

Preparing for the new Wellcome Trust Open Access policy (July 2020 reminder)

Wellcome-funded Researchers, be 2021 open access ready:

1) Know the new requirements

What is the new Wellcome Open Access policy?

Wellcome's new OA policy takes effect on 1 January 2021 and will adopt Plan S principles. It applies to articles containing original research submitted for publication from 1 January 2021.

Key changes: immediate open access (no embargo); CC-BY licence; authors to retain copyright.

There are two ways to comply:

1. Publish in a fully OA journal or platform.
2. Publish in a subscription journal that allows the Accepted Author Manuscript (AAM) to be freely available in Europe PMC at the time of publication with a CC-BY licence.

Funding for OA publication fees.

From January 2021 Wellcome will no longer pay for OA publication in subscription journals ('hybrid OA') unless part of a transformative publisher arrangement committed to transition to fully OA.

They will cover Article Processing Charges (APCs) for fully OA journals, plus hybrid journals in a transformative deal (often called 'Read and Publish') for a 3-year transition period until Dec 2024.

The existing system of annual block grants to the university will continue.

Will Wellcome pay for other publication charges (page, colour) as part of the new policy?

No. Non-OA publication costs will no longer be covered.

What about invited/commissioned reviews?

The new policy will cover all papers which report original (peer-reviewed) research and so if an invited review article falls within this category it will be required to be open access.

Preprints.

Posting of preprints is encouraged, and will be *required* if there is a public health emergency.

2) Check a journal's policy before choosing to submit

- get familiar with whether your journal offers a compliant OA pathway
- watch for new announcements on journal policies and transformative agreements

Readiness of journals and publishers.

Many journals are already compliant, some are intending to become compliant by 2021, and we await developments with others including Elsevier (inc. Lancet) and Cell Press. We anticipate further publisher agreements in time for the start of the new Wellcome policy.

Already compliant:

1. Fully OA journals: PLOS journals, BioMedCentral journals, BMJ Open, eLife, Wellcome Open Research and other journals listed in DOAJ <https://doaj.org/>. Also BMJ (although it is not listed in DOAJ because only research articles are OA not all content)

2. Subscription journals which allow the accepted manuscript to be freely available in EuropePMC at the time of publication with a CC-BY licence. Example: Royal Society.
3. Hybrid journals in a Transformative Agreement which is committed to transition to fully OA. Oxford University currently has Read and Publish agreements in place which cover over 6,000 journals with the following publishers: Brill, Company of Biologists, Institute of Physics Publishing, Microbiology Society, Portland Press, SAGE, Springer and Wiley. Check the OAOxford website for latest details <http://openaccess.ox.ac.uk/faq-publisher-pre-pay-schemes/>.

Intending to become compliant:

Nature (and other Nature Research journals) and Science, according to Nature News (<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-01066-5l>). Why are Nature and Science currently non-compliant? Nature has a 6-month embargo for accepted manuscripts in repositories. Neither journal permits CC BY licence for the repository version.

New plan to enable 'green open access' compliance in subscription journals.

Plan S's new **Rights Retention strategy** would enable authors to make AAMs available immediately with CC BY, overriding standard publisher policy. Announced by coAlition S on 15th July 2020 at <https://www.coalition-s.org/coalition-s-develops-rights-retention-strategy/> and reported in Nature News at <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-02134-6>. Wellcome are updating their grant conditions accordingly - <https://wellcome.ac.uk/news/wellcome-updates-open-access-policy-align-coalition-s>. We await developments regarding publisher responses to this latest initiative.

How can you tell if a journal is compliant with the new policy?

A new Plan S **Journal Checker** Tool is being planned in time for January 2021, to easily identify journals or platforms that enable compliance. Based on the researcher's funder and institution, it will cover the three different Plan S compliance routes: Gold OA, Green OA and transformative journals. More information is on the coAlition S <https://www.coalition-s.org/development-of-plan-s-journal-checker-tool-tender-results/> and DOAJ sites <https://blog.doaj.org/2020/07/03/coalition-s-chooses-doajs-technical-partner-cottage-labs-to-deliver-their-journal-checker-tool/>.

3) Act to ensure your future Wellcome grants are not affected

- submit by 31 December 2020 if you wish to publish under the current policy
- articles submitted for publication from 1 January 2021 should comply with the new policy

What if I ignore the new policy and publish in a non-compliant journal?

Wellcome impose sanctions for non-compliant articles, as detailed on their website under [Monitoring compliance](#).

Where is the new policy?

The [new policy](#) and accompanying [FAQ](#) are on the Wellcome's [Open Access policy](#) page.

Advice for Oxford researchers.

Wellcome-funded authors with articles in preparation who wish to publish under the current policy will need to submit them by 31 December 2020. Please check the [OAOxford website](#) for updates and contact the OA Enquiry team with any questions at openaccess@bodleian.ox.ac.uk.