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- To meet funders' OA policies. To ensure a good return on their investment in research, all major funders strongly support open access. HEFCE also mandates OA for all research articles in the next REF (Research Excellence Framework) in 2021

## How to make your articles open access

Almost all articles can be made open access through one of two routes:

- **Green open access** refers to making articles available in a repository like LSHTM Research Online. This is free for the author and for the reader
- **Gold open access** refers to paying a publisher's open access fee to make the article OA upon publication via the journal website. Fees are usually covered by funders' grants

### Green open access

- Green OA makes use of publishers' re-use policies. Most publishers allow deposit of the 'accepted manuscript' (i.e. final draft after peer review but before typesetting) in a repository
- An embargo period may apply (often 6-12 months), during which the article is locked for download until after that period expires. Journal policies can be checked on <http://sherpa.ac.uk/romeo>
- The important thing is that the article is made open eventually – OA articles receive more downloads than those only available via subscription

### Gold open access

- An advantage of paying for gold OA is that articles are openly available upon publication
- Articles are also published under a Creative Commons copyright license, which lets that article be freely shared, along with other re-uses defined by the particular license applied
- Subscription journals usually offer gold open access (these are called **hybrid journals**), and there are a growing range of **fully open access journals**, which tend to have lower fees (e.g. see publishers such as PLoS, BioMed Central, Frontiers, PeerJ and F1000)
- Some fully open access journals are free to publish in (e.g. Wellcome Open Research, Gates Open Research, and many listed on DOAJ.org)



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It is expected that all research staff follow the REF policy and the policy of their funder:

- **REF 2021:** to be REF eligible, accepted manuscripts (final drafts) should be deposited in Research Online within **3 months of acceptance**, unless gold open access is paid for
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- Funds to pay for open access articles emerging from **COAF** (inc. Wellcome Trust, Cancer Research UK, British Heart Foundation) and **RCUK** (inc. MRC, BBSRC, ESRC, NERC) funded research are available upon application via the Library & Archives Service
- Some eligibility criteria apply to these funds. These include: the publication should be a research article or unsolicited review, and the grant should be held by the School; for **RCUK** funded papers, applications will only be accepted for **fully open access** journals, to a limit of £2500 per article (*n.b. RCUK funding is now unavailable until April 2019*)
- An application form should be submitted via **ServiceDesk** and eligibility and funding availability will be checked. It is best to do this as the point of submission if submitting to a fully open access journal
- **MRC Units** manage separate publication funds
- The **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation** centrally manage open access funding
- For other funders, open access allowances can often be written into grant budgets (e.g. **DFID, ERC, NIHR**), and some may have central funds available to cover OA fees
- Waivers and discounts are often available for unfunded research where you are submitting to a fully open access journal. The Library & Archives Service can aid a waiver request made to a publisher by providing a letter in support

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