



Office of the Vice President Research  
and Innovation an Leas-Uachtaráin  
Taighde agus Nuálaíochta

# Maynooth University

## Policy on Open Access to Research

**Version:** 1

**Effective Date:** April 2021

**Reviewed:** Research Committee, Academic  
Council

**Next Review Date:** August 2024

## Background

MU has had an open access mandate and policy in place since 2008. This policy is an update for the existing University policy on open access that was last revised and approved in 2017.

This 2021 revision changes the format of the text to make it more concise, to remove description of international developments to a web link. This recognizes that open access is now an established feature of research dissemination, and only becoming more important in 2021. For that reason, the policy is presented as a new 1.0 draft even though all the important principles are as before.

A working group chaired by the University Librarian reviewed and revised the policy in 2021, and it was approved on 26/4/21 by the Research Committee to proceed for approval to Academic Council.

## Revision History

Version Number/Revision Number	Revision Date	Summary of Changes
0.1		
0.2		
0.3		
0.4		
1.0	26/04/21	Research Committee approval with minor additions on waiver

## Consultation History

Revision Number	Consultation Date	Names of Parties in Consultation	Summary of Changes
1.0	26/04/21	Academic Council	Approval
0.4	26/04/21	Research Committee	Minor additions on waiver
0.3	18/03/21	Research Committee Subgroup	Agreed edits
0.2	15/03/21	Research Committee Subgroup	Agreed edits
0.1	26/02/21	Research Committee Subgroup	Agreed edits

## Approval

This document requires the following approvals:

Name	Title	Date
Academic Council		26/04/21

# Maynooth University Policy on Open Access to Research

## Introduction

Maynooth University (MU) believes that providing open access to the University's research and scholarly output will maximise the visibility, impact and dissemination of our research.

In keeping with this belief, the MU Open Access Policy requires that all research and scholarly publications, which arise in whole or in part from research carried out at the University, and subject to the copyright and archiving policies of the publisher, be made available at the earliest possible date through the [Maynooth University Research Archive Library \(MURAL\)](#) which is our institutional open access repository. Researchers may also deposit work in other appropriate open access repositories. All publication outputs which the University issues with an ISSN, ISBN or DOI may be made available in MURAL. All publications can be deposited into MURAL via a researcher's profile populated in the MU Research Information System (RIS).

## Open Access at National and International level

Open Access (OA) makes the output of scholarly research available to all electronically. This greatly enhances the reach and impact of our research. MU is committed to making research outputs openly accessible via its championing of open access, its institutional repository and its ongoing involvement in the negotiation of transformative agreements with publishers allowing researchers to make their articles OA immediately on publication, without author-facing charges.

For more on information on national and international developments see [here](#).

## Scope

This policy applies to all Researchers (including postdoctoral researchers and postgraduate research students).

All research outputs including the following should be deposited in MURAL via RIS subject to publishers' restrictions:

- Bibliographic metadata of all forms of published output, so there is a comprehensive record of research activity
- The final, refereed, corrected, accepted manuscripts of all peer-reviewed journal articles and peer-reviewed conference articles at the point of acceptance for publication
- "Pre-print", pre-refereed drafts of articles where this will not limit future publication opportunities
- Conference and workshop papers (subject to disciplinary norms)
- Where appropriate, data produced as an outcome of research (covered under a separate Research Data Management Policy)
- Research work submitted as a thesis for a higher degree

- Outputs which the University issues with an ISSN, ISBN or DOI

Where a research output cannot be made open access, deposition in MURAL is strongly encouraged to ensure its safe and secure storage.

## Key Principles

1. The policy confirms the freedom of researchers to publish first wherever they feel is the most appropriate regardless of the publisher's policy on Open Access. However, use of publishers who support Open Access is strongly encouraged. A comprehensive list of publisher's policies is available at <http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo> and of funders policies including National funders at <http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/juliet/index.php>
2. The effect of the policy will be to increase the visibility of, and improve access to, the research carried out at Maynooth University, where such research is intended to be published or has been published by the researcher(s) concerned.
3. Open access research output should be made available immediately, or as soon as is practicable but normally not later than six months after publication.
4. Provision for long-term preservation of, and free public access to, all open research findings will be made via MURAL
5. Application for a waiver may be made in certain circumstances (for example in cases of sensitivity (commercial or otherwise) and or where researcher safety is a concern) and will be considered by the Office of the VP for Research and Innovation. Material should be deposited in MURAL but will be hidden from public view.

## Benefits of Open Access for MU Research

1. Benefits to authors depositing published material into MURAL include:
  - Broadening worldwide access to research material and information
  - Increasing citations and impact
  - Providing a method of preserving material
  - Making material available to internet search engines
  - Helping to prevent duplication of research
  - Promoting replicability of research findings
  - Raising profile of Maynooth University research and researchers both nationally and internationally
  - Supporting research-enabled teaching and learning and the generation of Open Educational Resources (OER)
  - Compliance of National and European funder requirements to deposit research outputs in Open Access archives
2. Benefits to Maynooth University include:

- Showcasing Maynooth University research publications and outputs
  - Raising the profile of Maynooth University research internationally through broader access and citations
  - Providing a space for individuals, research groups, schools and departments to display research work
  - Increasing potential for collaboration and synergies between Irish and international researchers
3. Benefits to Society and Community include:
- Access to knowledge
  - Access to and transparency of publicly funded research
  - More efficient dissemination of research outputs
  - Value for money invested in research
  - Advancement of Science and Society

