

Open Access Policy of the University of Geneva¹

Preamble

1. The University of Geneva (hereinafter UNIGE) is a public research and teaching institution, whose mission is to offer quality higher education, to conduct cutting-edge research in a wide variety of disciplines and to promote the transmission of knowledge for the benefit of the community. To this end, it provides its members with up-to-date scientific information and, at the same time, disseminates the results of its research at national and international level.
2. Open Access, i.e. free access to research results commonly disseminated in the form of publications, is based on the principle that knowledge is a public good and on the social and economic benefits that flow from its sharing. The increased visibility of freely accessible scientific results leads to an increase in their impact.
3. The UNIGE is a co-signer of the "Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities"² to promote open access to all published scientific work. It is also a signer of the "San Francisco Declaration"³ or DORA, which aims to renew research evaluation practices.
4. The UNIGE pursues the goals set by the Swiss National Open Access Strategy⁴ and other major funders, such as the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF)⁵, to make all publicly funded published scientific work freely accessible. These ambitions are part of the Open Science Charter which was adopted in January 2021⁶.
5. The present Open Access Policy is part of the UNIGE's commitment to provide free and unlimited online access to the results of research financed by UNIGE public funds and thus to contribute to the dissemination and democratization of knowledge and to the influence of its research. The UNIGE undertakes to support its researchers throughout the publication process.

¹ The Policy was written and approved in French. This is a non-binding translation.

² <https://openaccess.mpg.de/Berlin-Declaration>

³ <https://sfdora.org/read/>

⁴ <https://www.swissuniversities.ch/en/topics/open-science/open-access/national-strategy>

⁵ <https://www.snf.ch/en/MDecEyLJgpSTk0cU/page/open-access-information-for-researchers>

⁶ <https://memento.unige.ch/en/rectorat/open-science-charter-university-geneva>

Responsibilities of researchers

6. All collaborators make their **publications** freely available (open access).
7. Whenever possible, authors should prioritize **Gold Open Access** for the publication of their work. Publication in **Hybrid Open Access** journals should be avoided, as this entails a double financial burden for the institution, unless a transitional agreement has been signed including free access to articles and open access publication fees (**Read & Publish agreement**).
8. They shall endeavor, whenever possible, not to transfer the rights to their publications to the publishers or to retain as many of them as possible, by negotiating amendments to publication contracts where appropriate.
9. They choose the least restrictive license among those offered.
10. If the publication is only available for a fee on the publisher's website, the authors keep, in addition to the published version, their accepted version to make it accessible via the **Archive ouverte UNIGE**. When the full text is freely accessible, this practice corresponds to the **Green Open Access** route.
11. In all cases, authors deposit a digital copy of their publications in the Archive ouverte UNIGE. These deposits:
 - a. should be carried out as soon as possible, preferably no later than publication date;
 - b. respect the publisher's policies, the terms of the publishing contract and the rights related to the data and images insofar as such policies and contracts comply with the applicable legislation. In the event of unresolvable conflicts, authors shall select for their deposit a restricted or even closed access distribution, according to the principle of the greatest accessibility permitted by the applicable legislation;
 - c. correspond to the published version (Version of Record) or the author's last version before the publisher's final layout (Accepted version; Author Accepted Manuscript); the submitted version (Preprint) is not sufficient for the Open Access obligation;
 - d. cannot be substituted by publication on a website (arXiv, bioRxiv, etc.) or on academic social networks (Academia.edu, ResearchGate, etc.), even though the promotion of academic work is encouraged.

DEFINITIONS

Read & Publish Agreement

A Read & Publish agreement combines in a single contract, for a single fee, access to a publisher's subscription journals and publication in those same journals for the authors of the signatory institution.

Archive ouverte UNIGE

Database designed to collect, preserve, disseminate and increase the visibility of the institution's scientific heritage. It also supports Green Open Access at the UNIGE.

Gold Open Access

Publication is immediately and freely available on the publisher's website.

Green Open Access

Publication whose final version is freely available in an online archive.

Hybrid Open Access

Publication immediately and freely available on the publisher's website, but in a journal or book that is otherwise not freely accessible.

Publication

Any scientific work that has been or is being published (articles, books, conference presentations, etc.). Excluded from this definition are theses, patentable discoveries and classified research.

12. In the event of an embargo on a publication, authors shall ensure that the duration of the embargo is as short as possible before release in open access.

Responsibilities of the University of Geneva

13. The University encourages and supports its authors during the different phases of open access publishing, in particular through the services offered by the Library.
14. The University promotes the training of its members in the field of Open Access.
15. The University participates in national and international initiatives to support and promote open access to scientific research results.
16. The University operates and maintains an institutional archive for the storage and preservation of digital copies (Archive ouverte UNIGE) whose operation is governed by institutional and faculty guidelines⁷.
17. The University will cover the costs of Gold Open Access publications in addition to the SNSF and under certain conditions, in particular that the publications appear in peer-reviewed journals or are submitted to a review process.
18. Through its Library or a dedicated organization, the University negotiates and signs agreements including Open Access publication fees with publishers with the purpose of securing financially sustainable Open Access publication opportunities in the long term.
19. The University strongly encourages its members to engage as peer-reviewers in Gold Open Access journals.
20. The University evaluates the research produced in-house by considering publications whose full text is deposited in its institutional archive and, with some exceptions, is freely accessible.
21. The University regularly informs the academic community, through the usual channels, of its Open Access objectives and actions.

Policy adopted by the Rectorate on 24 January 2022

Formal update on March 2025, to modify broken links.

⁷ <https://www.unige.ch/biblio/aou/en/guidelines/info/>