



Open Research Statement

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OPEN RESEARCH STATEMENT

1. Introduction

Open Research, or Open Science, refers to the principle that all knowledge should be open and accessible as early as possible in the discovery process. To be open and accessible, research should be freely available to the widest possible audience with as few barriers to reuse as possible. This includes results, data, protocols, published outputs and other aspects of the research lifecycle. Open Research is the principle that research brings the most benefits the more widely and earlier in the research process it is shared.

Open Research is being increasingly recognised in the policies of research funders, organisations and publishers as a way to create more transparent, collaborative and efficient research processes, accelerating progress and impact. In turn this leads to greater integrity and quality in the research produced.

The University of Wolverhampton undertakes a broad range of research, with world leading elements recognised across 16 subject areas submitted in REF 2021. The University recognises the key role research has in creating knowledge that benefits society and has committed via the strategic plan to transform lives through research that makes impact regionally, nationally and internationally.

The University aspires to develop a research environment that facilitates Open Research by opening up access to publications, research data, research methods and metrics.

The University of Wolverhampton is committed to open research that is collaborative, transparent, reproducible and publicly available. This Statement has been approved by the University's Research Committee. It is the University's expectation that creating a culture of Open Research will increase the reproducibility and integrity of our research whilst maximising accessibility and efficiency by offering more possibilities for re-use.

2. Aims of this Statement

This Statement aims to:

- Raise awareness of Open Research and outline University support for a burgeoning Open Research culture.
- Provide aspirational best practice for researchers, who aim to benefit from using more open methods of research, by providing guidance on open access, open data, open platforms and open research processes.

3. Definitions

Open Research: Open Research is about extending the principles of making research freely available to the widest possible audience without barriers to reuse to the whole research cycle, fostering sharing and collaboration as early as possible and systemically changing the way research is carried out. Open Research aims to remove the barriers for sharing any kind of output, resources, methods or tools at any stage of the research process.

Open Access: Open access refers to the provision of free, immediate, online access to research, which is also free of most copyright and licensing restrictions.

Open Data: Open Data are online, free of cost, accessible data that can be used, reused and distributed, provided that the data source is attributed. Research data is any resource that is analysed and synthesized as evidence or support for research findings.

ORCID: A free digital identifier unique to every researcher. It provides a means of unambiguously identifying an individual researcher through the research lifecycle from grant application to publication. It is used by research organisations, publishers and funders, and facilitates automatic linking between an individual and their professional activity. Researchers can set up their own ORCID at www.orcid.org

4. Open Research Best Practice

The University encourages researchers to explore Open Research, beyond basic policy compliance, by following the best practice outlined in the following areas:

4.1 Open Access

The University has an open access publications policy that mandates the deposit of journal articles and conference proceedings in the institutional repository and encourages the deposit of all other types of research outputs where permitted. The Scholarly Communications team will assist researchers seeking permission from publishers, and aims to make all publications open access where possible. Researchers are encouraged to negotiate or seek out journals with shorter embargo periods to make work open access as soon as possible. Consideration should also be given to permissive licencing, such as a [Creative Commons](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/) licence, that enables re-use and sharing of open access publications. The Scholarly Communications Team can assist researchers in choosing an open access licence.

4.2 Open Data

The institutional Research Data Management policy advocates an open approach to research data wherever possible, while recognising that access will need to be balanced with constraints around security confidentiality and commercial interests. Data should be shared with relevant metadata and documentation to allow re-use, and licensed appropriately. Researchers are encouraged to make data accessible using funder or discipline specific repositories using DOIs and data access statements to link datasets to published papers, except where restrictions apply. The policy provides an aspirational framework and set of principles, upon which the

University intends to invest in an infrastructure to ensure the preservation and sharing of research data.

4.3 Open Software/Code

If relevant to research discipline and context, the University encourages researchers to share research software or code(s) under an open licence, making them freely accessible for collaboration and re-use. The Scholarly Communications Team can provide guidance on choosing an open licence for software.

4.4 Open Research Processes

Researchers are encouraged to cultivate open ways of working and collaborative ways of sharing their research by pre-registering studies, sharing protocols and methods, blogging, creating online editions and University of Wolverhampton hosted websites, releasing teaching materials, and making use of pre-print deposit and open peer review platforms. Providing opportunities for public engagement with research is also encouraged, and researchers should aim to present their work to the public, taking into account the needs of diverse audiences, work with cultural venues and engage with young people where possible.

4.5 ORCID

Researchers are encouraged to register for an ORCID identifier and use this on any personal or University of Wolverhampton web page, and throughout the research lifecycle including, when publishing or depositing research outputs and when applying for research grants

5. The University's Support for Open Research

5.1 The University of Wolverhampton acknowledges a growing enthusiasm for Open Research amongst its research community and has identified individual researchers and institutes making significant efforts to engage with Open Research through collaborative practice, Open Research processes and sharing publications data and software. The University endeavours to support these efforts and encourage others to work more openly.

5.2 The University will support researchers to work according to principles of Open Research by:

- a) Providing the research infrastructure, including the institutional repository, current research information system, and others, to enable researchers to practise Open Research and ensure the long-term sustainability of curated open materials and their continued open accessibility.
- b) Providing support, advice, advocacy and guidance for Open Research through the Research Policy Unit, Project Support Office, Scholarly Communication Team and the University Library, and support on intellectual property issues through the University IP Office.
- c) Engaging with research and government organisations to ensure University policy development and compliance is in keeping with the principles of Open Research to maximise the impact of University of Wolverhampton research on wider society.

6. Amendments

This Statement was approved by the University Research Committee on 10 March 2023. The University may change this Statement at any time, and where appropriate. Where a statement is not due for review, but is found to require updating, it will remain published, unless the reasons for review render it obsolete.

7. Information and resources

This statement should be read in conjunction with the following policies and guidance

University of Wolverhampton Policies

- [Open Access Publications Policy](#)
- [Research Data Management Policy](#)
- [Intellectual Property Policy](#)
- [Research Indicators \(Metrics\) Policy](#)
- [Statement of Commitment to the Declaration on Research Assessment](#)

Funder and Research Council Policies

- [UKRI Common principles on data policy](#)
- [UK Concordat on open research data \(2016\)](#)
- [Wellcome Trust data, software and materials management policy](#)
- [Horizon Europe guidelines on Open Science](#)
- [UKRI Concordat for Engaging the Public with Research](#)

8. Contact

For queries around this statement, contact the Scholarly Communications Team, by email:

WIRE@wlv.ac.uk

For general queries regarding Research Policies, Procedures and guidelines contact Jill Morgan, Research Integrity Manager, by email: J.Morgan4@wlv.ac.uk

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