

Open Access Publication: Global Studies Guidance

As you know Open Access (OA) is an initiative to make publicly-funded research outputs in academic journals freely available at the point of use and not restricted by journal subscription.

HEFCE has had an OA policy in place since 2014 which we need to start implementing. This requires (from **1st April 2016**) all relevant post-2014 **REF publications** to be deposited in Institutional or subject repositories, **within three months of the date of acceptance** (not the date of publication).

This means HEFCE will require OA of all journal articles and conference proceedings which have an ISSN that are accepted for publication from 1st April 2016. However **many research councils and other UK research funders already mandate OA publication as a condition of the research that they fund** – including research funded through ESRC studentships. Therefore doctoral students funded by RCUK are also bound by these requirements.

In our case the institutional repository is Sussex Research Online <https://sro.sussex.ac.uk/>. Copies of your accepted journal articles¹ should be deposited here. This can either be done by yourself or you can send journal details to globalsro@sussex.ac.uk and Medeni Fordham and Jayne Paulin (GS RECS) will upload the information on your behalf. The library will check for you any embargo restrictions imposed by journals on when papers can be made OA.

RCUK provide a (limited) block fund to support this process and the University is required to report to RCUK on compliance with the OA mandate. For this reason, when providing outline publication details for Sussex Research Online and when depositing publications in the repository, it is essential that you provide details of the research funder (where relevant), to enable the University to monitor and report OA compliance with funder requirements.

More information (including specific funder OA policies) can be found on the Library webpages <http://www.sussex.ac.uk/library/openaccess> and at <http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo/search.php>

If you have RCUK funding and before you submit an article to a journal it is best to email the library at openaccess@sussex.ac.uk with the details of the journal you'd like to submit to. They will tell you if it complies with RCUK requirements for OA. There are no requirements for monographs or edited books to be OA at this stage.

There are two options to make your journal publications open access:

1. **Green Route:** Most journals will allow authors to make their papers available via a repository, either institutional (Sussex Research Online (SRO)) or subject based. This is known as the **Green Route** and is appropriate for most publications. The Green Route will be subject to the embargo period specified by the particular journal you have submitted to (short green = 6-12 months embargo; long green = 12- 24 months).

¹ Accepted journal articles are defined as the full text version of the manuscript after peer review including any final changes, but *before* any typesetting or copy-editing by the publisher.

See <http://www.hefce.ac.uk/whatwedo/rsrch/rinfrastruct/oa/faq/> Q3 'What is meant by date of acceptance'.

2. **Gold Route:** In exceptional circumstances there is the **Gold Route**. This means publishing in an Open or Hybrid journal - known as "Gold" or "author pays" route. Some journals will only allow Gold route. The cost on average is £1,300 per publication although there is wide variation. This fee is normally payable by the corresponding author's institution.

For post-2014 REF Panels C and D (social science, arts and humanities) HEFCE will allow up to 24 months' embargo.

Where the Gold Route is required, funds are held centrally for the whole University for articles funded with RCUK research money. The money is allocated on a **first come first served** basis (i.e there is no specific school allocation).

To apply for Gold Route funding, contact openaccess@sussex.ac.uk. There should be no fee associated with the Green Route and in most cases this will be recommended as the chosen route.

To be OA compliant even if your research is not RCUK funded you can deposit an accepted version of your article in Sussex Research Online. This way your paper will be free for anyone to download and easy for you to promote and share.

If you are required to 'go for gold' as the Green route is not a compliant option, Library Research Support staff will ask me and/or Andrea for approval of your application. Our priority will be ensuring compliance with funders' requirements and the University policy is to go Green where this is possible.

The following criteria will be considered to support Gold OA when the Green Route is not appropriate:

- (i) where there is high potential to build impact around the research
- (ii) where you hold an RCUK grant of at least £75,000
- (iii) where a regular member of Sussex academic staff has authored at least 50% of the publication

For a paper already accepted and/or published the Library Research Support Office can check whether it is RCUK compliant and give you the appropriate advice.

Additional frequently asked questions relating to OA can be found at:

<http://www.sussex.ac.uk/library/research/openaccess/about-open-access/faq>

Peter Newell