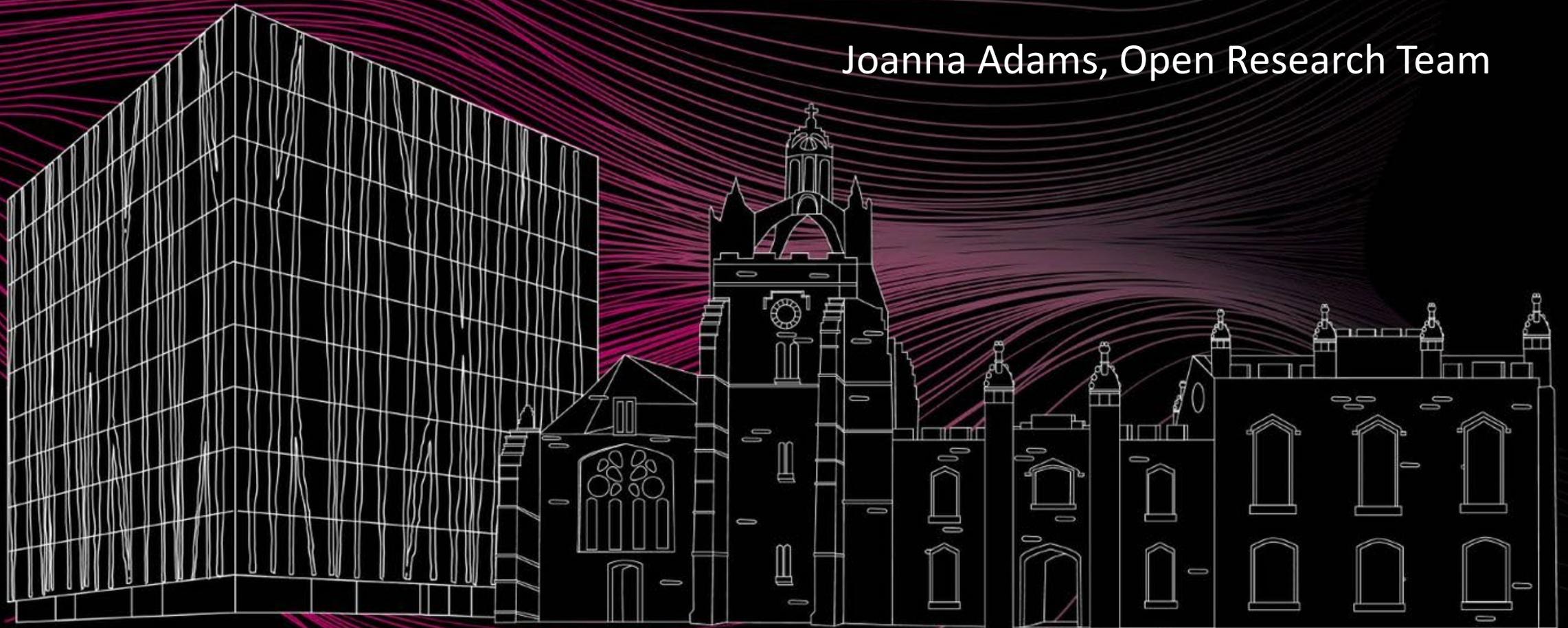


ExplORe: Open Access and the Research Publications Policy

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What is Open Access?

Open access is permanent free unrestricted access to digital literature such as journal articles and books. It is open to all without charge. [Licensing terms](#) allow liberal reuse provided that the original source is cited. This facilitates discovery and sharing of your work.



Many research funders, including UKRI, Wellcome Trust, European Commission, and the Research Excellence Framework (REF) have open access policies which require research outputs to be openly available.

The University of Aberdeen [Research Publications Policy](#) supports our authors in retaining the rights to their research when publishing scholarly articles and longform outputs.



