

# Research Publications and Copyright Policy

---

## Contents

---

<b>1</b>	<b>Overview and Purpose.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Scope.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Responsibilities of Authors.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Support for Authors.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Policy.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Exceptions .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Optional rights retention statement .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Accessibility.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Definitions .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Related Documents and Policies .....</b>	<b>8</b>

Related Regulations from the Academic Manual are shown in boxes like this.

Ownership	Director of Library Services
Policy Contact	Head of Open Research
Approval	Research and Enterprise Committee
Protective Marking	Public
Last review date	September 2025
Next review date	September 2028

---

## 1 Overview and Purpose

---

- 1.1 This policy empowers copyright owners at Goldsmiths, University of London to disseminate their research outputs to the widest possible audience without embargo in the publication venue of their choice.
- 1.2 This policy enables authors to retain the rights over their author accepted manuscripts (AAMs) and to make these available via Goldsmiths Research Online (GRO), Goldsmiths' institutional research repository, with a Creative Commons licence. This prevents situations where an author's chosen publication venue stops them from achieving the benefits of open access and enables barriers introduced by publisher policies, such as embargo periods, to be bypassed.
- 1.3 This policy simplifies compliance with research funders' requirements and research assessment exercises that require research articles and papers in conference proceedings to be open access immediately upon publication.
- 1.4 This policy recognises it is not necessary for an author to sign over their copyright or grant an exclusive licence to a publisher for their work to be published in the destination of their choice. The policy recognises the choice of where to publish remains the author's decision.
- 1.5 This policy provides authors with the reassurance that any subsequent copyright agreements signed with publishers will not limit the ability to make outputs available open access.
- 1.6 This policy aligns with the current practice that Goldsmiths does not generally claim ownership of copyright or design rights in scholarly or artistic outputs produced by researchers such as academic publications, per section 9 of the Intellectual Property Policy. In most cases, this means authors themselves will initially own the copyright for their manuscript and that they have the right to publish in the destination of their choice.

---

## 2 Scope

---

- 2.1 Publication types in scope of this policy are:
  - a) peer-reviewed research articles accepted for publication in a journal or by a publishing platform with an ISSN;

b) conference papers accepted for publication in proceedings with an ISSN.

2.2 Long form works including monographs, book chapters and edited collections are not within scope of this policy; however, authors are strongly encouraged to make these works as open as possible. Authors may use the wording included in section 5.1 to assert their rights over manuscript of such works.

For a long form work where a funder mandate around open access is in effect, please contact the Open Research team in the Library for support.

2.3 Other types of research and scholarly outputs (including book reviews, editorials, unpublished conference papers, scholarly editions, trade books, textbooks, fictional works, software, teaching materials, creative practice outputs such as artistic works, musical works, sound recordings, films or broadcasts) are not within the scope of this policy but authors are strongly encouraged to make these works as open as possible.

2.4 This policy applies to all authors or co-authors who are Goldsmiths staff.

Any outputs submitted or accepted for publication before the adoption of this policy are exempt.

---

### **3 Responsibilities of Authors**

---

3.1 Upon acceptance for publication, Goldsmiths authors, on behalf of Goldsmiths, agree to grant a non-exclusive, irrevocable, worldwide licence – this includes the right to sub-license to third parties – to make the AAM of their research output publicly available under the terms of a Creative Commons Attribution (CC-BY licence).

3.2 Authors must deposit a copy of their AAM into Goldsmiths Research Online following acceptance of publication and no later than the date of publication.

Where applicable, authors are responsible for ensuring grant conditions around open access publication are met and should seek advice from the Open Research team in the Library.

Authors must ensure that publications comply with relevant law, such as third-party copyright and data protection, and should seek advice from the Open Research team in the Library with any questions or concerns.

- 3.3 Where this policy applies to an article that is co-authored, the staff member will use all reasonable endeavours to clearly communicate in advance to their co-authors the requirements for sharing their AAM as set out in this policy. If co-authors do not agree to this, staff can opt out of the policy (see section 6).
- 

## 4 Support for Authors

---

- 4.1 The Library will make publication metadata available immediately upon deposit and the full text of the AAM publicly available on the date of first online publication (or the conference end date for conference proceedings) under a Creative Commons Attribution (CC-BY) licence (unless a more restrictive licence is to be applied as an exception).

The Library will make every effort to contact publishers used by Goldsmiths authors, to give notice that this policy has come into effect, explaining that a prior licence has been applied to outputs within the scope of this policy.

The Library will offer advice and support to authors about appropriate publishing routes, read and publish agreements, open access Research Excellence Framework (REF) and funder policy compliance.

The Library will provide support in checking copyright conditions.

- 4.2 If post-publication any publisher contacts an author to request an item shared under the terms of this policy is taken down from Goldsmiths Research Online, authors should contact the Open Research team in the Library for advice. If following review, restricting access to the deposited item is required, a retrospective opt-out to the policy will be applied by the Library to the article.
- 4.3 Goldsmiths will support its authors who receive any legal notice from a publisher and will accept responsibility and liability for such claims where researchers:
- a) have properly followed the University's policy and guidance as set out in this policy, and/or their funder's policies;
  - b) in consultation with Goldsmiths:
    - i) promptly notify Goldsmiths of the details of a notice and/or claim received from a publisher;
    - ii) authorise Goldsmiths to have sole conduct of the defence and settlement of a claim by a publisher;
    - iii) make no admission of liability in relation to a claim;

- iv) take all steps as are reasonable and/or advised by Goldsmiths to avoid or mitigate losses and expenses arising from a claim, and;
- v) provide Goldsmiths with all reasonable non-financial assistance in dealing with a claim.

