

SFI's Open Access policy

Version 5 Updated: 03/2024

The criteria below apply to all **peer-reviewed** publications (excluding books, book chapters and review articles) arising in whole or in part from SFI-funded research.

All Versions of Record **or** Author Accepted Manuscripts must be immediately available from the date of publication (no embargo permitted), under a Creative Commons attribution licence (CC-BY).¹ All manuscripts submitted for publication must include Rights Retention wording.

1. SFI grant funds can be used as a contribution to costs associated with Article Processing Charges (APCs) when publishing in Open Access journals compliant with SFI's Open Access Policy (see the [SFI Open Access Publishing Guide](#) for advice on how to publish OA). SFI grant funds may not be used to support publication in hybrid journals and SFI will not support costs associated with non-OA publishing (i.e., where an embargo is applied).
2. As part of SFI's Plan S aligned Open Access policy, grant holders must apply a Creative Commons attribution licence (CC-BY)¹ to, and include the Rights Retention wording (2.1) in, research publications **before** submission to peer-reviewed journals or platforms.

2.1 Grant holders should use one of the following **Rights Retention** statements (whichever is most appropriate):

'This publication has emanated from research conducted with the financial support of Science Foundation Ireland under Grant number [XX]. For the purpose of Open Access, the author has applied a CC BY public copyright licence to any Author Accepted Manuscript version arising from this submission'.

Or

'This publication has emanated from research supported in part by a grant from Science Foundation Ireland under Grant number [XX]. For the purpose of Open Access, the author has applied a CC BY public copyright licence to any Author Accepted Manuscript version arising from this submission'.

3. If depositing an Author Accepted Manuscript (AAM) in a compliant repository (i.e., Green Open Access Route), SFI recommends that institutional and disciplinary repositories are used. Further information about technical recommendations and Plan S repository requirements can be found in the [SFI Open Access Publishing Guide](#).
4. SFI will monitor compliance with this policy through various means. Grant recipients should provide valid information on their publication's OA status when submitting such data as part of their Research Outputs.

¹ Unless an exception (i.e., CC-BY-ND) has been previously agreed by SFI. Contact researchpolicy@sfi.ie for any queries regarding licencing terms.

The criteria below apply to all publications arising in whole or in part from SFI-funded research.

5. All publications should be accompanied by appropriate metadata in line with national and international standards for harvesting and interoperability. At a minimum, this must include full bibliographic data, persistent identifiers (e.g., digital object identified (DOI); ORCID), funder information (“Science Foundation Ireland under Grant number [XX]”), licence information, a link to the publication site in the case of deposition in a repository.
6. SFI encourages that research data and software should be Findable, Accessible, Interoperable & Reusable (FAIR). All data, original software or materials that underpins SFI-funded research publications should be deposited in an open access repository. The associated publication should include information on how to access the related resources. Please note that in line with Science Europe recommendations, many SFI Programme Calls now require a Data Management Plan (DMP) at the submission stage, detailing data management responsibilities and resources, including adherence to FAIR principles.
7. To facilitate prompt dissemination of research findings, SFI encourages researchers to deposit preprints ahead of publication. These should be available under CC-BY licences. To this end, SFI recognises preprints as valuable outputs (where these are associated with a digital object identifier [DOI]). However, it should be noted that preprints are not currently permitted when considering publications as part of eligibility requirements, since they have not completed the peer-review process.

Open Access to academic books and book chapters

At present, only peer-reviewed research articles and peer-reviewed conference proceedings must be made immediately open without embargo. SFI encourages that academic books, book chapters, review articles, research data or other outputs that may arise from SFI funded research are made as open as possible and as closed as necessary after publication.

Definitions & Interpretation

<i>Publications</i>	means any original research articles, review articles, conference proceedings, book chapters, or books.
<i>Peer-reviewed publications</i>	means original research articles, conference proceedings, and book chapters that have gone through the peer-review process, otherwise known as a ‘refereed articles’ or ‘refereed conference proceedings’.
<i>Pre-prints</i>	means a version of an article that is shared publicly before it has undergone the peer review process
<i>Conference proceeding</i>	means research articles, presentations, abstracts and/or posters published in the context of an academic conference, meeting or workshop
<i>Research Outputs</i>	means the reporting process completed annually on the SFI Grants and Awards management system SESAME. See the SFI Grant General Terms and Conditions for further details.
<i>SFI-funded research</i>	means any research which has been partially or fully funded by an SFI grant.

<i>Author Accepted Manuscript</i>	means the version of the work as accepted for publication, including all changes made during the peer review process.
<i>Version of Record</i>	means the version of a journal article that has been made available by any organization that acts as a publisher by formally and exclusively declaring the article “published”.
<i>Transformative Agreement</i>	means a contract negotiated between institutions and publishers. IReL has negotiated a number of Transformative Agreements (TAs) with publishers for Irish institutions, including Research Performing Organisations, which enable researchers to publish OA at no cost to their grant.