

HRB Policy on Open Access to Research Publications

Version 2.0

Effective from 1 Jan 2025

The criteria below apply to all peer-reviewed publications (excluding books and book chapters) arising in whole or in part from HRB-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. HRB grant funds can be used as a contribution to costs associated with Article Processing Charges (APCs) when publishing in Open Access journals compliant with HRB's Open Access Policy (*see the HRB Open Access Publishing Guide for advice on how to publish OA*). HRB grant funds may not be used to support publication in hybrid journals and HRB will not support costs associated with non-OA publishing (i.e., where an embargo is applied).
2. As part of HRB's Plan S aligned Open Access policy, grant holders must apply a Creative Commons attribution licence (CC-BY) 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 the Health Research Board 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'.

¹ Unless an exception (i.e. CC-BY-ND) has been previously agreed by HRB. Contact openaccess@hrb.ie for any queries regarding licencing terms.

Or

‘This publication has emanated from research supported in part by a grant from the Health Research Board 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), HRB recommends that institutional and disciplinary repositories are used. Further information about technical recommendations and Plan S repository requirements can be found in the *HRB Open Access Publishing Guide*.
4. HRB 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.

The criteria below apply to all publications arising in whole or in part from HRB-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 (“Health Research Board under Grant number [*insert HRB Grant Number*]”), licence information, a link to the publication site in the case of deposition in a repository.
6. The HRB supports the principle that research data and software should be Findable, Accessible, Interoperable & Reusable (FAIR). All data, original software or materials that underpin HRB-funded research publications should be deposited in an open access repository. The associated publication should include information on how to access the related resources. HRB requires a Data Management Plan (DMP) as set out in the HRB Research Data Management and Sharing policy, detailing data management responsibilities and resources, including adherence to FAIR principles.
7. The HRB encourages researchers to deposit preprints before peer-review on an approved platform that supports immediate publication of the full manuscript under a CC BY licence. To this end, HRB recognises preprints as valuable outputs (where these are associated with a digital object identifier [DOI]). In cases of significant public health benefits, such as disease outbreaks, the HRB may require preprints.

Open Access to academic books and book chapters

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

Ends.