

# REF Open Access Policy – what you need to know

## REF OA Policy

Articles and conference proceedings must comply with [REF's OA policy](#) to be eligible for REF2029. To comply, output records must be [created in Elements and deposited to SRO](#) along with the [Author Accepted Manuscript](#) (AAM).

Outputs to be published Gold OA should still be deposited.

## Deposit your publications

**Deposit your publications as soon as you can – the sooner you deposit, the more secure their eligibility for the REF.**

The REF2029 OA policy differs slightly to REF2021's. This means:

- Outputs published **before** 31 December 2025 must be deposited to SRO **within 3 months of acceptance**
- Outputs published **after** 31 December 2025 must be deposited **within 3 months of publication**

**It will remain best practice to deposit as soon as possible after acceptance.** The SRO team will check your deposited record for accuracy before it is made live in the repository.

## Guidance and training

[The Library has a helpful guide](#), with videos, on using Elements.

See the Library's [What is Open Access? page](#) for info on routes to Open Access and FAQs.

For more info on REF's OA policy, see the [Library's Open Access for REF page](#) and [REF's FAQ page](#).

For help using Elements to create and deposit output records, contact [sro@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:sro@sussex.ac.uk).

## Benefits of OA

Many research funders also have OA policies which may align with REF's policy. [See the Library's Funder OA Policy pages](#). The REF and research funders implement OA policies to ensure that **knowledge and discoveries are widely accessible** for individuals and institutions regardless of their economic standing, and to promote **broader impact, transparency, and collaboration** within the academic community.