Research Publications Policy and Open Access

- University Research Publications Policy implemented May 2023
- Rights Retention - Retain more rights over your own work
- Achieve immediate and wide dissemination without restrictions
- Enables accepted manuscript (AM) to be deposited in institutional repository and made open access under a Creative Commons licence on publication
- Retain the freedom to publish where you see fit
- Automatically comply with funder and REF open access requirements
- Include Rights Retention Statement with submissions - Contacted popular publishers
- Aberdeen early adopter but many institutional rights retention policies now and some funders
- Policy updated Nov 2024 to include longform outputs

Routes to Open Access

- Publish your final article/chapter/book immediate open access on publisher webpages (Gold/Diamond/Open Access Agreement for journals)
- Publish behind a paywall and deposit accepted manuscript (AM) open access in a repository (Green) – apply Rights Retention
- Both compliant with funder and REF open access requirements

Rights Retention for Articles

- When you write an article you automatically own copyright
- When you publish in a subscription-based journal the publisher typically asks for exclusive rights to an article
- Author hands over all their rights with certain rights given back
- The publisher can reuse and sell the research however they wish
 - Including to the library who pays to subscribe
- Author must request permission from the publisher to share or re-use your own research
 - Can't make open in a repository until after embargo
 - Can't share on social networks
 - Can't translate etc. etc.
- University of Aberdeen Research Publications Policy supports researchers to Retain the rights to their accepted manuscript
- Include the Rights Retention statement with submissions in the acknowledgements and with any covering letter
 - "For the purpose of open access, the author has applied a Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) licence to any Author Accepted Manuscript version arising"
 - Email paperaccepted@abdn.ac.uk with a copy of the accepted manuscript and confirmation of acceptance from the publisher for deposit to Pure
- AM is made open in institutional repository on publication under a CC licence
- Comply with funder and REF open access policies

Rights Retention for Longform

- Typically, researchers' hand over their rights to publishers when they sign a licence to publish
- When publishing a book or chapter
- Retain your rights
- University of Aberdeen Research Publications Policy supports researchers
- Discuss with your publisher
- Deposit accepted manuscript (AM) to be made open access within 12 months of publication
- CC BY recommended but can use choice of Creative Commons Licence
- Third party materials can be licenced under a different licence as required
- Email paperaccepted@abdn.ac.uk with a copy of the accepted manuscript and confirmation of acceptance from the publisher for deposit to Pure

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The CC BY licence is usually mandated by funders for articles!
Apply for an exception to use CC BY-ND
For longform CC BY preferred but may be permitted to use the
licence of your choice – check with your funder

Funder Open Access Policies



CHIEF
SCIENTIST
OFFICE



Check your contract for other funders and contact openresearch@abdn.ac.uk

Funder & REF Open Access Policies

- Research funders have requirements grant holders must meet
- Research Excellence Framework (REF2029) – no requirement for longform to be open access (OA) for REF 2029 but will be for future REFs
- Choose the CC BY Creative Commons license
- Open Government Licence (OGL) if subject to Crown Copyright
- CC BY-ND by exception
- More choice on licence for longform
- OA funds depends on funder - Limited funds in Block Grants
- Publisher agreements aid compliance

Research Excellence Framework (REF)

- New REF2029 applies to outputs published from 1 Jan 2026
- REF2021 OA policy applies to outputs published between 1 Jan 2021 and 31 Dec 2025
- Applies to journal articles and conference papers published with ISSN
- Repository-Based Open Access (Green)
- Deposit Accepted Manuscript (AM) in institutional or subject repository
 - Email paperaccepted@abdn.ac.uk
- Embargoes reduced from 12 months (STEM) and 24 months (HSS) to 6 and 12 months respectively
- Creative Commons licence required – CC BY preferred but CC BY-NC and CC BY-NC-ND allowed
- Publisher open access (Gold or Diamond)
- VoR immediately available is compliant
- Publisher agreements allow compliance
- Must permit reuse
- CC-BY-NC-ND licence allowed
- There is no open access mandate for open access books or chapters in REF2029.
- There will be an open access requirement for longform after REF2029. Details tbc.
- Research Publications Policy and applying Rights Retention statement to all submissions ensures compliance

Pure/AURA

- Pure is the University's Research Information System
- Accessible by staff and research post grads (not taught PG)
- AURA is the institutional repository where the full text of outputs is made open
- Public Research Portal is where all the info is freely available
- Email paperaccepted@abdn.ac.uk when you have an article accepted
- Or if you have data to be recorded openresearch@abdn.ac.uk
- Add Activities/Awards/Prizes to your own Pure account
- New researchers import your publications
- Set up automated search for publications in online sources
- Use ORCID

Pure/AURA

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Pure

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- Research and Knowledge Exchange
- Pure**
- System maintenance
- Altmetrics

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PURE is a web-based system that captures a wide range of research-related outcomes, impact and activities and promotes the University's research excellence to the wider community.

