

RCM Open Access Policy

The Royal College of Music London is committed to disseminating its research and scholarship as widely as possible to academic and non-academic audiences. Authors can make the results of their publicly funded research freely available through Open Access (OA) via the RCM's 'Research Online' Repository.

HEFCE's latest Open Access Mandate requires higher education institutions to make publicly accessible all papers (journal articles and conference proceedings with an International Standard Serial Number) from January 2014 onwards. The new policy states that in order to be eligible for submission to the next REF, authors' final peer-reviewed manuscripts must have been deposited in an institutional or subject repository by 1st April 2016. Deposited material should be discoverable, and free to read and download, for anyone with an internet connection.

For the year 2014-15 outputs need to be deposited within 3 months of publication, thereafter within 3 months of acceptance. HEFCE's policy will not apply to monographs, book chapters, other long-form publications, working papers, creative or practice-based research outputs or data. However the RCM encourages researchers to add papers published before 2014 to RCM Research Online to create a full picture of the College's research portfolio.

The College is engaging with research funders to develop suitable Open Access publication strategies, and has developed this policy based on HEFCE's policy to focus on journal articles and conference proceedings. Open Access routes for other outputs are less well developed at this stage. Responsibility for the Open Access Policy sits with the Director of Research, with operational management of the activity resting with the Research Office and Library.

Guidance on the Open Access Policy

Professors, researchers, staff and students are free to publish in journals of their choice. However every effort must be made to publish in a way that is compliant with RCM, HEFCE and funders' Open Access policies, including ensuring that the publisher has previous knowledge of the grant of the non-exclusive license to the RCM.

Authors can comply with Open Access policies by following the Green route. (Gold may be followed only if external funding is available).

Staff and students are required to deposit the author-final version of their articles in the RCM Research Repository (Green Open Access) as soon as they are accepted for publication,

Definitions of Green and Gold Open Access

Green: the author makes the work available by depositing ('self-archiving') articles accepted for publication in an institutional repository such as EPrints, or in a subject repository. Usually this version should be the author's final pre-publication version or 'postprint' – the peer-reviewed, accepted manuscript. Usually it is in Word. (It should not be a version that has been typeset by the publisher, or copyedited.). Publishers may impose an embargo period between publication and archiving in a repository. No charges are payable.

Gold: the published article is made freely and immediately available to all via the journal's website. The author may be required to pay an Open Access fee, known as an article processing charge (APC) to the publisher. APCs vary considerably across publishers, but will typically cost between £1500-£2000 plus VAT. The RCM does not hold funding to pay authors' APCs.

Types of journal:

Open Access journal: all articles in the journal are Open Access on the publisher website (Gold Open Access)

Hybrid journal: a subscription journal in which specific articles can be made Open Access on the publisher website (individual articles are Gold Open Access)

Subscription journal (with no hybrid option): no articles on the journal website can be made Open Access.