



Open Access and REF2021

This document summarizes the actions that researchers and administrators of the University of Cambridge should take to ensure compliance with the Open Access policy for REF2021.

Prepared November 2017

Updated May 2018

Background

In 2012 the Government accepted the recommendations of the Finch report on Open Access to research publications. The higher education funding bodies and the Research Councils were tasked by the Government to implement the recommendations of the report and in 2014 the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) announced that Open Access to research publications would be a requirement for the next Research Excellence Framework (REF) in 2021.

Requirements

The REF Open Access policy applies to research outputs that meet the following criteria:

- **Journal articles**
 - Including letters, communications, reviews, editorials, etc.
- **Conference proceedings** published with an ISSN
 - Full length conference papers. Not abstracts, posters, presentations or talks.
- The output is accepted for publication after 1 April 2016

Research outputs meeting these criteria must be deposited in a suitable Open Access repository within **three months of acceptance** if they are to be eligible for REF2021.

How to ensure REF eligibility



All research active staff and students publishing journal articles or conference proceedings should upload their accepted manuscripts to www.openaccess.cam.ac.uk immediately after acceptance for publication.

The accepted manuscript is the final author-created version after peer review but before typesetting or copy-editing by the publisher. It is usually a Word or a LaTeX file and may have been formatted using a publisher's template.

Exceptions and non-compliance

Exceptions are available for research outputs that cannot meet the deposit, access or technical requirements of the policy, however, most research outputs will not qualify for exceptions to the policy.

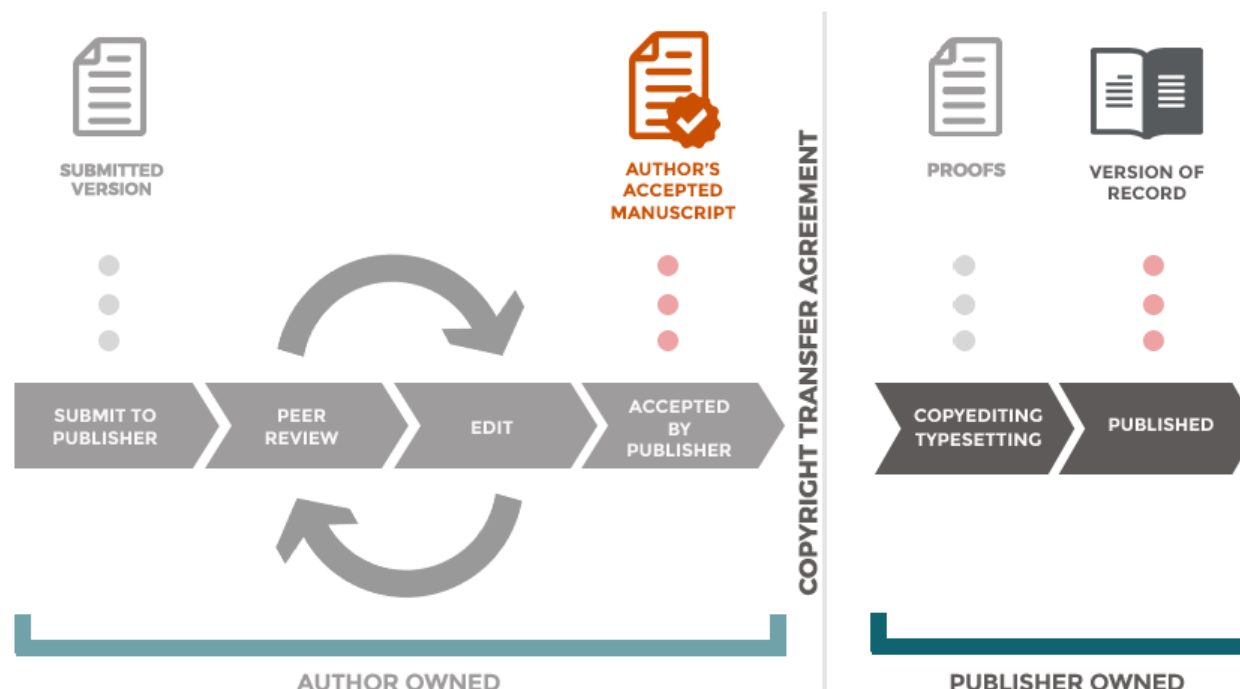
If a research output is not deposited within three months of acceptance and it does not qualify for an exception, then the output will not be usable in REF2021. It is expected that some research outputs will be deposited compliantly in other institutional repositories, however, this route for meeting REF eligibility should not be relied upon.

Which manuscript version do I need to deposit for REF2021?

You should upload your
Author's Accepted Manuscript.

This is the author's version of
the manuscript after peer
review and including any final
changes, but before publisher
typesetting or copy-editing by
the publisher. It is usually a
Word or a LaTeX file.

Please do not send final
versions, or typeset proofs.



Are you ready?

What?

Accepted manuscripts
not published papers

When?

Within three months of
acceptance

How?

www.openaccess.cam.ac.uk

Contact Us

Open Access Team

Office of Scholarly Communication
Cambridge University Library
University of Cambridge
West Road, Cambridge
CB3 9DR



info@openaccess.cam.ac.uk

www.openaccess.cam.ac.uk

+44 (0) 1223 7 65740

REF Team

Research Strategy Office
The Old Schools
University of Cambridge
Trinity Lane, Cambridge
CB2 1TT

REF2021@admin.cam.ac.uk

www.ref.admin.cam.ac.uk

© 2018 University of Cambridge



With the exception of the REF2021 and University of Cambridge logos, this work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International License.