

# Open Access Fact Sheet for Researchers Applying for Grants

## BENEFITS OF OPEN ACCESS PUBLISHING

Open access aligns with the University of California’s mission as a public university, and offers a number of benefits to you, your coauthors, the scholarly community, and the public:

- **Compliance:** Some grants require open access publication of funded research findings
- **Exposure:** Wider dissemination, higher visibility, and faster discovery of your research
- **Scholarly Impact:** Higher citation rates than articles behind a paywall
- **Real-World Impact:** Practitioners can apply your findings; your research can influence public policy
- **Public Access:** California taxpayers, and the broader public, can access UC research
- **Equity:** Researchers in developing countries can access your work

## HOW TO BUDGET FOR OPEN ACCESS PUBLISHING

If you intend to publish your research findings, consider including publishing costs in your extramural project budget. **Publishing costs are an allowable direct cost, unless explicitly listed in the funder’s RFA/RFP as an unallowable expense.**

The open access publishing fee, also known as an article processing charge (APC), varies by journal. To make the most accurate estimate:

1. Consider where you anticipate submitting your research for publication, and
2. Look up the APC on the journal’s website.
3. If you do not know yet where you will publish, \$3,000 per article is a reasonable estimate.

Other points to consider:

- Open access publishing in high-prestige journals is more expensive (just as library subscriptions to those journals have been in the past).
- For journals covered by one of UC’s open access publisher agreements, a discount and/or full funding support may apply.

For more details on budgeting for publishing fees, see page 2.

As part of its commitment to free, public access to UC research, the University is repurposing library journal subscription dollars to help authors pay for open access publishing in a growing number of journals. **Check the [current list of journal publishers](#) where the UC libraries provide this funding support (typically, the first \$1,000 and/or a full coverage option) to find out if your journal’s publisher is included.**

## WHAT IS OPEN ACCESS?

**Open access publishing makes research universally and freely available, at no cost to the reader.**

For journal articles, there are two primary paths:

- **Green open access:** Depositing the author-accepted manuscript in an open access repository, such as the University of California's [eScholarship](#) or a government repository. There may be an embargo period after manuscript publication before the content becomes publicly available.
- **Gold open access:** Paying the journal publisher a fee (typically known as an article processing charge, or APC) to make the final published article immediately and freely available directly from the journal's website.

**Note:** Monographs can also be published open access. While this fact sheet focuses on the process for scholarly journals, some UC campus libraries also offer funding support for open access book publishing. Check with your campus library for details.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Am I required to publish open access?

With the leadership of the faculty Academic Senate, the University of California strongly encourages, but does not require, you to choose open access publishing. However, some funders may require you to publish open access and/or make the underlying data publicly available. Please consult the funding solicitation or contact your prospective funder to confirm.

### What is the difference between open access publishing and data management and sharing?

Open access publishing aims to make scholarly publications available at no cost to the reader. Data management and sharing describes how the underlying research data will be collected, organized, documented and stored, and how this information will be made available to other researchers.

### Are open access publishing costs an allowable expense?

Yes, publishing costs are considered an allowable direct expense unless funders explicitly list them as unallowable expenses in the funding solicitation or funding agreements. If you haven't specifically included publication costs in your budget, most grants allow for some level of rebudgeting. Please contact the Office of Sponsored Research if you have any questions about rebudgeting to cover publication costs.

### What should I budget for open access publishing?

Open access publishing fees (also known as article processing charges or APCs) vary from journal to journal, ranging from a few hundred dollars to more than \$10,000 for a few high-prestige journals. A typical APC is about \$3,000. Check the APCs of journals to which you are considering submitting publications resulting from your proposed research to determine how much to budget for open access publishing. A note of caution: Avoid publishing in any open access journal that does not reveal its fees upfront.

If you cannot obtain grant support, the library has funds available to cover the full cost of publishing open access in most journals.

## CONTACT

If you have additional questions about open access publishing, including available discounts and financial support, and data management and sharing, please contact [your campus library](#). For questions about budgeting, contact [the Office of Sponsored Research](#).

## FURTHER READING

- [What is Open Access?](#) UC Office of Scholarly Communication website
- [Open Access Publisher Agreements and Discounts](#), UC Office of Scholarly Communication website
- [UC Research Data Policy](#), University of California Office of the President, Research Policy Analysis and Coordination website

### **How much will the University of California contribute to help me publish my article with open access?**

The University of California has transformative open access publishing agreements and publishing discounts in place with a broad range of scholarly publishers. The UC libraries will typically pay the first \$1,000 of the APC for eligible UC corresponding authors. The library has funds available to pay the full cost of publishing open access in most journals if your grant cannot cover the remainder. Check the [current list of covered publishers](#) to find out how much financial support you may be entitled to.

There is no limit on the number of articles you can publish with financial support under these agreements.

### **I intend to publish in a journal that is covered under one of UC's transformative open access publishing agreements and I need to request funds from UC to help cover the APC. What is the process for requesting financial assistance?**

Funding support is offered automatically, through the journal's article submission process, once your manuscript has been accepted for publication. To be eligible for funding support under one of UC's transformative agreements, you must be the article's corresponding author and have done the research as a UC affiliate (faculty, lecturer, staff, graduate student). If you meet those criteria, any UC discount and baseline contribution from the UC libraries (typically, the first \$1,000 of the APC) will be reflected automatically in the APC cost summary displayed to you. You do not need to make a separate request for financial assistance.