Open Access Help & Advice

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

Phone: 0191 334 1589
Email: james.bisset@durham.ac.uk

Or contact the Open Access Team where we will do our best to assist you.

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

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

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.

How do I make my published research Open Access?

There are two main routes to making your published research open access:

**Green Open Access** (self-archiving in an OA repository - DRO)

Your research output is published in the traditional manner, and you deposit a version of your output in an Open Access repository. DRO (Durham Research Online) is the university’s open access repository. The deposited version will be made publicly accessible, usually following an embargo set by the publisher. The version you can usually make accessible is referred to as the Author Accepted Manuscript (AAM). This is the peer-reviewed version accepted by the publisher but not yet typeset and copyedited.

**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 is usually, but not always, in return for the author having to pay an Article Processing Charge (APC).

Your funder may provide funding to cover these costs (doctoral researchers in receipt of Research Council funding may have access to the University’s Open Access block grant, for example), and Durham University Library has also arranged a number of membership and off-setting arrangements with publishers which may partially or wholly cover these costs.

For further information, see durham.ac.uk/research.innovation/outputs/openaccess/oacosts/deals.
What is Open Access?

Open Access refers to research outputs that are free to access online by anyone with an internet connection. It is an alternative to the traditional publishing model that restricts access to only those who have paid for it.

Did you know? Durham University pays over £3 million in subscriptions and access fees each year so that you can access journals and monographs online, often without even needing to log in.

Open Access offers significant social and economic benefits, but it also places responsibilities on you as a researcher.

What are my responsibilities?

As a doctoral level research student at Durham University you are expected to:

1. Comply with Durham Open Access Policy:
   durham.ac.uk/research.innovation/governance/policy/openaccess

2. Meet the requirements for any Open Access policies set by any funding body supporting your research (UK Research and Innovation - including the 7 UK Research Councils, Research England and Innovate UK; Wellcome Trust; etc.)

3. Familiarise yourself with Open Access practice and discussions in the academic community.
   - Consider open access journals, or what open access options are offered by a traditional subscription journal you wish to publish in.
   - Check copyright around any third-party copyrighted material in your publications.
   - Engage with other early career researchers and participate in discussions around scholarly communication, OA publication and open science.

How do I comply with Durham’s open access policy?

As a doctoral level research student at Durham University, there are TWO key requirements to be aware of:

- You must deposit your final accepted manuscript for any published research output in Durham's open access repository, Durham Research Online (DRO), within 3 months from the date of acceptance.

- You must deposit your final thesis in Durham's eThesis repository, Durham eTheses, having discussed with your supervisor any requirements for applying an embargo on access to the thesis.

Further details can be read in the Durham University Open Access Policy.

Did you know? Durham eTheses holds over 11,000 Doctoral and Masters level research theses, with 94% of these are available to access immediately. Over 500 new theses were added in 2017, with over 50% immediately accessible without any embargo.

Open Access and my thesis?

Your thesis will be made open access from Durham eTheses repository*. You will be expected to:

- Submit an electronic version of your theses to the university within 3-4 weeks of receiving your successful outcome letters (congratulations!).

- Discuss with your supervisor any requirements for applying an embargo on access to your thesis (and complete a 'restricting access' form).

Where no embargo is applied, your thesis will be made publicly accessible from Durham eTheses (and also via other services such as EThoS, core.ac.uk and DART European Theses which harvest content from university thesis repositories).

Why apply an embargo?

Most theses do not require an embargo to be applied, but some reasons you might want to explore include:

- The material includes personal information disclosure of would breach the Data Protection Act.

- Commercial funding contractual agreements around publication and dissemination.

- Securing commercial intellectual property rights (e.g. patentable research).

What else do I need to consider?

- Does your funder set any restrictions on a maximum embargo that can be applied?
  - For example, UK Research Councils allow for a maximum 12 months embargo to be applied.

- Do you own the copyright for all images or other material in your thesis?
  - If not, have you sought permission to make this content available?

- Instead of a blanket embargo, could you have a redacted version of your thesis to be made available?

Further details can be read in the Durham University Open Access Policy.

For further information, see:
durham.ac.uk/library/research/pgrsupport/theses

* A very small number of theses have been permanently hidden from public access, where information held within the thesis could endanger the health or safety of individuals or identified groups.

How do I access other Open Access theses?

You can download Durham Doctoral and Research Master theses from Durham eTheses.

For other UK theses, you can download or request copies via the British Library's EThOS service.

Beyond the UK, there are various national and regional services available, such as DART (Europe) and TROVE (Australia), or subscription services at Durham University Library provides such as Proquest Digital Dissertations (North American and worldwide).

For further information, see:
durham.ac.uk/library/resources/online/theses