

Open Access Compliance Options

Frequently Asked Questions to Help You Understand Your Options for Policy Compliance

Understanding Your Options for Policy Compliance

The Gates Foundation Open Access Policy applies to all published research funded, in whole or in part, by the foundation.



→ Your first and easiest option for compliance is to post a preprint before or alongside manuscript submission

Post a Preprint

Deposit the AAM

Questions?

openaccess@gatesfoundation.org

- 1 Include an acknowledgement of the foundation including your grant number
 - 2 Post the manuscript as a preprint on a recognized preprint server
 - 3 Your preprint should be immediately freely available with a CC BY license
 - 4 Include a Data Availability Statement (DAS) with location of underlying data
- or If it is not possible to post a preprint, deposit the Author Accepted Manuscript (AAM) into a repository

New to the policy? Start with [Understanding the Open Access Policy: How to Comply and Post a Preprint](#)

Policy Compliance

Why did the foundation change the policy, and can I still publish where I choose?

The policy was changed to promote equity by making sure foundation-funded research can reach researchers, policymakers, and communities everywhere, not only those with journal subscriptions. It does not limit where authors publish. Authors may choose a non-open-access journal as the version of record does not need to be open access, if a preprint is posted in line with the policy.

How can I tell if my published article is in compliance with the Open Access Policy?

A published article is generally compliant if a preprint was posted prior to or alongside submission, or if the Author

Accepted Manuscript (AAM) when a preprint could not be submitted. If you are unsure whether additional action is required, the foundation will contact you. Through its partnership with [OA.Works](#), the foundation tracks grantee publications and follows up when needed.

If our article was published open access, do we still need to comply with the policy?

Your compliance is likely already complete via preprinting. When an article is published open access, most publishers automatically deposit it in PubMed Central. If additional action is required, the foundation will contact you.

Publishing Costs and Payment

Are there any foundation/publisher agreements where I can publish open access?

Yes. The Gates Foundation has a partnership with [PLOS](#) that allows Gates-funded researchers to publish open access in any PLOS journal without paying APCs, provided the submission includes the required funding information. For more information, see the [OA Help Center article on the Gates Foundation and PLOS Partnership](#).

What should I do if I have an invoice?

The foundation no longer pays article processing charges (APCs) for manuscripts submitted after January 1, 2025.

Alternatives to Article Processing Charges

Posting a preprint or depositing an Author Accepted Manuscript (AAM) does not require a fee. Since January 1, 2025, the Gates Foundation no longer supports individual article publishing fees such as APCs. The policy does not require the journal version of record to be made open access, and it does not restrict where or how grantees publish their work, if they post a preprint. We understand that the lack of APC support may make publishing in fully open access journals more challenging for some authors. The options below outline several possible alternatives to help authors navigate those costs and publishing decisions.

- Check if your institution or a co-author's institution has a publisher agreement or open access fund.
- Check whether you or a co-author has another non-Gates funding source that can cover the fee.
- Ask the publisher about an APC waiver.
- Consider journals that do not rely on APCs; resources like the [Directory of Open Access Journals \(DOAJ\)](#) and the [Free Journal Network](#) can help identify diamond open access journals, no-fee journals, and other community-led publishing options.
- Contact the open access team to ask whether a partnership or alternative model may apply.

Funding and Manuscript Information

Do I need to include a grant number in my acknowledgment?

Yes. Foundation-funded research must include an acknowledgment that names the foundation and includes the relevant grant number. Most grant numbers begin with INV, while some older ones begin with OPP. If you are unsure of your grant number, contact the principal investigator, your institution's grant coordinator, or the program officer. For an [example acknowledgment](#) and additional guidance, visit the [OA Help Center](#).

What license should I use?

Select a CC BY license. Your work must be made available immediately and licensed CC BY (or equivalent). For more information about licensing requirements, visit the [OA Help Center](#).

Do I need a Data Availability Statement (DAS) even if there is no data?

Yes. A Data Availability Statement (DAS) briefly explains whether data associated with the article are available and, if so, where they can be accessed. If your article does not include original data, you should still include a DAS stating that no datasets were generated, analyzed, or associated with the article. Example: "No datasets were generated or analyzed during the current study." For more information, visit the [OA Help Center](#).

Need Further Assistance?

1. Start with the [Open Access Website](#) for detailed information on policy compliance and updates
2. Visit the [Open Access \(OA\) Help Center](#) for answers to commonly asked questions
3. For specific questions or additional guidance, email openaccess@gatesfoundation.org