

Open Access Guidelines

Content adapted from the Papago project (<https://github.com/micaelacq/Papago/>)

Background

From January 2023, all research funded by the SNSF has to comply with the new Open Access (OA) [policy](#). From January 2026, in line with the [swissuniversities](#), the SNSF is suspending its funding for open-access articles intended for publication in Springer Nature journals. And from 2027, the SNSF will fund Gold OA publications with Article Processing Charges (APCs) only up to a **maximum of CHF 3,500** per article and will no longer cover fees that are higher than this, not even partially (see [here](#)).

This document provides a shortened and NCCR specific overview to support researchers in complying with these requirements.

Highlights of the OA policy

- Journal articles
 - Immediate OA is required (no embargo allowed)
 - CC-BY license for all articles
- Books and book chapters
 - Embargo is allowed for a maximum of 12 months

Changes as of January 2027

- eligible APCs / OA charges are capped at a max of CHF 3'500 per publication, not even partially.
- This means if the APCs exceed CHF 3'500, the SNSF contribution is CHF 0, not CHF 3'500

No-deal situation with Springer Nature

- As of January 2026, no CPOs / OA charges can be covered with SNSF funds

Glossary

1. The green road (Green OA)

The **Green Road** refers to the parallel publication of a version of the manuscript in an open repository, or self-archiving. Open repositories can be institutional, such as ZORA at UZH and Archive ouverte at UNIGE, or disciplinary.

The publication is often delayed (embargo period) and allowed only for the author accepted manuscript (AAM), also known as postprint. This is the manuscript accepted for publication (post peer-reviewed), but before all copy editing by the editor.

2. The gold road (Gold OA)

The Gold Road refers to the immediate Open Access publication. This is possible either through purely Open Access journals, or by agreement with the publisher for books.

Open Access works published via the Gold road are usually protected by an open license, such as [Creative Commons](#).

The diamond road (Diamond OA)

3. Embargo

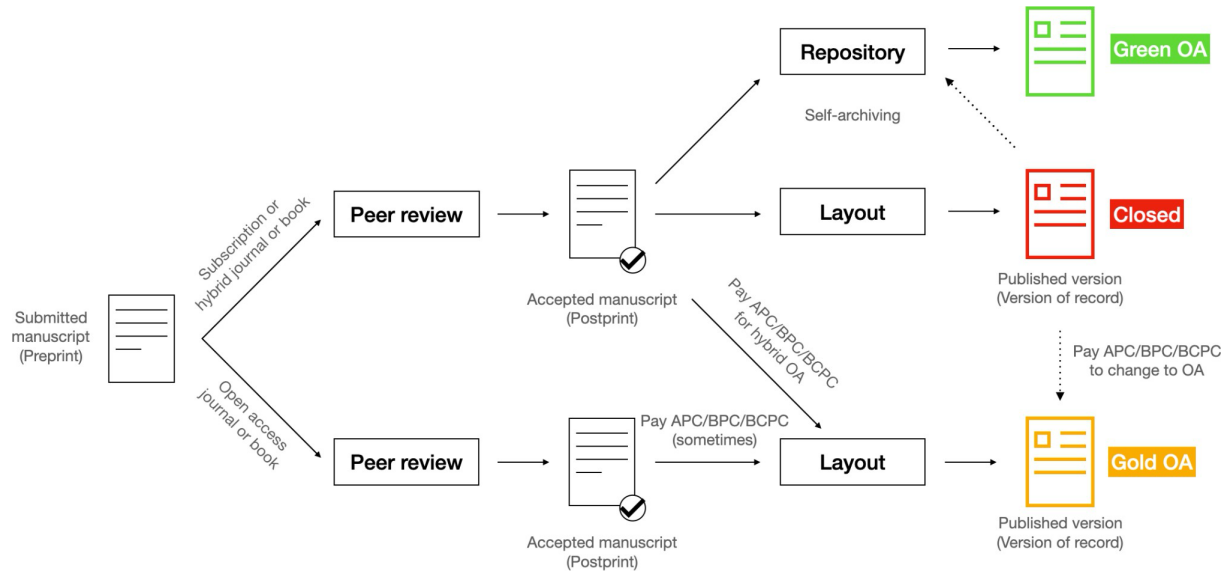
In the field of scholarly publishing, an embargo is a period during which access to articles (or the digital version of a monograph) is not allowed to users who have not paid for access to them.

4. Manuscript Version



FAQs

1. How to achieve OA? (Roads to OA)



2. To achieve OA by self-archiving a copy, which repositories can I use?

NCCR researchers should primarily choose the **institutional repositories** for archiving their publications for the green road to OA:

- [University of Basel](#)
- [University of Friborg](#)
- [University of Geneva](#)
- [University of Lausanne](#)
- [University of Neuchâtel](#)
- [University of Zurich](#)
- [EPFL](#)
- [ETHZ](#)
- [USI](#)
- [SUPSI](#)

If archiving on institutional repositories is not permitted, archiving on a personal webpage would be the best option, for which publishers usually set the fewest restrictions. **IMPORTANT:** Always check how publishers/journals require the statement of licenses and copyrights for green OA.

3. How can I still publish in Springer Nature Journals?

You can still publish in Springer Nature journals without paying OA charges or APCs by using the **Green Open Access route**. This means submitting your article without selecting any OA option and publishing it behind the publisher's paywall. To comply with SNSF requirements, you must then immediately deposit the author-accepted manuscript in a recognized repository under a Creative Commons license. This route involves no APCs and remains fully SNSF-compliant.

4. How can I pay other APCs/BPCs/BCPs?

Open access journals (and books): SNSF covers all the costs. Follow the guidelines [here](#) and submit your request on the ChronosHub. From 2027, funding will be capped at 3500 CHF per publication. Find more information [here](#).

Hybrid journals (and books): Institutional libraries have individual agreements with major publishers for free OA:

- [University of Zurich](#)
- [University of Geneva](#)
- [University of Neuchâtel](#)

If no agreement is established with the publisher

- Some departments and faculties at your institution may have special funds to cover the APC/BPC/BCPC - please consult your local institution
- Resort to the green road to OA - see below

5. Which version of the manuscript can I archive?

Either the accepted manuscript or the published version (version of record) should be archived to achieve green OA. However, publishers might set restrictions for the distribution of the published version, in which case only the accepted manuscript can be archived and shared.

Guidelines of some major publishers can be checked below:

- [Elsevier](#)
- [Cambridge University Press](#)
- [Routledge](#)
- [Wiley](#)
- [Springer Nature](#)

More useful tools

1. Papago

A simple webpage where you can get the OA guidelines by answering just a few questions about your publication situation: <https://michaelacq.github.io/Papago/?inst=unil&lang=en>. (Please note that some information might be outdated.)

2. SHERPA/RoMEO

[SHERPA/RoMEO](#) An excellent resource for learning publishers' policies on self-archiving.

3. Directory of Open Access Journals and Directory of Open Access Books

The Directory of Open Access Journals ([DOAJ](#)) is a community-curated online directory that indexes and provides access to high quality, open access, peer-reviewed journals.

The Directory of Open Access Books ([DOAB](#)) lists academic, peer reviewed Open Access books.