What are the benefits of open access to researchers?

**Enhanced visibility**
Both within the global academic community and outside.

**Increased citations**
Citation potential boosted through wider readership.

**Innovation drive**
Widening access to cutting-edge knowledge catalyst for more innovation.

**Tax-payers value for money**
Publicly-funded research outputs available to everybody.

**Global impact**
Potential for international collaboration maximised.

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Open Access Help & Advice

Contact the Open Access team and we will do our best to assist you.

- **Key areas - Green Open Access and DRO:**
  - Repository manager: Heather Ewington
  - Repository assistant: Elena Carlaw
  - 0191 334 1586
  - dro.admin@durham.ac.uk

- **Key areas - Gold Open Access and Research Councils’ Open Access block grant (administered by UKRI):**
  - Publications officer: Sarah Hyland
  - 0191 334 1586
  - openaccess.publishing@durham.ac.uk

For any query or doubt concerning the best approach to disseminate your research, please contact your Academic Liaison Librarian for Research Support:

James Bisset
- 0191 334 1589
- james.bisset@durham.ac.uk

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In line with the Higher Education and Research Act 2017, as of the 1st April 2018 UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) has brought together what was RCUK and the research and knowledge exchange functions of HEFCE under a single organisation. This might impact on terminology as below:

- The **RCUK OA Block Grant** will be officially referred to as the **Research Councils’ open access block grant, administered by UKRI**.
- The **RCUK Policy on Open Access**, however, will continue to be referred to using the same title.

HEFCE’s responsibilities for research and knowledge exchange (including the REF and the Open Access policy for the REF) have been taken on by Research England.

Although **RCUK no longer exists as a separate entity**, the 7 individual Research Councils continue to operate under the new UKRI organisation.

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**Gold Open Access**

The final published Version of Record (VoR) of your output is made free to access from the publisher’s or journal’s website immediately from the date of publication. This usually, but not always, requires payment of an **Article Processing Charge (APC)** to the publisher.

**Green Open Access**

Your research output is published in the traditional manner, and you deposit the Author Accepted Manuscript (AAM) in an Open Access repository. The deposited version will be made publicly accessible, usually following an embargo set by the publisher.
Open Access policies

Depositing your papers in DRO also enables you to comply with key Open Access policies:

- This is the version which was accepted for publication by the journal, and which includes changes based on the peer reviewers' or referees' suggestions, but before copyediting, typesetting and proof corrections.
- Research England's diagram below indicates the Author Accepted Manuscript's position in the publication process.
- What is the Author Accepted Manuscript?
  - The key difference is when policies start and that determines which journal articles/conference papers are within the policy's scope.

What is Durham Research Online (DRO)?

Durham Research Online (DRO) is this University's Open Access institutional repository accessible on the web. DRO contains records about some of Durham's published research outputs and a version of the full text if copyright agreements permit.

Policy similarities

The main purpose of DRO is to help enhance access to our research and which might lead to:

- Collaboration opportunities within and outside of academia.
- Opportunities to generate measurable research impact on new audiences.
- More citations.

Durham University, REF and RCUK Open Access policies all focus on:

- Peer-reviewed journal articles and published conference papers.
- Require deposit of the Author Accepted Manuscript (AAM) (see diagram below) in an Open Access repository within three months from acceptance.
- RCUK (now UKRI)
  - Author Accepted Manuscript cannot be deposited in an embargo period, times when access to a deposited manuscript is closed-off as required by the publisher. Regardless of the maximum embargo periods stipulated by their policies above, the embargo lengths set by the publishers will always take precedence.
- Other significant differences are:
  - Durham University: You are also required, where possible, to deposit other output formats in DRO, e.g. book chapters, reports and 'grey' literature.
  - Author Accepted Manuscripts must be deposited within 3 months of acceptance for publication.
  - Author Accepted Manuscripts must be deposited in DRO, not deposited by the publisher.
  - Applications and publication requests must be provided to DRO, not deposited by the publisher.

Durham University, REF and RCUK Open Access policies:

- Durham University: You are also required, where possible, to deposit other output formats in DRO, e.g. book chapters, reports and 'grey' literature.
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- Author Accepted Manuscripts must be deposited in DRO, not deposited by the publisher.
- Applications and publication requests must be provided to DRO, not deposited by the publisher.

Policy differences

POLICY

Durham University

RCUK OA Policy (now UKRI)

REF

START DATE

Published from 1st January 2013

Accepted for publication from 1st April 2013

Accepted for publication from 1st April 2016

MAXIMUM EMBARGO

Where possible, no more than 6 months

MRC: 6 months

BBSRC, EPSRC, STFC, NERC: 12 months

AHRC, ESRC: 24 months

12 months for REF Panels A and B

24 months for REF Panels C and D

Other significant differences are:

- Durham University: You are also required, where possible, to deposit other output formats in DRO, e.g. book chapters, reports and 'grey' literature.
- Author Accepted Manuscripts must be deposited within 3 months of acceptance for publication.
- Author Accepted Manuscripts must be deposited in DRO, not deposited by the publisher.
- Applications and publication requests must be provided to DRO, not deposited by the publisher.

For more information about Gold Open Access, see our dedicated leaflet on Publishing Gold Open Access.