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RESEARCH

## Library & Archives

### Open access FAQs

#### What is meant by Gold and Green open access?

Authors who opt for Gold open access publish in a journal which will provide free immediate access to their paper for non-subscribers on the publisher's website. This will usually incur an article processing charge (APC). Fully (or pure) Gold open access journals are not subscription based and are funded only via APCs. Hybrid journals are traditional subscription-based journals which offer an 'open' option for individual papers so that authors can comply with funder mandates.

Authors who opt for Green open access publish in any subscription journal, and then make their paper compliant by depositing the peer-reviewed final draft in a repository on acceptance. Publishers often embargo access to such papers for periods of up to 24 months to protect their subscription income. To comply with the RCUK mandate, embargo periods must not exceed 6 months (or 12 months during the transitional period, if funding for Gold OA is not available).

#### My journal complies with the mandate but doesn't offer a Gold option. How/where do I deposit my accepted manuscript?

You could consider depositing your manuscript in [Europe PMC](#) though you will need to respect publishers' embargo periods. PIs should have been sent Europe PMC account details when their grant was awarded. Europe PMC provides helpful [instructions](#) on manuscript deposit and an [FAQ](#).

#### What happens if there is no funding to pay for my paper to be published and my preferred journal does not offer a compliant embargo period?

It is recognised that the funding available will not allow us to fully comply with the mandate for 2013/14, but RCUK only require that 45% of peer-reviewed papers are published in compliant journals during this period. For 2013/14 55% of our papers can be published in non-compliant journals, so hopefully this will not be an issue for the immediate future.

#### What is the difference between CC BY and CC BY-NC licences?

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