.
- 4.2. **Accessibility:** Free access makes Marjon's research outputs easily available to other researchers, policy makers, businesses, community leaders, media professionals and the like, thereby potentially increasing the exposure and impact of the research.
- 4.3. **Citations:** Compared with paywalled articles, OA articles receive more citations in subsequent published work.
- 4.4. **Collaboration:** Increased visibility within the worldwide research community increases the potential for collaboration.
- 4.5. **Value for money:** Publicly funded research is available to anyone.
- 4.6. **Compliance:** Meets the requirements of fundholders and the REF.

5. Open Access at Plymouth Marjon University

- 5.1. If research is funded authors will be expected to follow the OA requirements of the funding organisation. This may, or may not, include authorisation to publish in a hybrid journal or to allow an embargo. It is the responsibility of the author/lead researcher to understand the OA requirements of their funder before publication, and any restrictions imposed by a publisher which may prevent them from meeting those requirements.
- 5.2. If Gold OA is a requirement of a funding organisation, then authors should ensure this cost will be built into the amount of grant awarded.
- 5.3. If there is no external organisation funding the research, authors must source their own funding for the APC for Gold publishing, take the Green route to publication, or use a journal published by a company with which Marjon has a publishing agreement.
- 5.4. Whichever route is chosen for publication all authors are required to upload the following to the PMU repository within 3 months of the date of acceptance for publication:

³ [Open Access at Marjon](#)

⁴ <https://www.marjon.ac.uk/student-life/library/research-repository/>

- The Author Accepted Manuscript (if publishing via Green OA) or the Article of Record (if publishing via Gold OA)
 - Metadata (author, titles, keywords, date of acceptance, etc.) describing the research output
- 5.5. It is the responsibility of each author to ensure that the correct creative commons licence⁵, usually CC-BY, is applied by the publisher.
- 5.6. All UKRI funded long-form outputs must be deposited in the PMU repository and made openly available within 12 months of publication.
- 5.7. Outputs subject to permanent embargo for valid legal, ethical, copyright or IPR reasons must still be deposited as a closed record on the PMU repository, where links to published versions can be included.

6. Open Access and the Research Excellence Framework

- 6.1. UKRI open access compliant publications will be considered to meet the REF 2028 open access requirements without additional action from the author and/or institution. Until new policies come into force, authors should continue to follow REF 2021 open access policies.
- 6.2. All journal articles, books, book chapters, and conference proceedings with an ISSN should be deposited in the University's repository within 3 months of the date of acceptance (as in acceptance letter or email).
- 6.3. Where a journal specifies an embargo period, compliance can be achieved by making a 'closed' deposit on acceptance.

7. Library support

- 7.1. The Library will provide support and advice to staff regarding the implementation of this policy including how to publish in compliance with the requirements of fundholders and regulators. This includes advice on:
- Selecting an appropriate journal
 - Publisher agreements that Marjon has in place
 - Adding outputs to the repository
 - Copyright issues, including takedown and rights retention
 - Library staff will be responsible for ensuring technical compliance of the repository and that deposit metadata is compliant, transferable, and accurate.
- 7.2. Library staff responsible for providing support:
- User Education and Research Support Librarian
 - Information Advisor (Web and Repository)
 - Head of Library

⁵ <https://creativecommons.org/about/cclicenses/>

- User Administrator and Copyright Coordinator

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