
ULSTER UNIVERSITY

Research & Impact

Provisional Open Research Position Statement

Approved by Ulster University Research & Impact Committee,
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Open Research Position Statement

1. Purpose of the Statement

This Statement summarises the University's approach to Open Research. Informed by external frameworks including the [Concordat on Open Research Data](#), it sets out key principles for the conduct and support of Open Research at Ulster University. It is supported by more detailed Policy Frameworks for [Open Access and PURE](#) and [Research Data Management](#).

2. Preamble

- 2.1. Open Research aims to open access to research outputs (e.g. to protocols, results, publications, data, software and tools) to increase inclusivity and collaboration, unlock access to knowledge, improve transparency and reproducibility of research and underpin research integrity.
- 2.2. The University promotes and supports Open Research to increase transparency in our research processes, reproducibility of our research results and to maximise access to our research outputs in accordance with our mission to contribute to society through the pursuit of education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence.
- 2.3. An Open Research culture, based on mutual benefit across research communities, links researchers and the wider community through shared knowledge. By helping to further the global reach of Ulster University's research and enabling Ulster based researchers to use open materials from other researchers, it accelerates the pursuit of knowledge and fosters truly international collaboration.

3. Expectations of researchers

- 3.1. The University recognises contributions from researchers at all career stages, working collaboratively across a wide range of disciplines. Across the disciplinary spectrum there are a wide range of cultural settings that influence both capacity for and appropriateness of fully Open Research. Open methodologies, analytics, publications and open data take different forms, and require different approaches, in each of these settings. The University supports the academic freedom of researchers to pursue new knowledge, and to choose the means of dissemination; but within that free choice, the University encourages outputs of research, and where appropriate the accompanying data, to be 'as open as possible, as closed as necessary'.

3.2. The University relies on its researchers to uphold principles of scholarly rigour so that open materials are of the highest research quality and, where appropriate, will aid reproducibility. This may include:

- sharing protocols openly;
- collaborative approaches including blogging, online editions, releasing teaching materials, pre-print deposit;
- where possible, ensuring all publications are Open Access;
- where appropriate and possible, making openly available the underlying data relating to these publications.

3.3. The nature of research outputs, and their ownership, varies considerably both by discipline and by the research context. Within this context, the University is committed to supporting authors' (academics, researchers, staff and students) freedom to choose where to publish. However it is recognised that restrictions may apply, for example when dealing with commercial interests and publisher requirements, third party rights holders, GDPR, patient confidentiality, confidential social data. [Ulster University's Research Data Management Policy](#) and the [Code of Practice for Professional Integrity in the Conduct of Research](#) addresses how the University manages these issues while ensuring compliance with funder requirements. Researchers are encouraged to work with the University's [Research Governance team](#) to determine the most appropriate approach in such circumstances, which may mean that outputs or data should remain closed or on limited access.

3.4. At all times, researchers are expected to act in accordance with the expectations of those funding the research, and with the minimum thresholds set by regulatory bodies.

4. The University's support for Open Research

4.1. The University will increase the quality, integrity and accessibility of our research by supporting a growing culture and practice of Open Research. We will use modern technologies and practices of scholarship to improve access to research, transparency in the research process, and reproducibility of results, and to promote efficient methods of scholarly communication.

4.2. The University will support researchers through:

- Provision of a range of services (Research Performance, University Library) and systems (PURE, ORCID and others) to enable researchers to practice Open Research.
- Provision of support, advice and guidance for individual researchers, appropriate to their disciplinary setting.

- Ensuring long-term sustainability of curated open materials and their continued open accessibility.
- Engaging with government and sector organisations, international consortia to ensure policy development and compliance is in keeping with the needs of the University and broader society.

5. Links

Specific guidance on open practices and policies are available on the University's Open Research website.

6. Contacts

Questions and queries related to Open Research should be directed to the Open Research team via openresearch@ulster.ac.uk.