

LSE Open Access Publications Policy

LSE supports the freedom of authors to choose the most appropriate place in which to publish research outputs and acknowledges that LSE staff, students and visitors own the copyright in their scholarly works created in the course of their employment or studies. It encourages researchers to ensure quality and impact when selecting where to publish and use dissemination channels which maximize knowledge exchange and impact.

Introduction

Open Access (OA), making peer-reviewed outputs of scholarly research freely available online, is a publishing model which supports the widest possible dissemination of research outputs. This increases the opportunities for LSE research to make societal and academic impact.

Open Access is mandated by most major research funders, including UKRI, and is a requirement for outputs being submitted to the REF (Research Excellence Framework). Funder policies increasingly require outputs to be made OA immediately, or with very short embargo periods, which require an updated approach. LSE therefore adopts the policy below.

Scope

The policy applies to all LSE staff, as defined in the [LSE Intellectual Property Policy](#), and postgraduate research students. It does not apply to visitors to LSE, although they are strongly encouraged to make their research openly accessible where possible.

The policy applies to all peer-reviewed research outputs including journal articles and conference papers in a publication with an ISSN, monographs, book chapters, scholarly editions and edited collections. Researchers are strongly encouraged to make working papers, preprints, reports and other research publications openly available but they are out of scope of this policy.

The policy applies to all journal articles and conference papers accepted on or after 1st January 2025 and to monographs, chapters and edited collections contracted on or after 1st January 2026.

Policy

1. All LSE staff and postgraduate research students must provide a copy of their Author Accepted Manuscript (AAM) and the details of all in scope publications to LSE Research Online (LSERO) at the point of acceptance and no later than the date of first online publication.
2. Upon acceptance for publication each staff member and postgraduate research student agrees to grant LSE a non-exclusive, irrevocable, worldwide licence to make the accepted manuscript of their scholarly publications publicly available. A [Creative Commons Attribution \(CC BY\) licence](#) will be applied to most research outputs, a more restrictive licence will be permissible for monographs, edited collections and book chapters and, in exceptional circumstances, for other publications.
3. Authors must ensure publications include an acknowledgement of the source of funding for the research on which publications are based and a statement on how underlying research materials, such as data samples or models, can be accessed in line with the School's [Research Data Management Policy](#).
4. The metadata will be made immediately available in LSE Research Online on deposit. The AAM of journal articles, conference papers and book chapters will be made available on the date of first online publication (or as soon as is practically possible thereafter). The AAM of monographs and edited collections will be made available no more than 24 months from the date of first online publication or as required by the research funder.
5. If an author publishes in a venue or with a publisher who supports immediate open access for the final version of record, publication details must be provided to LSE Research Online at the point of acceptance, and notification sent at the point of publication, at which point the final published version will be made available in LSE Research Online.
6. The School recognises that there may be situations beyond an author's control where it is difficult to follow this policy exactly. Where a researcher wishes to opt out of the requirement for immediate open access upon publication, or the application of a CC BY licence, they should, as soon as reasonably practicable and prior to submission of the work for publication, fill in this [form](#) to request to opt out of the relevant requirement(s) of this policy. Any such request will be reasonably considered but will not be granted where to do so would put the School (or the relevant researcher) in breach of a funder requirement.

Responsibilities

7. Authors are responsible for providing publication details, funding information and the full-text of their publications to LSERO ([LSERO deposit form](#)) prior to publication; and for familiarising themselves with their funders' open access policies. Authors are also responsible for making their co-authors aware of LSE's Open Access Policy.
1. LSE Library will provide services and advice to enable authors to comply with the policy. Information and advice is available at: <https://www.lse.ac.uk/library/research-support/open-access>

Review schedule

Review interval	Next review due by	Next review start
3 years	23/07/2027	01/03/2027

Version history

Version	Date	Approved by	Notes
1.0	May 2015	Academic Board and Council	
2.0	23/07/2024	School Management Committee	
2.1	20/01/2026	Open Research Services Manager	Policy updated to reflect change in LSERO deposit process

Links

Reference	Link
LSE Intellectual Property Policy	LSE Intellectual Property Policy
Creative Commons licences	Creative Commons Licences
LSE Research Data Management Policy	Research Data Management Policy
Opt-out form	Opt-out form
Open Access webpage	Open Access webpage

Contacts

Position	Name	Email	Notes
Open Research Services Manager	Rosie Higman	r.a.higman@lse.ac.uk	Alternatively contact lseresearchonline@lse.ac.uk

Communications and Training

Will this document be publicised through Internal Communications?	Yes
Will training needs arise from this policy	No
If Yes, please give details	