

**Open Access Publishing Policy**

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**Document Control**

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1. **Overview Statement**

The Royal Veterinary College supports the assertion that ‘the results of research that have been publicly funded should be freely accessible in the public domain’[[1]](#footnote-1) and is committed to ensuring its research outputs are disseminated as widely as possible. Simply put, the College supports making research outputs and data freely available, with minimal copyright restrictions, rather than charging users to access them.

1. **Background and funder requirements**

Following the Finch report, RCUK revised their Policy on Open Access[[2]](#footnote-2). This policy came into effect on 1 April 2013 and states that all research generated from Research Council funding (either partial or complete funding) must be made available via Open Access.

HEFCE, along with the other UK HE funding bodies, support open access to research outputs and, in March 2014, launched an Open Access policy. At the core of this policy is the principle that, to be eligible for submission for the post-2014 REF,

‘…outputs must have been deposited in an institutional or subject repository on acceptance for publication, and made open-access within a specified time period. This requirement applies to journal articles and conference proceedings only; monographs and other long-form publications, research data and creative and practice-based research outputs are out of scope’. [[3]](#footnote-3)

Both RCUK and HEFCE note that OA can be achieved via a Gold route (where the journal provides access, free of charge, at the point of use) or the Green route (where the author deposits an accepted, peer reviewed version to a self-publish repository). For further information on Gold & Green OA please visit [www.rvc.ac.uk/openaccess](http://www.rvc.ac.uk/openaccess).

1. **Key Policy Points:**

It is understood that OA is an evolving field, and as such, this policy may require adaptions in the future. The key OA policy points are as below.

* The College mandates Green OA for all published outputs. Green OA is achieved via the submission of Post-Print outputs to the institutional repository.
* Gold OA is supported, only when external funding is available. Gold OA should be provided in addition to Green OA, not as an alternative to it.
* The College will provide a Publications Repository to enable Green OA. The Researcher is responsible for ensuring their outputs are available via the repository, at the time when an output is accepted for publication.
* The College will support Researchers in ensuring they meet their OA requirements, providing advice and guidance as required (e.g. via checking the SHERPA/ROMEO database).
* The College (via the Assistant Librarian for Research Support) will review all submissions to the Publications Repository, ensuring correct embargo periods have been met and the appropriate fields completed.

1. **Researcher Responsibilities:**

Researchers have the academic freedom to submit and publish their work in whichever journal they choose. Please note:

* Researchers should follow the College’s policy on publication submitting through the College’s pre-publication approval system to ensure the approval of all authors named on the paper is obtained, the paper has been assessed for potential intellectual property protection by IP experts and that all ethical permissions are correctly detailed in the paper.
* Researchers must ensure that their published research outputs are made freely available, in compliance with the publishing requirements of their research funders.
* As mandatory, for Green OA, Researchers must submit a post-acceptance, peer reviewed version, (including bibliographic metadata) to the College’s Publications’ Repository, at the time when an output is accepted for publication. This may be subject to embargo periods, which will be set in the repository post submission.
* Researchers who wish to disseminate via subject specific repositories must ensure that a copy of the version is submitted simultaneously to the College’s Publications’ Repository.
* Researchers are responsible for ensuring the validity and authenticity of any submissions.
* Copyright concerns, confidentiality and IP requirements are the responsibility of the Researcher.

1. Finch Report 2012 - [www.researchinfonet.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/Finch-Group-report-FINAL-VERSION.pdf](http://www.researchinfonet.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/Finch-Group-report-FINAL-VERSION.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. RCUK OA Policy - [www.rcuk.ac.uk/RCUK-prod/assets/documents/documents/RCUKOpenAccessPolicy.pdf](http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/RCUK-prod/assets/documents/documents/RCUKOpenAccessPolicy.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. HEFCE OA Circular - [www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/year/2014/cl072014/#d.en.86764](http://www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/year/2014/cl072014/#d.en.86764) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)