

# Research Publications & Copyright Policy (2021)



THE UNIVERSITY  
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## Purpose of Policy

This will allow University of Edinburgh researchers to make their journal articles and conference proceedings available on an open access basis as required by research funders under Plan S <https://www.coalition-s.org>.

## Overview

Immediate Open Access to research outputs, with rights retention, is the direction of travel major researcher funders are taking. On 1 January 2021 the Wellcome Trust introduced its new Open Access policy which requires its grantholders to immediately make their research outputs open access upon publication and to be openly licensed with a Creative Commons attribution licence (CC BY).

It is expected that the new UKRI open access policy, which is due to be announced shortly with a start date of 1 January 2022, will have similar elements of rights retention that allow their grantholders to make their research outputs freely available by the official final publication date.

Furthermore, the recently announced Horizon Europe programme, which is world's largest multinational research and innovation programme, will require immediate open-access publishing for all recipients of Horizon Europe research grants. Authors must also retain intellectual-property rights for their papers.

The original Research Publications Policy was originally developed and implemented in January 2010, and has been revised in 2021 to bring it in line with research council strategies, policies, and practices.

## Scope: Mandatory Policy

This policy applies to all staff on research contracts.

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## Document control

Dates	Approved:	Starts:	Equality impact assessment:	Amendments:	Next Review:
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**Approving authority** University Executive

**Consultation undertaken** Library Committee, College Research Committees, Research Policy Group, Knowledge Strategy Committee, Human Resources Policy Development Group, UCU Scotland.

**Section responsible for policy maintenance & review** Library Research Support, Library & University Collections, ISG

**Related policies, procedures, guidelines & regulations** N/A.

**UK Quality Code** UK Quality Code

**Policies superseded by this policy** Research Publications Policy (2010)

**Alternative format** If you require this document in an alternative format please email [Academic.Services@ed.ac.uk](mailto:Academic.Services@ed.ac.uk) or telephone 0131 651 4490.

**Keywords** Open access, publication, copyright



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Academic staff at the University of Edinburgh have traditionally, when publishing research outputs, exercised an independent right to assign or give away their scholarly works (in addition to the University's right). This has enabled the current process of the corresponding author assigning copyright to publishers, which results in many journal articles and scholarly works now being under partial or complete ownership by the academic publishers.

In order for the University and its researchers to comply with funder requirements, and to enable the University to disseminate its research and scholarship as widely as possible, whilst enabling its staff to publish their work in a journal of their choice The University of Edinburgh will adopt the following policy.

## **Research Publications & Copyright Policy**

1. The University of Edinburgh confirms the current practice that members of staff own the copyright to their scholarly works.
2. Upon acceptance of publication each staff member with a responsibility for research agrees to grant the University of Edinburgh a non-exclusive, irrevocable, worldwide licence to make manuscripts of their scholarly articles publicly available under the terms of a Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) licence, or a more permissive licence.
3. After granting the licence each staff member with a responsibility for research will provide an electronic copy of the accepted manuscript (AM) of each article at no charge to the appropriate representative of the University of Edinburgh in an appropriate electronic format (such as PDF).
4. The University of Edinburgh will deposit the AM in a digital repository, with article metadata usually available immediately upon deposit and the AM being made accessible to the public on the date of first online publication (or the conference end date for conference proceedings) under a Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) licence.
5. This policy applies to all scholarly articles, including conference proceedings, authored or co-authored while the person is a staff member of The University of Edinburgh, which includes any third party content where rights in that content have been secured. Any articles submitted, or accepted, for publication before the adoption of this policy are exempt.
6. Whilst the policy does not apply to monographs, scholarly editions, text books, book chapters, collections of essays, datasets, or other outputs that are not scholarly articles, the University strongly encourages researchers to make them as openly available as possible. Note: this proposed policy only applies to first copyright in authored research publications. It does not extend to other Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) in research, which is already covered in the University's IPR Policy.



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7. The University recognises that there may be situations outwith a staff members control where it is difficult to follow this policy exactly. In this case it will be permissible for staff to voluntarily opt out of the requirement for immediate open access upon publication, or the assignation of a CC BY licence. However this may cause the research output to be non-compliant with funder policies. To opt-out we simply ask authors to contact the Scholarly Communications Team with details of the publication.

## **Address convention**

8. This policy requires all University of Edinburgh research outputs to be easily identified as being from the University of Edinburgh in order to ensure full credit is given in bibliometric searches carried out for the assessment of research, league tables or other purposes. All researchers should use an address in the form below when submitting an item for publication. As a bare minimum the phrase “The University of Edinburgh” must be used, but the following format is preferred:

*<Centre/Unit>, <Institute/School>, <The University of Edinburgh>, <Postal Address>.*

## **Adoption and use of author identifiers (ORCID)**

9. ORCID provides researchers with a unique identifier that can be kept throughout their career. It distinguishes between researchers with similar names and helps ensure that publications are attributed and recorded correctly, potentially reducing researchers’ workload. ORCID is a global, non-profit organization supported by its members, including the University of Edinburgh. Publishers are increasingly adopting ORCIDs in their journal submission systems. Major research funders, such as the Wellcome Trust and the UK Research Councils, now require, or recommend the use of ORCID. In addition, external grant application and reporting systems, such as Researchfish and Je-S, now link with and require ORCID identifiers.
10. The University of Edinburgh strongly encourages researchers, if they have not already done so, to claim, create and populate their ORCID record. This can be done automatically via information already held in the institutional repository. The University of Edinburgh then asks researchers to use their ORCID in research outputs.

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