

Open Access at Staffordshire University

Staffordshire University now has an Open Access Mandate – this requires staff to make their published, peer-reviewed journal articles and conference papers open access, by self-archiving their final, peer-reviewed drafts in the institutional repository - STORE (Staffordshire Online Repository Environment).

Using the widely adopted *eprints* software, STORE was utilised for the 2014 REF submission and continues to provide a platform as the University repository and open access solution.

This mandate will ensure the University and researchers can be considered for the post 2014 REF and allow the University to capture, promote and disseminate, monitor, measure and assess its research output. By adopting an open access mandate the University will apply the new HEFCE Research Excellence Framework (REF) OA Policy with immediate effect.

The policy comes into force on 1 April 2016, but by adopting the practice now we will ensure that no research is omitted from the REF 2020.

In essence the HEFCE policy (outlined below) requires authors to upload accepted, peer-reviewed articles and conference proceedings to an institutional repository no later than three months after acceptance.

New HEFCE/REF Open Access Policy

What's changing?

HEFCE has a new policy for open access in the next Research Excellence Framework (REF).

HEFCE policy requires you to upload your accepted, peer-reviewed articles and conference proceedings to an institutional repository no later than three months after acceptance.

What type of manuscripts are affected?

All accepted journal articles and conference proceedings (with an SSIN) should be uploaded to the repository to ensure they are eligible for the next REF. It does not apply to monographs, book chapters or other long-form publications, working papers, creative or practice-based research outputs or data.

When do I need to do something?

As soon as your peer reviewed manuscript has been accepted upload to STORE (Staffordshire University Online Repository) eprints.IS can check permissions for you and provide support.

http://www.staffs.ac.uk/support_depts/infoservices/learning_support/store/

HEFCE policy requires manuscripts to be uploaded no later than three months after acceptance.

This policy comes into force on **1 April 2016**. Yet at the University we want to ensure this shift is managed **sooner** rather than later **to ensure no research is omitted**.

Guides are available and library staff can offer advice and help.

Eligibility for the REF

By uploading your peer-reviewed manuscript as soon as it is accepted by a publisher, you adhere to HEFCE policy.

Failure to do so could affect your access to future funding.

Publisher embargoes are respected (the period when you can only access an article with a paid access). Manuscripts must be free to read and download after the following periods:

12 months for STEM subjects, 24 months for Humanities subjects

What is open access?

Open access makes scholarly research outputs such as journal articles and peer-reviewed conference papers (also increasingly now extending to book chapters, monographs and research data) freely available online. For the institution, for the author and the researcher, open access enables and enhances the visibility, profile and impact of research activity. If research can be found and used more easily it will have more impact - research with more impact means increased visibility online, creating a wider shop window for the work of the University and its staff. Open access removes restrictions to view and read a work and allows reuse, redistribution and modification of the work with attribution. It increases access to literature and knowledge -widening the spread of ideas. This has both a societal and an economic impact. Furthermore many research funding bodies stipulate that outputs are made available through open access. The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) have announced that to be considered for inclusion for the post 2014 Research Excellence Framework (REF) all submissions must be open access.

Further Reading:

HEFCE Policy for open access in the post-2014 Research Excellence Framework 2014/07 : HEFCE. 2014. 2014/07: HEFCE. [ONLINE] Available at: <http://www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/year/2014/201407/#d.en.86771>. [Accessed 30 July 2014].

HEFCE FAQ on open access in the post-2014 Research Excellence Framework. 2014. FAQ – HEFCE. [ONLINE] Available at:<http://www.hefce.ac.uk/whatwedo/rsrch/rinfrastruct/oa/faq/>. [Accessed 30 July 2014].

RCUK Policy on Open Access - Research Councils UK. 2014. RCUK Policy on Open Access - Research Councils UK. [ONLINE] Available at: <http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/research/outputs/>. [Accessed 30 July 2014].

Staffordshire University STORE (ePrints). 2014. STORE (ePrints). [ONLINE] Available at: http://www.staffs.ac.uk/support_depts/infoservices/learning_support/store/. [Accessed 30 July 2014].

Wellcome Trust Open access policy. 2014. Open access policy | Wellcome Trust. [ONLINE] Available at: <http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/about-us/policy/spotlight-issues/Open-access/index.htm>. [Accessed 30 July 2014].