

Open Access requirements for the REF

Open Access glossary

Acceptance date

Date on which the work has been accepted for publication with all substantive changes made.

Author's Accepted Manuscript (AAM)

The final version of a publication that has been through the peer-review process and all editing has been completed. The AAM is the last version that you have before the publisher adds their formatting, layout or logos.

Article Processing Charge (APC)

Some subscription journals contain open access articles, but charge a fee for this service. This is called an Article Processing Charge or APC.

Completed date

The date the work is considered finished. For example, when an artefact is presented, a conference paper delivered, or a live performance given. Use for works that will never be formally published.

Embargo

Some journals allow you to deposit your publication in a repository but only make it publicly available after a period of time has passed. This is called an embargo.

Read the “[Checking journal compliance](#)” guide to find out more about embargoes and how to find out if your chosen journal imposes them.

Green Open Access/Green journal

Green OA is the University's preferred method of making publications open access. With Green open access, authors publish in any journal and then deposit a version of the work in an institutional or subject repository. The version can vary but it's normally the post-print or Author's Accepted Manuscript you're allowed to upload.

Read the “[Checking journal compliance \(pdf\)](#)” guide to find out more.

Gold Open Access/ Gold journal

The process of making a publication open access on the publisher's website. This commonly incurs a charge known as an APC (see above). If you publish using the Gold route, you still need to deposit your work in KAR for it to be included in the REF.

Read the “[Checking journal compliance \(pdf\)](#)” guide to find out more.

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www.kent.ac.uk/library/research

Information Services

University of
Kent

HEFCE

The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) are responsible for coordinating the REF. They also provide funding to a wide range of researchers and projects.

See the HEFCE website: www.hefce.ac.uk

Institutional Repository (IR)

This is an online archive of research publications that have been published by members of a university. It is also used as a source for data for the REF.

The institutional repository for the University of Kent is known as KAR.

Panels (A-D)

The REF exercise is broken up into panels that represent different subject areas.

They are explained on the REF website: www.ref.ac.uk/panels/unitsofassessment

Pre-print

The version of the publication originally submitted to the publisher. This version has not been peer-reviewed or edited. Pre-prints are not eligible for inclusion in the REF.

Post-print

Another name for “Author’s Accepted Manuscript”, see above.

Published date

The date of publication as displayed on the publisher’s pages. For example, the date assigned to the issue of a journal by the publisher, or the date listed on a printed book’s title page.

Published online date

The date that the Version of Record of the work is first available on a publisher’s online platform. The earliest point at which a publication is officially available, for example ‘advanced online’ or ‘early view’. This is the date that is regarded as ‘publication’ for the purposes of the Open Access requirements for the REF.

Publisher PDF

The version of the article as it appears on the journal pages after the publication date. This will show the journal’s own formatting, layout and logos. It can’t be deposited into the institutional repository except in a few circumstances.

Read the “[Checking journal compliance \(pdf\)](#)” guide to find out more.

Research Councils UK (RCUK)

Research Councils UK are responsible for investing public money in research in the UK to advance knowledge and generate new ideas. Their work is heavily influenced by the REF.

See the RCUK website: www.rcuk.ac.uk/about

Research Excellence Framework (REF)

The REF is the system for assessing the quality of research in UK higher education institutions. It replaced the Research Assessment Exercise (RAE), last conducted in 2008.

See the REF website: www.ref.ac.uk

Submitted date

The date that a work is presented to a potential publisher to be considered for inclusion in a journal or a book, or in an exhibition, or in a programme of performances.

Version of Record

Another name for “Publisher PDF”, see above.