### **How Open Access works at Maynooth University:**

1. MURAL, the Maynooth University Open Access Repository is a storage and retrieval system where research outputs and papers are stored and made available for full, open and free access by the research community and the general public. Library staff will review the publishers copyright agreement and determine when a publication can be open access.
2. All researchers lodge their publications resulting from research carried out at Maynooth University as soon as is practical after publication, and to be made openly accessible within six calendar months at the latest, subject to copyright agreement which will be monitored by Maynooth University Library staff.
3. Initially, authors deposit post-prints (or publisher's version if permitted) plus bibliographic data of articles accepted for publication in peer- and non-peer-reviewed journals and international conference proceedings.
4. Deposit should normally be made upon acceptance by the journal or conference.
5. For books, book chapters and monographs, the following general approach applies. When a book goes out of print or four years following publication, whichever is sooner, and the publisher does not foresee a further print run or availability online for the work within a six-month period, then authors should make the work available online in an open and accessible way. There are increasing Open Access options for book publishing.

## **MURAL and Maynooth University Research Information System (RIS):**

Publications can be deposited into MURAL by two possible routes. The preferred route is via RIS.

- 1. Via RIS:** Maynooth University academic staff are requested to add publication data to their profiles in the Research Information System (RIS) [https://ris.maynoothuniversity.ie/live/w\\_rms\\_security.login](https://ris.maynoothuniversity.ie/live/w_rms_security.login). In an effort to facilitate the Open Access policy and reduce duplication of effort, any publications added to the RIS can be included in MURAL. This also facilitates compliance with National and European funder requirements to deposit research outputs in Open Access repositories. See <http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/juliet/index.php> for more information.
- 2. Direct deposit into MURAL:** <http://mural.maynoothuniversity.ie/> where, once registered, the author can deposit bibliographic data, pre-prints/post-print or publisher's version.

For more information on Open Access in Maynooth University click [here](#).

### **Review:**

The Maynooth University policy will take effect 01/09/2021 and will be reviewed no later than 31/08/2024.

## Appendix 1 Glossary

### Open Access:

“Open access (OA) refers to the practice of providing online access to scientific information that is free of charge to the end-user and reusable. 'Scientific' refers to all academic disciplines. In the context of research and innovation, 'scientific information' can mean: peer-reviewed scientific research articles (published in scholarly journals), or research data (data underlying publications, curated data and/or raw data).” Horizon 2020 Online Manual [Open access - H2020 Online Manual \(europa.eu\)](#)

“Open access (OA) refers to freely available, digital, online information. Open access scholarly literature is free of charge and often carries less restrictive copyright and licensing barriers than traditionally published works, for both the users and the authors.” [What is Open Access? - Open Access Publishing - LibGuides at Cornell University](#)

### Open Access Publishing - 'Gold' open access:

An article is immediately published in open access mode. In this model, the payment of publication costs is shifted away from subscribing readers. The most common business model is based on one-off payments by authors. These costs, often referred to as Article Processing Charges (APCs) are usually borne by the researcher's university or research institute or the agency funding the research. In other cases, the costs of open access publishing are covered by subsidies or other funding models.

[Open access - H2020 Online Manual \(europa.eu\)](#)

Some journals contain only open access articles whereas others, known as hybrid journals, may offer a mix of open and subscription content. In both cases, there are costs associated with publishing which need to be met. Some journals don't charge authors to publish and the costs are subsidised by a third party, such as a learned society. This is sometimes referred to as 'diamond' or 'platinum' OA.

### Open Access Publishing - Self-archiving / 'Green' open access:

The author, or a representative, archives (deposits) the published article or the final peer-reviewed manuscript in an online repository before, at the same time as, or after publication. Some publishers request that open access be granted only after an embargo period has elapsed.

### Pre-Print:

A preprint is a version of a scholarly or scientific paper that precedes formal peer review and publication in a peer-reviewed scholarly or scientific journal. [Search - v2.sherpa](#)

**Post Print:**

A post print is a digital draft of a research journal article after it has been peer reviewed and accepted for publication, but before it has been typeset and formatted by the journal. Check with individual publishers for their definitions/policies prior to depositing the article. [Search - v2.sherpa](#)

**Submitted Version:**

The version that has been submitted to a journal for peer review. Also known as: Author's Original Manuscript (AOM), Original manuscript, Pre-print

**Accepted Version:**

The final author-created version that incorporates referee comments and is the accepted for publication version. Also known as: Authors Accepted Manuscript (AAM), Authors accepted version, Final Author version, Post-print  
[About Sherpa Romeo - v2.sherpa](#)

**Transformative (Read & Publication) OA Agreements with Publishers:**

“Transformative agreements are those contracts negotiated between institutions (libraries, national and regional consortia) and publishers that transform the business model underlying scholarly journal publishing, moving from one based on toll access (subscription) to one in which publishers are remunerated a fair price for their open access publishing services.” [TRANSFORMATIVE AGREEMENTS – ESAC Initiative \(esac-initiative.org\)](#)

In Ireland, these agreements are facilitated by IREL [Open Access Resources – IReL](#)



## **Appendix 2 Further Information**

Further information can be found [here](#). This webpage will be updated regularly.