RCUK Open Access Fund

About the fund

Research Councils UK (RCUK) has allocated a block grant to the University of £156,301 in 2013/14 and £183,883 in 2014/15 to contribute towards the costs of Open Access publishing of RCUK-funded research outputs. The block grant is to help implement the RCUK's Policy on Open Access.

The policy applies to all research papers arising from work funded by the RCUK, i.e. AHRC, BBSRC, EPSRC, ESRC, MRC, NERC and STFC, and submitted for publication from 1 April 2013. Researchers are asked to apply to this intermediary fund to cover open access article processing charges (APCs) and other publication charges for any peer reviewed research papers which have been:

   a) **accepted for publication; and,**
   b) **were wholly or partially the output of RCUK-funded research.**

The publication (i.e. journal) must be compliant with the RCUK Access to Research Outputs Policy. The Institutional Repository Manager, Jim Jamieson, in the Research and Enterprise Office, will check all requests and inform you if the publisher does not meet RCUK conditions. Articles should be published under a CC-BY licence, and you will find many publishers already offer this, or are working towards doing so.

How to apply to the fund

Please note that you cannot claim re-imbursement of the cost of making a publication open access. You must apply to the fund before the publication is made open access.

You should contact Jim Jamieson (email: ajjami) in the first instance with the following details:

   • your publication,

   • costs of the article processing charges and page charges (where applied)

   • the grant to which it relates

Jim will check that your publisher meets the following conditions:

   • the final version of the article will be available on immediate open access on the publisher's website

   • the article will be published under a CC-BY licence if paying an open access fee

   • the publisher allows deposit in other repositories without restriction on re-use

If your publisher meets the conditions, and there is sufficient funding in the RCUK Open Access Fund, Jim will arrange for the APCs and other publication charges to be paid.

If your publisher does not meet the above conditions, you can self-archive your paper by depositing in the institutional repository, University of Essex Research Repository and/or in a subject repository such as UKPMC, if required by the research council. To be compliant with RCUK policy, the publisher must permit you to:

- deposit either the published or accepted version of your paper

- deposit in your funder's named repository (where applicable)

- deposit within 6 months of online publication (12 months if ESRC or AHRC funded)

You can check information about your publisher's open access policy using Sherpa Romeo. You can also use Sherpa Fact to check whether your journal complies with the funder's requirements for open access to research.

Further information about publisher and funder open access policies can be obtained by using Sherpa Romeo (publishers) and Sherpa Juliet (funders).

Please note this intermediary fund is for RCUK-funded research outputs only.