Open Access and REF 2021 Research Excellence Framework
1 April 2016

The REF Open Access policy came into effect.
Any publication accepted before this date is automatically eligible for REF2021.
Some publications accepted after this date must comply with the policy to be REF eligible.
### Key REF2021 dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 January 2014</td>
<td>REF publication period starts</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 April 2016</td>
<td>Open Access policy starts</td>
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<tr>
<td>31 December 2020</td>
<td>REF publication period ends</td>
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The REF Open Access policy only applies to the following research outputs:

- **Journal articles**
  Including letters, communications, reviews, editorials, etc.

- **Conference proceedings** *(published with an ISSN)*
  Full length conference papers. **Not** abstracts, posters, presentations or talks.
Journal articles and conference proceedings must be deposited in a suitable Open Access repository within three months of acceptance.
Apollo is Cambridge’s institutional repository and is compliant with the REF Open Access policy.
How to ensure REF eligibility

www.openaccess.cam.ac.uk

Upload the accepted manuscript immediately upon acceptance for publication.
The final author-created version after peer-review but before typesetting or copy-editing by the publisher.
We don’t know which articles will be selected for REF2021, so the safest course of action is to make them all Open Access.
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