



University of  
Sheffield

**You've gotta fight for your (copy)right:**

# **An exploration of the new Research Publications & Copyright Policy**

The University of Sheffield Library

A WORLD  
**TOP 100**  
UNIVERSITY

# Session content

What we will cover

- Background to the policy
- Introduction to the Research Publications and Copyright Policy
- How to comply
- Opting out of the policy
- Institutional support and beyond
- Where to find further support

# Background

- Spring 2021: TUOS published our [institutional statement on open research](#) including an expectation that researchers make their scholarly outputs open access at the earliest possible point, adopting copyright licences which support sharing and reuse. This strong institutional commitment to open research is reflected also in the Research Excellence theme of the University Vision, published later in 2021.
- UKRI, EU and Wellcome Trust had announced or implemented policies aligning with [Plan S](#). As outlined in a paper presented to ORAG (6.10.2021), all require that sufficient rights be retained by the author or institution to ensure that the results can be made immediately open access.
- Spring 2022: ORAG advises that TUOS needs a Research Publications and Copyright Policy and convenes a short life working group to develop the policy and guidance that will:
  - Clarify the rights of our researchers and their control of copyright
  - Protect researchers: If CC BY is mandated by the University, a publisher convincing a researcher to drop the CC BY licence is committing the tort of procuring breach of contract
  - Empower the University to pro-actively engage with publishers on our researchers' behalf
- December 22 - Senate approves new Research Publications and Copyright Policy for introduction from 1.1.23

# Research Publications & Copyright policy

- Applicable from 01/01/23
- Find it here: <https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/govern/documents> (see under intellectual property); find the Library's guidance here: <https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/library/copyright/research-publications-copyright-policy>
- This policy enables authors to control copyright to their own journal articles and conference proceedings papers, apply [a CC BY licence](#) to them and make them available via the institutional repository ([White Rose Research Online](#)) without embargo.
- The policy will enable staff and PGRs to comply with external funding requirements for open access as well as supporting our commitment to enabling and promoting research excellence across our community ([University's Statement of Open Research](#))

# How to comply with the policy

## On submission

Inform coauthors of requirement to add the rights retention statement.

When submitting to a journal or conference proceedings, include the following language (known as a **Rights Retention Statement**) on the manuscript: “*For the purpose of open access, the author has applied a Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) licence to any Author Accepted Manuscript version arising from this submission*”

## On acceptance

[Deposit the accepted manuscript into WRRO](#) via myPublications

Where practicable, do not sign a publishing agreement that transfers copyright to the publisher.

## On publication

Inform the library that the article has been published by emailing [oaenquiries@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:oaenquiries@sheffield.ac.uk)

The library will make the file available within one month of publication under a [CC BY licence](#)

# Opting out of the policy

- Authors will be able to opt out of the policy, although it is important to note that **this may mean your article is not compliant with funder or REF policies.**
- Reasons for opting out may include: requiring a different Creative Commons licence, co-authors at other institutions do not agree to the rights retention statement, partnerships with industry etc.
- Opt-outs must be requested via this [Google form](#) when the article is accepted for publication. The article must still be [deposited into WRRO](#) via myPublications.
- [Alternative licence request form](#)
- The reasons for opting out will be collected and reviewed after the first year of the policy.

# Institutional support and beyond

- We are not doing this alone - Edinburgh, St Andrews and Sheffield Hallam all already have Rights Retention policies in place. Find a list [here](#).
- The N8 are acting collectively, with all institutions in the group either having implemented their policies from 01/01/23 or very close to doing so <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/news/open-access-accord-weaken-publishers-negotiating-position>.
- The policy is informed by legal advice.
- TUoS are currently informing publishers of this policy.
- The library want to hear about any issues you face and will support you in communications with publishers where you feel that will help.

# Further support

Contact your liaison librarian or OA enquiries  
([oaenquiries@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:oaenquiries@sheffield.ac.uk)) for further advice