

Publishing Open Access where you hold a Science Foundation Ireland grant

What is Open Access?

[According to The European Commission](#),

“Open access (OA) can be defined as the practice of providing on-line access to scientific information that is free of charge to the user and that is re-usable. A distinction is usually made between OA to scientific peer reviewed **publications** and **research data**.”

What is SFI's Open Access policy?

In line with the [principles of Plan S](#) and those of the [National Action Plan for Open Research](#), Science Foundation Ireland's [Open Access policy](#) requires that **all peer-reviewed research publications (excluding books and review articles) arising from SFI-funded research since January 2021 are openly available immediately without embargo, under a [CC BY Copyright Licence](#).**

FAQs are available [here](#).

How to publish Open Access?



1. Pick a Journal

Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) encourages publication in high-quality, peer-reviewed journals and/or platforms.

[The Journal Checker Tool](#), developed by [cOAlition S](#), allows you to confirm whether your journal of choice is compliant with SFI's Open Access policy or not. It will also provide guidance on what Open Access routes are available to you, as different journals support different routes (see **2.** for information on OA routes).

You can find further information on Open Access journals in the [Directory of Open Access Journals \(DOAJ\)](#) which provides an online directory of high-quality, Open Access, peer-reviewed journals. However, please be aware that DOAJ may include [hybrid journals](#) (which are not a compliant OA route in [SFI's Open Access Policy](#)) in their records. [SHERPA ROMEQ](#) is a useful resource to find information on copyright and self-archiving policies prescribed by different publishers (see **4.** for information on CC BY Copyright licences, and **2.** and **6.** for further details about self-archiving).

2. Checking which Open Access routes are available

There are four routes by which you can make your research publications openly available in line with SFI's Open Access policy: The **Gold OA** route, the **Green OA** route, the **Diamond OA** route, and via a **Transformative Agreement (TA)**. [IReL](#), the consortium of Irish research libraries, has negotiated a number of TAs with publishers. This means that you may be able to publish Open Access free of charge (depending on your institution, journal choice, and TA availability). To check if you can avail of a TA, use [The Journal Checker Tool](#), check the [IReL website](#), or contact your institution's library service.

The **Gold OA** route involves making your publication available through the publisher's platform, where the payment of an **Article Processing Charge (APC)** is often required. In this instance, your SFI grant funds can be used to contribute to these costs; you may need to refer back to your original approved or current budget or consult with guidance in [SFI's Grant Budget Policy](#). Please note that where you can avail of a TA, you will not be required to pay an APC.

The **Green OA** route involves depositing the **Author Accepted Manuscript (AAM)** (the version of your work as accepted for publication, including all changes made during the peer review process) in an OA repository. This is referred to as self-archiving.

The **Diamond OA** route refers to publishing in a journal free of charge, that is entirely open access to readers.

3. Include the acknowledgement of SFI funding and Rights Retention wording in your publication

[Rights Retention](#) enables you to retain intellectual ownership rights of your work, while assigning it with a CC BY public copyright licence. It also allows you to make your Author Accepted Manuscript (AAM) OA at the time of publication by uploading it to an OA repository, if you choose the Green OA route (see 6.). It can be included as part of your funding acknowledgement (see examples below).

Publishers commonly require authors to sign exclusive publishing agreements which restrict what authors can do with their research findings. The Rights Retention Strategy allows researchers to publish in their journal of choice, including subscription journals, and make their work open via an OA repository, in compliance with [SFI's Open Access policy](#).

One of the two following statements (whichever is most appropriate) should be included in **all** submissions of original articles to peer-reviewed journals where the research has been partially **or** fully funded by an SFI grant:

"This publication has emanated from research conducted with the financial support of Science Foundation Ireland under Grant number []. 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 []. 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".

4. Linking your publication with any relevant OA data or software

SFI recommends that data, accompanying metadata and / or software should be submitted to discipline-specific OA repositories that are recognised by your research community, and should be aligned with [FAIR](#) principles - Findable, Accessible, Interoperable & Reusable. The associated publication should include information on how to access the related resources. Science Europe's [Practical Guide to the International Alignment of Research Data Management](#) provides some guidance on selecting trustworthy repositories. 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.

SFI recognises that this may not be possible in certain circumstances and therefore, the data should be as open as possible and as closed as necessary. 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 []"), licence information, a link to the publication site in the case of publication in a repository.

5. If you choose the Green OA route, upload your Author Accepted Manuscript to an OA repository

In the first instance, you should consider uploading your AAM to your institution's repository. Where an institutional repository does not exist and/or to maximise the visibility of your work, [OpenDOAR](#) is a useful resource for identifying appropriate repositories to deposit publications and other research outputs in. Your institutional librarian may be able to provide guidance about suitable data repositories. [CoreTrustSeal](#) is another useful resource for browsing available research data repositories. [A list of mandatory and recommended requirements for repositories](#) has been developed by cOAlition S.

SFI acknowledges that many repositories are still transitioning towards the mandated and recommended requirements.

If in doubt, read over the [Open Access policy document](#) and [FAQs](#)

Still have questions? Contact researchpolicy@sfi.ie