



Update of UG open access policy

UG and UMCG committed to 100% open access¹

As stated in its Strategic Plan 2021-2026, the University of Groningen considers open access publishing a priority and aims to further encourage it and make it simple and feasible in every discipline². To this end, the UG is presenting an updated open access policy³. This document does not introduce any new requirements for UG authors, but explains the available options and crystallizes existing practices.

Open access means free, immediate and permanent access to academic publications. By publishing research output open access under an open license, readers can access, distribute and reuse the material freely.

Open access - short works (journal articles and chapters)

Short academic publications (articles and book chapters) by UG authors are made open access following one of the routes outlined below:

ROUTE 1 (Applicable for journal articles)

Immediate open access → Authors publish open access under an open license (Creative Commons license). In this case the publication will be immediately open access, allowing users to reuse it according to the conditions of the chosen license.

For this route authors make use of the Read & Publish agreements that the UG has negotiated with several academic publishers. These agreements allow submitting authors affiliated with the UG to publish their journal articles open access in thousands of journals for free (100% discount) or with significant discounts on Article Processing Charges (APCs). The Journal Browser provides information on the participating journals.

What is expected of authors? Check the [Journal Browser](#) before submission and make use of the UG's Read & Publish deals as much as possible.

If a discount is not available, authors have the option (but are not required) to publish open access by covering the open access fee with their own funds (e.g. grant budget, institute or faculty funds, personal research funding, etc.) NB: Authors that are applying for research grants are strongly encouraged to budget for open access costs in their project proposal. Please consult [this FAQ](#) on how to comply with your funder's open access requirements.

If authors cannot cover the open access costs, route 2 applies.

¹ This policy applies to all University of Groningen's faculties, including the University Medical Center Groningen (UMCG) and its staff members.

² Making Connections: Strategic Plan University of Groningen 2021-2016, p.14. Available at: <https://www.rug.nl/about-ug/policy-and-strategy/strategic-plan/strategisch-plan-eng-2021.pdf>

³ In 2017 the UG adopted a green open access policy. The policy asked UG authors to self-archive their accepted author's manuscript (post-print) in Pure.



ROUTE 2 (Applicable for journal articles and book chapters)

Archiving in Pure → If immediate open access is not an option (e.g. due to lack of funding or if the publication is not covered by the institutional agreements), the [Open access procedural regulations for short academic works by UG staff members or UMCG staff members](#) apply.

As of 1 May 2021, the publisher's versions of all short works (articles and book chapters) by UG/UMCG staff that have not been published open access are automatically made open access via Pure six months after publication. This is possible thanks to the legal backing of Article 25fa of the Dutch Copyright Act (also known as Taverne amendment), which grants Dutch-affiliated researchers the right to make their short academic works open to the public for free after a short embargo period.

The Copyright Act is so-called mandatory law and takes precedence over contract law. Therefore Article 25fa Aw supersedes any agreement made between the author and the publisher.

What is expected of researchers? Researchers don't have to do anything themselves. The University of Groningen Library (UB) and the Central Medical Library (CMB) take care of opening up all qualifying publications via Pure.

Open access - long works (books and edited volumes)

Authors are encouraged to publish long academic works, such as monographs and edited volumes, open access whenever possible. To this end, the University of Groningen has introduced an [open access book fund](#). UG-affiliated authors can apply for funding to support the publication of their monograph or edited volume (until August 2023)⁴.

Support for diamond open access

The UG sees diamond open access as a sustainable, affordable and fair model for scholarly publishing and is committed to supporting trustworthy [diamond open access initiatives](#)⁵. In addition, a stimulus fund to support diamond open access journals or publication platforms that have a strong connection with the UG has been established and will run until August 2023⁶.

Support

The UB and CMB open access teams inform and advise you on everything related to open access and open science in a broader sense. For questions or more information contact us at: openaccess@rug.nl or openaccess@umcg.nl.

⁴ The continuation of the open access book fund beyond August 2023 is conditional on funding renewal.

⁵ Diamond open access initiatives (journals, publication platforms, etc.) do not charge subscriptions fees, nor publication fees to authors. They are free to access/read and free to publish in (no Article Processing Charges, APC or Book Processing Charges, BPC). These initiatives are usually non-profit, run by and for academics. The UG is supporting several diamond open access initiatives. [The full list of supported initiatives can be accessed at: <http://rug.nl/openaccess>]

⁶ The continuation of the diamond open access fund beyond August 2023 is conditional on funding renewal.