Open & Responsible Research Action Plan

We are committed to ensuring our research is conducted and communicated 'as openly as possible, as early as possible'. Our aim is to ensure that Open Research and Innovation approaches are valued and supported across the university. We also aim to strengthen openness in research engagement with public and community audiences.

Project	Actions	Measure of Success	Time Frame	Lead
Ensuring publisher and funder compliance	We will provide training and support to ensure publisher and funder compliance. **Open Access Compliance:** Funders and REF have mandates for open access compliance. The Research Performance team currently provides one-to-one support for academic and research staff to ensure their outputs are open access. Additional training will be provided to the PURE Editors in the Faculties to ensure enhanced local support. Library will also support in relation to the new UKRI OA requirements for monographs and other long-form publications. We will continue to review our PURE and OA policy to take account of changes to funders' and REF mandates in OA.	Level of Open Access compliance on PURE and for REF	Ongoing – reporting bi-annually	R&I/Supported by Library/Faculties
	Open Data: Publishers and Funders have mandates for open data compliance. UKRI are developing a new research data policy framework (draft in spring 2025). We will continue to promote open data and provide support both online and via events. We will continue to and provide one-to-one support for academics and research staff in opening their data.	Level of compliance of research outputs and datasets with funder data requirements	Ongoing	R&I/ Library

Providing open research support and training	We will continue to provide and enhance training and support for our research community on open research practices:			
	Providing Open Research Training and Support A new Open Research support website will be developed and provide a suite of support videos, documents and guidance information. A range of training and support programmes will be developed and delivered to support academics/researchers in understanding open research, engaging with, and developing their open research practices and associated skills.	Open Research website Training attendance and participation	Ongoing	R&I/ Library
	Expanding the Open Research team: A new Open Research team has been established in the library to further support the open research agenda with local level faculty specific support.	Improved open research practices	Ongoing	Library
	Open and Responsible Researcher Reward and Recognition project (OR4): We recently participated in a survey developed by the Open and Responsible Researcher Reward and Recognition project (OR4). It is part of the UK Reproducibility Network's Open Research Programme that aims to accelerate the uptake of high-quality Open Research practices. The aim of OR4 is to develop a toolkit for UK institutions to support the effective implementation of responsible researcher assessment policies and procedures that reward and recognise	Report outcomes of survey	2025	R&I

	Open Research. We will be reporting on the outcomes later in 2025.			
Raising awareness of Open Research and Best Practice	We will promote Open Research Practices and highlight examples of good practice and case studies **Annual Open Research Conference:** We will continue to support and raise awareness of Open Research at Ulster through our Annual Open Research Conference. The conference will celebrate and showcase open research practices from a range of disciplines across the university. We will develop a resource of case studies/good practice and examples of Open Research.	Conference held Attendance and engagement	Annually	R&I/Library/Faculties
Open Research Position statement	**Open Research and Innovation Position Statement:** We will keep under review Ulster's Open Research and Innovation Position Statement. This document outlines UU's commitment to supporting the Open Research agenda.	Position statement updated	Next review date 2026	R&I/Library
Monitoring and evaluation best practices and standards	We will monitor Open Research standards and practices **Research Metrics Working Group:** We will be re-establishing our Research Metrics Working Group. The purpose of the Research Metrics Working Group is to advocate a positive research culture which facilitates the responsible use of research metrics across all stakeholders in the University's reach. It will make recommendations on the responsible use of metrics in assessing research quality, e.g.: in relation to	Development of recommendations	Ongoing	R&I/Library/Faculties

	promotions, recruitment, decisions in relation to REF, etc. **Open Research Commitments and Standards** Ulster University is committed to supporting Open Research practice. In 2021 we signed the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA) which recognises the need to improve the ways in which researchers and the outputs of scholarly research are evaluated. We will review best practices in relation to responsible research metrics. **CoARA/Hidden REF** We are actively considering membership of the Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment (CoARA) and what can be done in all areas of Open Research, in particular in creating a more equitable and diverse research environment and, as part of this, we are considering our involvement in the Hidden REF community which celebrates all research outputs and the diversity of staff involved in their creation.	Membership and engagement with practices	Ongoing	R&I/Library
Rights Retention Policy	**Rights Retention Policy:** A Working Group with representation from Library, Research Performance and Faculty has been established to implement a Rights Retention Policy at Ulster. This will deliver immediate open access to Ulster journal articles and conference proceedings and ensure compliance with the OA requirements for REF2029.	The introduction of a Policy. Engagement with Rights Retention	Spring 2026	Library