

Open Access Fee Waiver and Discount Schemes

If you are not eligible to apply for the open access funding available via the LSHTM Library (i.e. RCUK and COAF-funded authors), you may be able to apply to a publisher for an open access fee waiver. There are also many fully open access journals that do not charge publishing fees. The [Directory of Open Access Journals](#) (DOAJ) is an excellent resource to find journals with no Article Processing Charges (APCS).

Partial and full fee waiver schemes are offered by various publishers, but usually only in relation to their fully open access journals.

When applying to one of these schemes you will be typically asked to demonstrate that all other funding sources have been explored and exhausted.

A range of these schemes are listed below, but it is worth contacting a publisher to explain your situation, even if a scheme is not mentioned on their website and if you are not entirely sure you are eligible for the scheme.

In many cases you will be expected to arrange the waiver prior to submitting your article to the journal or during the submission process itself.

If a letter of support for a waiver is required by a publisher, we are able to provide this upon request. Please email researchonline@lshtm.ac.uk.

Note: LSHTM only manages open access funds for RCUK and COAF (e.g. Wellcome Trust) funded authors. Researchers funded by other organisations are advised to approach those funders directly. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, for example, manage their own open access funds. See our list of funders' policies here:

<https://researchonline.lshtm.ac.uk/4645488/2/Funder%20OA%20Policies%20and%20Contacts.pdf>.

Publishers

AAAS (Science)

AAAS offers a waiver scheme only for the journal *Science Advances*. Discounts on article processing charges (APCs) for open access are available for AAAS members. Full and partial waivers are available to individual authors.

Website: <http://advances.sciencemag.org/content/article-processing-charges>

BioMed Central

BioMed Central runs a fee waiver scheme for authors from countries classified by the World Bank as having 'low-income economies' or 'lower-middle-income economies'.

They will consider waiver requests from unfunded researchers or researchers with no funds to pay for open access.

Website: <https://www.biomedcentral.com/getpublished/article-processing-charges/open-access-waiver-fund>

BMJ

BMJ's fully open access journals will accept part payment for fees where only limited funds are available to authors, and waivers are offered in exceptional circumstances. Considerations include whether authors are based in, or conducted their work within, a country that is part of the Hinari programme (<http://www.who.int/hinari/eligibility/en/>); whether external funding is available; and whether authors have access to personal funding.

BMJ peer reviewers are offered a 25% discount on article processing charges if an article is submitted within 12 months of completing a review.

Website: <http://authors.bmj.com/open-access/fees-waivers/>

Cambridge University Press

CUP's fully open access journals offer waivers and discounts to authors from low- and middle-income countries (as defined by the World Bank).

Website: <https://www.cambridge.org/core/services/open-access-policies/open-access-journals/gold-open-access-journals>

De Gruyter

Some of De Gruyter's fully open access journals are free to publish in, as the costs are often borne by the journal owner. Some journals do charge open access fees, but many of these offer waivers, granted on a case-by-case basis.

Website: <https://www.degruyter.com/dg/page/open-access-funding>

Dove Medical Press

Waivers are offered to authors from countries classified by the World Bank as having 'low-income economies' or 'lower-middle-income economies'. Authors should contact the publisher prior to submitting an article to a journal.

Website: https://www.dovepress.com/author_guidelines.php?content_id=3120

Elsevier

Waiver requests are considered on a case-by-case basis, so it is worth contacting your chosen journal's editor. Priority for waivers are given to authors based in countries covered by the Research4Life programme (<http://www.research4life.org/eligibility>).

Website: <https://www.elsevier.com/about/our-business/policies/pricing#apc-policies>

F1000

F1000 offers article processing charges based on the length of the article, and for shorter articles you may be able to cover this charge from funds available to you personally.

A 50% discount is available to authors who submit an article to F1000 within 12 months of peer reviewing another F1000 article.

Authors in countries covered by the Hinari programme are offered waivers. Full or partial waiver requests from other authors are considered on a case-by-case basis.

Website: <https://f1000research.com/for-authors/article-processing-charges>

Frontiers

Where authors do not have the means to pay the open access charges, full or partial waivers can be applied for prior to or immediately after submission of their article.

Website: <https://www.frontiersin.org/about/publishing-fees>

Hindawi

Automatic waivers are provided to authors based in countries defined by the World Bank as having low-income economies or lower-middle-income economies.

Website: <https://www.hindawi.com/waiver/>

MDPI

LSHTM is part of MDPI's Institutional Open Access Program and LSHTM authors are entitled to receive a 10% discount on APCs. MDPI also offers discounts to previous peer reviewers of articles published in MDPI journals. Invited articles may be selected by an editor for free publication. Other waivers or discounts are granted at the publisher's discretion.

Website: <http://www.mdpi.com/about/ioap>, <http://www.mdpi.com/about/apc#discount>

Nature

Waivers for Nature's fully open access journals (e.g. Nature Communications) are available to authors from countries covered by the Hinari programme, and discretionary waivers will also be considered on a case-by-case basis from other authors. Applications should be made at the point of manuscript submission.

If your article represents a critique of an open access article already published in a Springer Nature fully open access journal, a fee waiver can be applied for.

Website: http://www.nature.com/openresearch/about-open-access/policies-journals/#Article_processing_charge_APC_waivers

Oxford University Press

Authors from a list of countries included in OUP's Developing Countries initiative are entitled to full fee waivers.

Website: https://academic.oup.com/journals/pages/open_access/charges

PeerJ

PeerJ offers a range of low-cost and some free journals.

Website: <https://peerj.com/pricing/>

PLOS

PLOS offers to waivers from low- and middle-income countries, and considers full and partial waiver requests from other authors on a case-by-case basis for all its journals.

Website: <https://www.plos.org/fee-assistance>

Sage

A waiver request can be submitted if the author cannot afford the article processing charge. Requests are considered on a case-by-case basis, but priority for partial and full waivers are given to authors covered by the Research4Life programme. Waivers are only considered for full open access journals.

Website: <https://us.sagepub.com/en-us/nam/gold-open-access-article-processing-charge-waivers>

Springer

Springer's open access journals offer waivers to countries defined by the World Bank as 'low-income economies' or 'lower-middle-income economies'.

Website: <https://www.springeropen.com/get-published/article-processing-charges/open-access-waiver-fund>

Taylor & Francis

Waivers are available to corresponding authors with affiliations based in countries defined by the World Bank as 'low-income economies' or 'lower-middle-income economies'. Waivers are also available on a discretionary basis for other authors, which should be indicated at the point of manuscript submission.

Website: <http://authorservices.taylorandfrancis.com/apc-discounts-and-waivers/>

Wiley

Automatic waivers are available to authors from a list of Research4Life countries. Individual journals may offer waiver schemes, which are managed by those journals' editors.

Website: <http://www.wileyopenaccess.com/details/content/13707a1ddf6/Waivers-and-Discounts-on-Article-Publication-Charges.html>