


Rights Retention Strategy at Dutch Universities FAQ

cOAlitionS is an international [consortium of research funders](#) who support [PlanS](#). This coalition developed the [Rights Retention Strategy](#) (RRS) to give their grantees the freedom to publish in a journal of their choice, while also complying with PlanS Open Access requirements. Funders, such as NWO and Horizon Europe, apply PlanS requirements as of 2021. Your grant agreement will indicate whether or not the PlanS OA requirements apply to your project.

cOAlition S Open Access Requirements

- Immediate Open Access
- CC-BY licence

Important

- Always include the RRS statement in your manuscript submission. [Find out why here](#) 
- Check in the scheme below which Open Access option is available for the journal of your choice. We recommend to use transformative agreements or open access venues as much as possible, and make sure to choose a CC-BY licence.

How to comply with cOAlitionS Open Access requirements

Transformative agreements

Is the journal of your choice part of a [Transformative agreement](#) and are you eligible to make use of it?

> Tip: check the [Journal Browser](#) to find out.

Yes

Open access publishing is free for submitting corresponding authors affiliated with a Dutch university

No

Open access venues

Is the journal of your choice fully open access and does it offer a CC BY licence?

> Tip: check the [DOAJ](#) to find out

Yes

Pay the APC from the grant budget
> Note: The costs must be planned in the grant budget

No

Repository route

Use the Rights Retention Strategy

> Tip: check FAQ on how to use RRS

Yes

Once the article is published, deposit the AAM with CC-BY licence in the repository of your university

> Tip

Think about your publication strategy in advance, already at the proposal stage.

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This FAQ aims to support researchers at Dutch universities complying with the Open Access (OA) requirements of PlanS.

Funders, such as NWO and Horizon Europe, apply PlanS requirements as of 2021. Your grant agreement will indicate whether or not the PlanS OA requirements apply to your project.



All Plan S grantees should inform publishers of their prior rights by including the RRS statement at submission.

What is the Rights Retention Strategy (RRS)?

The RRS is a provision of cOAlition S funders in their funding contracts that gives authors a prior right, regardless of any publisher terms and conditions to the contrary, to make their [Author Accepted Manuscripts](#) (AAM) open access under a [Creative Commons Attribution license](#) (CC BY) in the repository of their university at the time of publication.

Funders may facilitate the RRS by stipulating in their grant conditions that a CC BY is applied to all publications supported in whole or in part by their funding.

When should I use the RRS?

The RRS has been designed for PlanS funded researchers who, for example:

- publish in a journal that is not part of a transformative agreement
- are not eligible to use the transformative agreement
- publish in a full Open Access journal that does not offer a CC BY license
- publish in a closed access journal
- see their PlanS compliant Open Access strategy fail

How can I use the RRS if I have an EU (Horizon Europe) or NWO grant?

To adopt the RRS, you explicitly state to the publisher at submission that you will apply a Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) license to the Author Accepted Manuscript of your publication. In practice, this means adding one of the following statements to your manuscript submission:

For NWO grants

This research was funded in whole, or in part, by the Dutch Research Council (NWO) <project number>. For the purpose of open access, a CC BY public copyright license is applied to any Author Accepted Manuscript version arising from this submission.

For EU (Horizon Europe) grants

This work was funded by the European Union under the Horizon Europe grant [grant number]. As set out in the Grant Agreement, beneficiaries must ensure that at the latest at the time of publication, open access is provided via a trusted repository to the published version or the final peer-reviewed manuscript accepted for publication under the latest available version of the Creative Commons Attribution International Public License (CC BY) or a license with equivalent rights. CC BY-NC, CC BY-ND, CC BY-NC-ND or equivalent licenses could be applied to long-text formats.

Why should I always add the RRS statement to my submission?

If you receive funding from a cOAlition S funder, we recommend to always include the RRS statement at submission even if you are planning to publish under a transformative agreement or in an open access venue. By doing so, you make sure to have an option to fall back on in case your planned route to open access is no longer available. This can be the case if the coverage or conditions of transformative agreements change over time or if the licensing options offered by the journal are no longer Plan S compliant.

What should I do if I receive a takedown notice?

If you receive a takedown notice in which a publisher objects to the open availability and/or license conditions of an AAM in the repository of your university, you should always contact your institution's [Open Access support team](#). Your institution will respond to the publisher and determine what further steps to take. The University will also take care of any legal procedures, should they ensue.

I have forgotten to add the RRS statement at submission, what should I do?

If you have not included the statement at submission you should contact the [Open Access support team](#) at your institution. They can advise you on whether there are still options available that will allow you to comply with your funder's requirements.

Which repository should I choose to deposit the Author Accepted Manuscripts (AAM)?

You should choose your university's repository. By doing so, you are sure to comply with your funder requirements, and assistance from your local helpdesk is easily available if needed.

If you wish to use other repositories, please check [OpenDOAR](#), the quality-assured, global Directory of Open Access Repositories, for an overview of options that will make you comply with your funder's requirements.

How do publishers respond to the RRS?

cOAlitionS funders notified the majority of academic publishers about their new funding conditions and received only little formal objection. Some publishers (like AAAS, publisher of the Science family of journals) are willing to grant cOAlitionS funded researchers the exceptions needed to comply; others, however, see the RRS as a threat to their business model. If you experience any resistance to the use of the RRS from your publisher, please contact the [Open Access support team](#) at your institution for advice. Rest assured that Dutch Universities (UNL) provide financial and legal support, should it be needed.

Resistance strategies could include:

- Re-routing manuscripts to fully OA journals;
- Requiring authors to pay an [Article Processing Charge](#) (APC) in a [hybrid journal](#). Note, if authors decide to choose the paid open access route in a hybrid journal, their funder will not pay the APC;
- Requiring author to sign a contract which intends to override the funder's agreement;
- Desk rejecting due to the inclusion of the RRS statement in the manuscript submission.