---

## 5 Policy

---

Upon acceptance for publication, the author grants Goldsmiths a non-exclusive, irrevocable, worldwide and royalty-free licence to make the AAM of their scholarly work publicly available under the terms of a Creative Commons Attribution (CC-BY) licence with no embargo. This includes the right to sub-licence to third parties.

- 5.1 The author will deposit a digital copy of their AAM into Goldsmiths Research Online following acceptance of publication and no later than the date of publication.
- 5.2 This policy applies to copyright in authored research outputs. It does not extend to other intellectual property rights created in the course of employment at Goldsmiths.

This policy does not apply to any materials included within a research output that are provided by third-party copyright holders. Research articles published under a CC-BY or other Creative Commons licence can include third-party materials (such as images, photographs or maps) that are subject to a more restrictive licence.

---

## 6 Exceptions

---

- 6.1 There may be situations beyond an author's control where it is difficult to follow this policy exactly. These include, but are not limited to:
  - a) a publisher has informed the author that they will not publish the work with the Rights Retention Statement intact and has clearly indicated to an author that granting of the licence to the AAM by the author would result in the article being withdrawn from publication;
  - b) the author does not have permission to share the AAM with a CC-BY licence immediately on publication because of lack of response or agreement from co-authors;
  - c) the work contains a substantial amount of third-party materials which cannot be licensed with a CC-BY licence and the removal of them would

compromise the reading of the work;

d) the author has already applied for a licensing exception from a funder such as UKRI or Wellcome Trust.

- 6.2 In such cases, it is permissible for Goldsmiths authors to voluntarily opt out of the requirement for immediate open access upon publication, However, this may cause the research output to be non-compliant with research funders' and research assessment exercise open access policies.
- 6.3 Goldsmiths recognises that there may be cases where it is not possible to assign the default CC-BY licence. In such cases, it is permissible for staff to voluntarily opt out of the requirement for the assignation of a CC-BY licence request that a more restrictive Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike (CC-BY-SA) licence, Creative Commons No-derivatives (CC-BY-ND) licence or Creative Commons Non-Commercial licence (CC-BY-NC) is granted as an alternative. However, this may cause the research output to be non-compliant with research funders' open access policies.
- 6.4 To discuss cases where it is not possible to comply with the policy, and for further help and advice, authors should contact the Open Research team in the Library for advice prior to submitting work for publication.
- 6.5 If opting out of the requirement for immediate open access upon publication or the assignment of a CC-BY licence, authors should inform relevant stakeholders of potential non-compliance with funder' policies and future research assessment exercises.

---

## **7 Optional rights retention statement**

---

- 7.1 To reaffirm rights retained by authors in their work, the following text may be included in the funding acknowledgement section of the manuscript and any cover letter/note accompanying the submission: 'For the purpose of open access, the author(s) has applied a Creative Commons Attribution (CC-BY) licence to any Author Accepted Manuscript version arising'.
- 7.2 Some research funders may require the inclusion of different wording with the same intended outcome. For any funder which requires the inclusion of specific wording in the submitted manuscript, then that should be used.
- 7.3 For clarity, it is not required for authors to use the optional statement to retain their rights to their manuscript.

---

## 8 Accessibility

---

- 8.1 Exceptions may apply if an author unable to follow this policy due to disability or another relevant protected characteristic. Where requested, and if possible, we will provide support to ensure all authors can equitably benefit from this policy. Examples may include providing assistance with deposit of AAMs to GRO and providing reminders of timebound elements of the policy.
- 8.2 For support, please contact the Open Research team in the Library.
- 

## 9 Definitions

---

**Acceptance date:** the date upon which notification is received from the journal editor that the output has been ‘firmly accepted’ (as opposed to ‘provisional’ acceptance dependent on further revisions/review).

**Author’s Accepted Manuscript (AAM):** The author’s final version of an article, including changes agreed during peer review but without the publisher’s typesetting, design or formatting.

**Conference paper:** A conference paper published in conference proceedings or edited collection with an ISSN. Does not include papers published in volumes of proceedings or edited collections with an ISBN.

**Creative Commons Licences:** Licences which can be used in open access publishing to help authors retain copyright while allowing others to copy, distribute, and make use of their work. There are several different Creative Commons licences, which allow different types of re-use.

**Embargo period:** Restriction imposed by publishers delaying when an article can be made open access.

**First online publication:** This refers to the date the final, publisher’s ‘version of record’ is first made available, such as on a publisher’s website. This usually means an ‘early online’ date rather than date of a print publication.

**Institutional repository:** Online digital archive of an institution’s research publications.

**ISSN:** International Standard Serial Number, an 8-digit unique identifying number for journals, magazines and newspapers.

**Research article:** A peer reviewed scholarly paper, usually on a specific topic, published in an externally circulated scholarly/professional journal or publishing platform that has an ISSN.

**Read and Publish agreement:** An agreement with a publisher that incorporates journal subscriptions and the ability of affiliated authors to publish their work open access with the publisher.

**Rights Retention:** A process to enable researchers to retain the rights to their manuscripts, allowing them to share their AAM immediately on an open access basis.

**Third-party material:** The copyright in content such as images or figures contained within a publication which may be owned by others. Inclusion of this material may be covered by 'fair dealing' exceptions under copyright law or may require additional permissions. Third-party material may be subject to different licences for reuse from the licence of the containing publication.

---

## 10 Related Documents and Policies

---

- [Creative Commons Licences](#)
- [UKRI Open Access Policy](#)
- [REF 2029 Open Access Policy](#)
- [Wellcome Open Access Policy](#)
- [Goldsmiths Intellectual Property Policy](#)
- [Goldsmiths Research Online Terms of Use](#)

### Document history

Version	Date	Details	Author	Approved
1.0	8/10/25	Reviewed by REC	Andrew Preater	REC