

# University of Bath Rights Retention Pilot

To enable the University and researchers to disseminate research publications as widely as possible, maintain choice of publishing venue, and facilitate compliance with funder requirements (including REF and UKRI), the University is introducing a **rights retention pilot** to support researchers to retain and use their author rights in research publications.

**The Rights Retention Pilot will run from 30 November 2023 until 30 June 2024.**

## Why a Rights Retention Pilot?

Rights Retention (see more information on page 2) allows you to retain key rights over your peer-reviewed manuscript, rather than signing them away to your publisher.

Under the University's Ordinances, in particular section 22.3 "Ownership of Intellectual Property", researchers own the copyright in their scholarly articles (subject to any third-party rights).

Although you automatically hold the copyright when you write a paper, if you publish it in a subscription journal, you will be asked to sign a publishing agreement in which you give all or part of your copyrights to your publisher, who now holds them in exclusivity. Rights Retention allows you to retain key rights over your peer-reviewed manuscript, rather than signing them away to your publisher.

In particular, you will retain the right to disseminate your peer-reviewed manuscript by depositing it in a repository and providing open access from the day of first publication under a Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) licence.

To ensure our authors can do so, the University of Bath will be supporting them with a Rights Retention Pilot. At the end of the Pilot, feedback from participating researchers will inform the development of an institutional Rights Retention Policy.

## Who can sign up and what does it entail?

**All researchers at Bath can sign up to participate in the pilot by submitting the opt-in form: [go.bath.ac.uk/rrs-pilot-opt-in](https://go.bath.ac.uk/rrs-pilot-opt-in)**

In doing so, you enter into a non-exclusive agreement with the University to make all your papers immediately open access under a Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) licence.

## The Process

When you submit an article or a peer reviewed conference paper to a publisher, you should include the following statement in the Acknowledgements or Funding section of the manuscript and in any covering letter accompanying your submission:

**'For the purpose of open access, the author has applied a Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) licence to any Author Accepted Manuscript version arising from this submission'**

If your funder's policy has a different statement, you can use that one instead.

Upon editorial acceptance, you upload a copy of the accepted manuscript to Pure. The Open Access team will check and validate the deposit and will release it publicly with a CC BY licence upon publication.

Feed back to the open access team any responses or comments from publishers.

Further information about the Rights Retention Pilot is available on our web guide: [go.bath.ac.uk/rrs-pilot](https://go.bath.ac.uk/rrs-pilot)

If you have any questions, please email them to: [openaccess@bath.ac.uk](mailto:openaccess@bath.ac.uk)

The Library



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# Rights Retention Strategy

## What is Rights Retention?

Author rights retention is a means for researchers and universities to regain “academic sovereignty over the publishing process.” (EUA, 2022). To this end, a Rights Retention Strategy (RRS) was developed by [cOAlitionS](#) to give researchers supported by a cOAlitionS funder the freedom to submit manuscripts for publication to their journal of choice, including subscription journals, whilst remaining fully compliant with [Plan S](#) aligned open access policies (such as [UKRI](#), Wellcome Trust, Horizon Europe). Transferring the original copyright holders’ rights to a publisher usually means that the authors’ rights to use the article are severely limited. Rights retention enables authors to retain sufficient rights to their own article manuscript, and to reuse their content as they see fit, such as within teaching and their own academic networks.

## Benefits

- Compliance with funders’ OA policies
- Maintains author choice of publishing venue
- Allows for the reuse of content by the researcher



### This may include:

- Freedom to distribute copies via research networks of their choosing
  - Freedom to use the work, including figures and diagrams they created, within any other work of their own or others as they choose
  - Freedom to use the work for teaching as they choose
  - Freedom to make derivative works without seeking permission from their publisher
  - Freedom to distribute copies, including electronic copies, as they choose
- Enables the author’s affiliated institution to offer access to works created by its staff and to retain and disseminate copies for the long-term
  - Simplifies options and avoids complex policy ‘stack’

Funders’ Rights Retention policies has prompted some academic institutions to take even stronger steps towards supporting their researchers to retain rights by adopting Institutional Rights Retention Policies (IRRP).

## What is an Institutional Rights Retention Policy (IRRP)?

An IRRP typically confirms that members of staff own the copyright to their scholarly works and grant a licence to the University to make the Author Accepted Manuscript (AAM) available via their repository under a [Creative Commons Attribution \(CC BY\) licence](#). This automatic grant of licence ensures that research findings can be made open access (OA) at the earliest opportunity. The policy typically covers research articles and conference papers but may include other output types. An IRRP typically covers all members of the institution, not just those with research funding awards.

### Useful links:

[Plan S Rights Retention Strategy: www.coalition-s.org/rights-retention-strategy/](http://www.coalition-s.org/rights-retention-strategy/)

[Plan S \(coalition-s.org\) Rights retention: A Primer from UKRN: www.ukrn.org/2023/04/18/rrs-primer/](http://www.ukrn.org/2023/04/18/rrs-primer/)

[List of UK HE institutions with IRRPs: github.com/sje30/rrs/blob/main/ukinstitutions.csv](https://github.com/sje30/rrs/blob/main/ukinstitutions.csv)