PURE organises content in a relational way to build links between people, grants, publications, impacts and datasets. It is a dynamic and productive source of information which underpins many of the University's processes. PURE also synchronises with other university systems to provide a connected view of our research activity

How to videos and training resources can be found at <https://www.abdn.ac.uk/toolkit/systems/pure/> and in the resources below.

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Paper accepted for publication?



UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN

AURA - Aberdeen University Research Archive

AURA Home

Welcome

The Aberdeen University Research Archive (AURA) provides access to the full text of selected research outputs of the University. Research theses are not included in AURA but are held in our [Digital Resources collections](#).

If you are looking for an article, chapter, conference paper, working paper or other research output of the University and cannot find it in AURA (or have any other query) please [contact us](#).

If you are a member of University staff, to keep your publication information up to date please make sure you notify [paperaccepted](#) of all new publications, and enter all relevant content into Pure. Further information can be found [here](#).

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DISCOVER

Author

- Education in the North (299)
- Smith, Pete (228)
- Price, David (201)
- Johnston, Marie (136)

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UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN

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What to consider when choosing a journal

- First check if there is a suitable title covered by the [publisher open access agreements](#)
- If not – go green!
- Include Rights Retention Statement with submission
- Funded authors check may be able to pay an Article Processing Charge (APC)
- Some Diamond Open Access journals available which don't charge an APC
- Consider funder requirements/REF
- [Open Policy Finder](#) or [Journal Checker Tool](#) – use with caution, check journal against funder/REF OA requirements
- **[Think. Check. Submit.](#)** Helps you choose a trusted journal for your publication
- Email openresearch@abdn.ac.uk

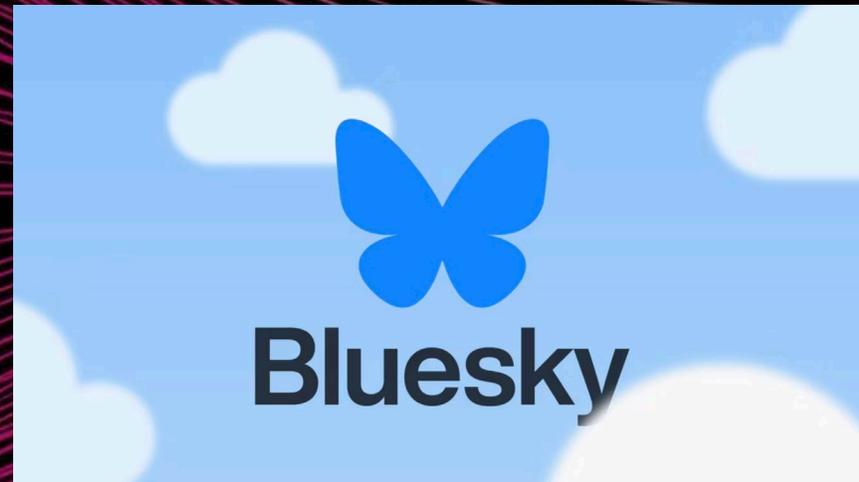
What to consider when publishing longform

- Do you have to meet funder open access requirements? No REF2029 requirement for longform
- Funded authors check may be able to pay for open access chapters or a Book Processing Charge (BPC)
- Some Diamond Open Access publishers available which don't charge to publish
- If not – go green!
- Discuss open access and Rights Retention with your publisher
- **Think. Check. Submit.** Checklist for books and chapters
- Email **openresearch@abdn.ac.uk**

Summary

- Make your research open access
- Funder open access requirements for some researchers
- REF Open Access Requirements for all
- Use the open access agreements for OA at no extra cost for articles
- Apply Research Publications Policy/Rights Retention
- Meets OA requirements
- Deposit all accepted papers in Pure/AURA
 - Includes books and chapters
- Contact the Open Research Team for help and advice

Bluesky: @openresearchuoa.bsky.social



Any Questions?

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www.abdn.ac.uk/open-research

