

Research Councils' open access block grant allocation policy (Policy date 16 July 2018)

Policy

Whilst RC funds are available, the block grant will be accessible where:

- the PI on the grant is based at Loughborough AND at least one author on the paper is affiliated with Loughborough – this could be the PI

OR

- the CO-I on the grant is based at Loughborough and reports on ResearchFish AND at least one author on the paper is affiliated with Loughborough

OR

- a RC funded PhD student with Loughborough affiliation is an author

Payment of APCs from the block grant is restricted to one article per researcher per block grant award year (1st April to 31st March)

Whilst RC funds are available, the block grant will be used to pay for articles in:

Fully gold OA journals (i.e. where all articles are published OA) when:

- the APC is £3000 or less

Hybrid journals (i.e. a subscription based journal with an OA option) where:

- the publisher is supporting the transition to gold open access via offsetting or discounts¹
- where the green OA route would not be compliant with the RCUK OA policy and there is no other suitable journal in which to publish²
- the APC is £3000 or less

RC funds are **NOT** available for:

- Paying for APCs retrospectively
- Over-length page charges
- Colour charges

¹ Publishers currently offering such deals include : Springer, Sage, Taylor & Francis, Wiley, Cambridge University Press, and Oxford University Press.

² Authors are encouraged to look for alternative publishers where the publisher policy is non-compliant with RCUK OA policy.

Additional Information

RC funded authors, including PGRs ('authors'), and their PIs are asked

1. To deposit a copy of their article in IR via LUPIN within 3 months of acceptance
2. To support the University's preference for sustainable cost-effective OA dissemination by:
 - a. utilising the 'green route' to OA via deposit of the accepted manuscript in the IR (as above),
 - b. to only request an APC for a 'hybrid' journal if the authors regard it as absolutely essential for the work to be OA immediately on publication
3. To complete the Research Councils Open Access Funding Request form
 - a. before submitting your paper to a journal
 - b. at the very latest on the date of acceptance
 - c. note that funding is not guaranteed unless you have had a funding request approved.
4. Within the paper to explicitly acknowledge the funder and include a statement on the underlying research material
5. If their award was granted before 1st April 2013 and is still active, to use grant money (i.e. not apply for funds from the block grant) to pay APCs.

In the event of a request resulting from RC funding lying outside of the criteria laid out above, the Library will consult with the relevant ADR to determine if the APC charge should be covered.

The University, via the Library, for Research Councils funded authors will:

1. Process the Research Councils Open Access Funding Request form and:
 - a. Check funder compliance
 - b. Check available funds
 - c. Calculate any institutional discounts
 - d. Suggest alternatives if necessary
 - e. Email the applicant to inform them of the outcome
2. Support the academic freedom of researchers to publish in their choice of publication, having regard to quality, dissemination channels and impact, and value for money.
3. Provide an APC administration service to respond to authors' queries about the availability and requests for payment of APC funds, and completion of publishers' forms.
4. Administer and allocate the RCUK block grant as described in this policy, and monitor use of the funds
5. Whilst funds remain available, pay APCs as described above in this policy.