

FET Open Access APC Scheme

Introduction

This document describes the rationale and process for a FET scheme to selectively fund the costs of article processing charges (APCs) associated with publishing papers as open access, i.e. openly available to anyone to download and read. The scheme's focus is on supporting high quality articles where there is a significant likelihood that making the article open access at the point of publishing will help advance impact beyond academia.

Context

Some universities currently receive annual allocations of funds from UKRI to contribute towards payment of APCs to make academic articles reporting research funded by UKRI openly accessible.

An academic article can become open access by: (i) being freely published in a fully open access journal; **(ii) being published in an open access journal where an APC is applied to each article;** (iii) **being published in a subscription based journal where an APC enables the associated article to be made open access within that journal;** or (iv) being published in a non-open-access form but becoming open-access after an embargo period has elapsed when the author is entitled to make a copy of the article available in a repository for others to freely download.

Embargo periods can be between a few months and several years, but typically 6-24 months. Waiting for the embargo period to elapse can delay the opportunity for the new contribution to knowledge within a published article to achieve impact beyond academia. The currency or saliency of the research may be diminished after the embargo period.

APCs can range from £500 to £5000 (plus VAT). Typically, we pay £800 to £3000 (plus VAT).

Scheme objective

FET is making available a small fund to selectively support payment of APCs from our QR allocation. The objective of the scheme is *to promote the timely furtherance of impact beyond academia resulting from high quality research undertaken at UWE by making journal articles fully accessible at the point of publication*. If an article is approved for support by the scheme it can be published through the gold open access route. This means the publisher's version of the article is made fully accessible to all immediately with no embargo period.

How to apply for payment of the APC to make your article gold open access

Eligibility

UWE encourages external collaboration and in turn the joint authorship of articles involving colleagues from external organisations. The scheme is, however, intended to support contributions to knowledge in which UWE staff as authors have a major share of attribution of credit and where furtherance of impact is such that it is likely to contribute to UWE impact case studies.

It is expected that articles published via this scheme should be of good quality, recognised at least at international level.

An application should be made by the corresponding UWE author prior to submission of the article. Having an article accepted for publication in an OA journal is not sufficient reason that the APC should be paid.

How to apply

Contact the Library:

<https://www.uwe.ac.uk/study/library/research-support/open-access-publishing/make-my-work-open-access>

If your article is a result of UKRI-funded research, there may be no need to access the FET fund. You should complete the single APC application form and return to the library research team at lib.rke@uwe.ac.uk who will process your application.

UWE Bristol has a number of publisher deals, where UWE Bristol corresponding authors are able to publish their work open access for no cost to them. These deals are listed at

<https://www.uwe.ac.uk/study/library/research-support/open-access-publishing/make-my-work-open-access>

If you are advised that your article will be put forward to the FET fund you will need to supply a copy for review.

How the application will be judged

The Associate Dean and Director of Research will be responsible for the final decision. They will consult the relevant REF Unit of Assessment Leader(s) and/or Research Centre Director as to the quality of the article concerned. In coming to a decision the following considerations will apply:

- Is the article a high quality contribution to knowledge?
- Is there a potential UWE impact case study to which the availability of knowledge in the article could contribute?
- Is there a significant likelihood that timely availability of the article in open access form could help advance towards and realise (further) impact?

A decision will normally be made within three weeks of receipt of the application.

Feedback

If the scheme supports payment of the APC for an article then the corresponding author is expected to record this in their REF CV and to provide details (also within their REF CV) of how the article is being promoted and engaged with in the public domain and of any consequences that are resulting. UWE also expects that the article's authors will make every effort through different channels to promote visibility and availability of the article for others to read. The UWE Library team will tweet the article via the @UWELibrary account.