

PLAN S: COMPLIANCE INFORMATION FOR SPRINGER NATURE AUTHORS

From January 2021, if your research has been funded by certain members of cOAlition S, you may be required to make sure that your new submissions to journals are immediately openly accessible on publication under a CC BY licence.



Check the details of your individual funder in our Plan S overview [here](#), including the date when your funder will implement Plan S requirements.



How is Springer Nature enabling compliance for Plan S funded authors?

At Springer Nature, we are enabling our authors to comply with the requirements of Plan S through gold OA publication:



Transformative Agreements
Collaborating with funders/ institutions to enable centralised funding for OA payments to support affiliated authors publishing in Springer Nature hybrid journals.



Transformative Journals
Enabling immediate gold OA options for primary research in over 1,700 titles, including *Nature* and the *Nature* research journals.



Fully OA journals
Springer Nature publishes over 600 fully OA journals that publish all research via the immediate gold OA route.

To comply with [Plan S requirements](#) when publishing in Springer Nature journals, you should select the gold OA publishing route, and we will direct you to the compliant route where possible.



What is a Transformative Agreement?

Transformative Agreements are contracts between Springer Nature and a group of institutions (consortia)/ an individual institution which enable authors to publish OA with fees covered centrally. Articles published immediate gold OA are compliant with Plan S and the central coverage of fees by Transformative Agreements is in line with the Plan S principle that publication fees are covered by funders or research institutions.

Many of Springer Nature's hybrid journals and Transformative Journals are included in the Transformative Agreements signed by Springer Nature and numerous institutions around the world. If your institution has a Transformative Agreement with Springer Nature, you may publish your article in these journals and comply with Plan S requirements by choosing immediate gold OA.

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What is a Transformative Journal (TJ)?

TJs are subscription/ hybrid journals that have actively committed to transitioning to fully OA journals, and offer optional gold OA for primary research. All TJs are recognized as compliant by agreeing to adhere to Plan S criteria:

- They make an explicit commitment to transition to OA.
- They meet key performance indicators year-on-year, gradually increasing the share of OA content published.
- They actively promote the benefits of OA.
- They commit to providing greater transparency: on the services covered, on subscription pricing, and on OA metrics and performance.

To comply with Plan S at Springer Nature, you should choose gold OA on acceptance in a TJ.

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What is a fully OA journal?

Authors can publish in any of the 600+ fully OA journals at Springer Nature and comply with Plan S requirements. Articles published immediate gold OA are compliant with Plan S, and cOAlition S funders are committed to financially supporting fees in fully OA journals incurred by researchers benefitting from their grants.

Springer Nature has negotiated a number of fully OA agreements with institutions and consortia, enabling the costs of OA to be centralised, and fees covered for authors.

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How do I fund the article processing charge (APC) for OA publication?

It is a core Plan S principle that fees for OA (APCs) are paid by funders or research institutions, not individual authors. In many cases, for Springer Nature authors, APCs could be covered by a Transformative Agreement. Sometimes, authors will need the funder of their research to pay the APC.

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Why should I choose OA?

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- Greater public engagement
- Increased interdisciplinary conversation
- Wider collaboration
- Faster impact
- Compliance with major funding policies internationally
- The copyright remains with you

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