



Publishing Open Access when you hold a Health Research Board (HRB) grant

What is Open Access?

According to the [European Commission](#), “Open Access (OA) can be defined as the practice of providing online access 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 HRB’s Open Access policy?

In line with the [principles of Plan S](#) and those of the [National Action Plan for Open Research](#), the [HRB Open Access policy](#) requires that all peer reviewed research publications (excluding books) arising from HRB-funded research since January 2025 are openly available immediately without embargo, under a CC BY [Copyright licence](#).

How to publish Open Access?

1. Pick a journal

HRB encourages publication in high-quality, peer-reviewed journals and/or platforms.

You should make sure your journal of choice is compliant with [HRB Open Access policy](#). See point 2 for information on OA routes, as different journals support different routes.

You can find further information on OA journals in the [Directory of Open Access Journals \(DOAJ\)](#) which provides an online directory of high-quality, OA, peer-reviewed journals. However, please be aware that DOAJ may include [hybrid journals](#) (the HRB no longer funds OA publishing in hybrid journals outside of transformative agreements (TAs) because this model does not support a transition to full OA). [Open Policy Finder](#) is a useful resource to find information on copyright and self-archiving policies prescribed by different publishers (see point 4 for information on CC BY Copyright licences and point 2 and 5 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 [HRB Open Access policy](#): the Gold OA route, the Green OA route, the Diamond OA route, and via a Transformative Agreement (TA).

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, funding from your HRB grant 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 the [HRB Grant Budget Framework](#). 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)**, which is 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. The HRB provides its own Diamond Open Access publication platform, [HRB Open Research](#), which is fully compliant with our HRB policy and provides free access for HRB funded researchers.

[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 ensure you can avail of a TA, check the [IReL website](#), or contact your institution's library service.

3. Include the acknowledgement of HRB 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 point 5). Rights Retention wording 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 the [HRB Open Access policy](#).

One of the two following statements (whichever is most appropriate) should be included in **all** publication submissions to peer-reviewed journals (excluding books and book chapters) where the research has been partially or fully funded by a HRB grant:

"This publication has emanated from research conducted with the financial support of the Health Research Board 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 the Health Research Board 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

The HRB Policy on [Management and Sharing of Research Data \(MSRD\)](#) promotes the responsible management and sharing of research data, and the software and materials that underpin its use, with as few restrictions as possible to maximise its value for research and for patient and public benefit. The HRB supports the principle that research data should be aligned with [FAIR principles](#) - Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable.

The associated publication should include information on how to access any related resources underpinning the publication, including data, metadata and/or software.

In line with the [HRB MSRD policy](#), many HRB calls now require Data Management Plans (DMP) detailing data management responsibilities and resources, including adherence to FAIR principles. Science Europe’s [Practical Guide to the International Alignment of Research Data Management](#) provides some guidance on selecting trustworthy repositories.

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 (“Health Research Board 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 (AAM) 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 for depositing publications and other research outputs. 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 cOAlitionS. HRB acknowledges that many repositories are still transitioning towards the mandated and recommended requirements.

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

Still have questions? Contact us at openaccess@hrb.ie