

Open Access and Rights Retention Policy

1. Introduction

- 1.1. Aberystwyth University ('AU') is committed to disseminating its research and scholarship as widely as possible. In line with cOAlition S and its Plan S principles, and to comply with funder and research open access requirements, this Policy includes the adoption of rights retention, which allows AU Authors to retain sufficient rights to allow the University to provide immediate open access to the Authors' Accepted Manuscript ('AAM')/ post-print.
- 1.2. This Policy supersedes the previous AU Rights Retention and Open Access and Pure submission Policies.
- 1.3. This policy is supported by the [author's guide](#).

2. Purpose

The purpose of the Policy is:

- To enable the wide and free dissemination of AU Research Publications and support the principles of public access to publicly funded research.
- To ensure compliance with the open access requirements of research funders. This includes funders such as (but not limited to) UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), the European Research Council (ERC), Wellcome Trust, and the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR).
- To enable compliance with the requirements of research assessments (such as the Research Excellence Framework "REF").
- To outline the University's commitment to the retention of rights over AAMs to maximise open access publishing.

3. Scope

- 3.1. The Policy applies to scholarly works submitted and accepted for publication in journals or conference proceedings with an International Standards Serial Number (ISSN), or those hosted on a publishing platform.
- 3.2. This Policy does not require the deposit of other scholarly works, e.g. a monograph, or a chapter of a monograph, in the University's Open Access digital repository but AU continues to strongly encourage deposit where possible.
- 3.3. This Policy applies to AU authors and co-authors who are staff, or students whose funders have open access requirements ('AU authors'). Other authors utilising an AU affiliation are encouraged to adopt this policy where possible.
- 3.4. AU authors are still able to publish Gold Open Access via payment of an article processing charge (APC) to a publisher, either directly or via a transformative agreement, for the immediate, free access to the final, published version of record via a Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) license. Authors' Rights Retention supports this route and does not conflict with it.

4. Policy

- 4.1. AU requires the deposit of an AAM of journal contributions and conference proceedings not being published through Gold Open Access, in its digital repository- PURE- within one month of acceptance for publication.
- 4.2. In addition, from 1st January 2026, AU will be exercising authors' Rights Retention on all submitted AAMs. AU authors will grant the University a non-exclusive, irrevocable, worldwide licence- the "University OA Licence"- to make their deposited AAMs publicly available under the terms of a Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) or comparable licence, through the University's digital repository within one month of deposit.
- 4.3. This will allow the University to make its authors' work available to read without the application of an embargo stipulated by any publisher, and for AU authors to share their work with others without potentially breaching any copyright transfer agreement entered into with a publisher.
- 4.4. Most publishers with whom AU authors have recently published have been notified about this policy change by the University. If AU authors plan to publish with a publisher not on the list, they should inform openaccess@aber.ac.uk and the University will notify the publisher.
- 4.5. There is no obligation for AU authors to provide the publisher with a separate 'rights retention' statement on either the submitted manuscript or any covering letter that may accompany this.
- 4.6. AU recognises that there may be a small number of scenarios where authors need to opt-out of this policy, in this event authors will need to contact openaccess@aber.ac.uk to request such an opt-out.

5. Related policies and procedures

This Policy complements other University policies surrounding Open Research:

- The Research Data Management Policy
- The Aberystwyth University statement on the responsible use of research metrics
- Guidance for authors on Open Access and Rights Retention procedures
- AU Intellectual Property Policy

6. Review and approval

This Policy will be reviewed every two years by the Open Access Advisory Group. The University Research and Innovation Committee is ultimately responsible for approval of this Policy and any amendments.