Research Ireland's Interim Open Research Policy

Research Ireland's new Open Research Policy will take effect from 7th April 2025 and will apply to all research publications submitted for publication on or after this date. This policy represents an interim position that is broadly aligned with the two legacy agencies'[1] Open Access policies. The policy will continue to support the goals of Ireland's National Action Plan for Open Research.

Research Ireland is committed to accelerating the implementation of open research practices across the Irish research system, and we will continue to develop policies and guidance to support this goal. While this policy sets out requirements mostly applicable to peer-reviewed journal articles, we intend to take a broader view of the scholarly communication landscape in future updates. As such, we aim to align these updates with international best practice by addressing a more diverse range of research outputs.

An updated Open Research Policy will be launched before the end of 2025.

Please direct any queries regarding this policy to researchpolicy@researchireland.ie

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[1] Science Foundation Ireland and the Irish Research Council

Interim Open Research Policy

Research Ireland is committed to ensuring equitable access to research outputs for all, irrespective of location or means. This policy aims to facilitate the public benefit of open sharing of research outputs supported by Research Ireland and to maximise the impact of these works.

Research Ireland has endorsed the [National Action Plan for Open Research 2022-2030](#).

Open Access Requirements

The following requirements apply to all peer-reviewed research publications (excluding long-form publications, book chapters, and review articles) arising in whole or in part from Research Ireland-funded research.

1. Either the Version of Record (VoR) or the Author Accepted Manuscript (AAM) must be immediately available from the date of publication.
2. Either the VoR or the AAM must be deposited in an open repository. Research publications published in open access venues must also be deposited in a repository.
3. Research publications must be made available under a Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) licence[2].
4. Authors are encouraged to retain copyright of their research outputs. Grant holders may use one of the following Rights Retention statements when submitting their work for publication:

    > 'This publication has emanated from research conducted with the financial support of Research Ireland under Grant number [XX]. For the purpose of open access, the author has applied a CC BY public copyright licence to any Author Accepted Manuscript version arising from this submission'.

    > Or

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[2] In exceptional circumstances where it is not appropriate to apply a CC BY licence, an alternative Creative Commons licence (e.g. CC BY-ND) may be agreed with Research Ireland in advance of publication. Queries regarding licencing terms should be directed to researchpolicy@researchireland.ie

> 'This publication has emanated from research supported in part by a grant from Research Ireland under Grant number [XX]. For the purpose of open access, the author has applied a CC BY public copyright licence to any Author Accepted Manuscript version arising from this submission'.

5. Research Ireland grant funds may be used as a contribution to costs associated with Article Processing Charges (APCs) when publishing in open access journals. Research Ireland grant funds <u>may not be used</u> to support publication in hybrid journals or any costs associate with non-OA publishing.
6. Research articles must include a statement explaining how related data, original software, or materials underpinning the research can be accessed.
7. All publications should be accompanied by appropriate metadata in line with national and international standards for harvesting and interoperability. At a minimum, this must include full bibliographic data, persistent identifiers (e.g., digital object identified (DOI); ORCID), funder information ("Research Ireland under Grant number [XX]"), and licence information.

Requirements for long-form publications

Research Ireland strongly encourages researchers to make all long-form publications, including monographs and book chapters, openly available. These publications should be deposited in an open repository under a Creative Commons licence as soon as possible following publication.

Requirements for Research Data

Research Ireland encourages researchers to ensure that research data and software are Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable (FAIR). All data, original software or materials that underpin Research Ireland-funded research publications should be deposited in an open repository. The associated publication should include information on how to access the related resources.

Please note that many Research Ireland Programme Calls now require a Data Management Plan (DMP) at the submission stage, detailing data management responsibilities and resources, including adherence to FAIR principles.

Recommended Open Research practices

To facilitate prompt dissemination of research findings, Research Ireland encourages researchers to deposit preprints ahead of publication. These should be made available under a CC-BY licence and should be associated with a digital object identifier (DOI).

However, it should be noted that preprints are not currently permitted when considering publications as part of eligibility requirements.

Researchers are strongly encouraged to engage in open research practices wherever possible. These practices may include, but are not limited to, preregistration, publication of registered reports, and participation in open peer preview.

Monitoring and Compliance

Research Ireland will monitor compliance with this policy through various means and on an ongoing basis. Grant recipients should provide valid information on their publication's OA status when submitting such data as part of their reporting requirements under Research Ireland.

Exceptions

In exceptional circumstances where making a publication openly available is precluded by another legal rule[3], grant recipients may apply to Research Ireland for an exemption to the above requirements. All requests for exemptions must be directed to researchpolicy@researchireland.ie

Glossary

Version of Record (VoR)	The final, published 'version of record' is usually a PDF that has undergone typesetting and has the publisher's branding on it.
Author Accepted Manuscript (AAM)	The version of the manuscript that contains the final text, but not yet the typesetting and formatting from the publisher. For journal articles, this is the text after changes in response to peer-review but before the publisher's typesetting and formatting has been applied. May otherwise be known as the 'author manuscript', 'final author version' or 'post-print'. For chapters, this is the version of the manuscript that has been agreed for publication.
CC BY	Creative Commons Attribution licence. See Creative Commons – CC BY for further information.
CC BY-ND	Creative Commons Attribution No-Derivatives licence. See Creative Commons – CC BY-ND for further information.

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[3] For example, when reuse permissions for third-party materials cannot be obtained and there is no alternative option available to enable open access publication

Open repository

An open repository collects, preserves and disseminates research outputs. Open repositories are usually provided by an institution.

Research Ireland-funded research

Any research that has been partially or fully funded by a Research Ireland grant.

Preprints

A preprint is a version of an article that is shared publicly before it has undergone the peer review process