

## Open access publishing

NWO aims for 100 percent Open Access publishing [1]. Therefore, NWO requires that all publications emerging from research (funded by NWO) must be made available in Open Access immediately upon publication. NWO accepts different routes to Open Access, also known as the gold, hybrid, and green route.

### *Gold route*

The scholarly article is published in a fully Open Access journal registered in the [Directory of Open Access Journals \(DOJA\)](#).

### *Hybrid route*

The VSNU (University of The Netherlands collective) has a number of agreements with some major publishers to support open access publishing. For those journals, researchers affiliated with the participating institutions can publish open access without the open access publishing (AOP) fee. To determine if your institution covers these costs, check the journal browser of [Open Access](#).

### *Green route*

The green route allows publication in a closed or hybrid subscription journal when an immediate (without embargo) deposition of a copy of the publication (the Version of Record or at least the Author Accepted Manuscript) in an Open Access repository registered in the [Directory of Open Access Repositories](#) (openDOAR). NWO recommends the use of Europe PMC.

## MDR's policy on open access publishing

For all MDR publications, researchers are asked to publish according to the green/gold routes, as is also required by the participating institutes and in line with the collective open access agreements between large scientific publishers and the Association of Dutch Universities (VSNU). The costs for open access publications were budgeted in our research budget. Currently, we do not have a full 100% coverage of open access publications. Exceptions include the more recent papers for which postprint still need to be archived (green route), invited publications (e.g., Curr. Opinion Biomed. Eng., Trends in Biotechnol.), and publications in the Nature Research Journals. Our policy from now on is to publish all MDR-related manuscripts, submitted to non-open access journals (i.e., some of the Nature Research Journals or Science), in an open access repository (following NWO's green route). Please note, we do not discourage you to publish in the non-open access journals but to be aware of the possibilities to share your research in an open way with others.

Before submitting your manuscript to a journal, use the workflow (Figure 1) to determine whether your journal meets the requirements of NWO and if the OAP costs are covered. If both answers can be answered with yes, you can use the Gold Open Access route. If the journal does not meet the requirements of NWO or you have to pay the OAP costs yourself, you could follow the Green Open Access Route. Note, you are free to pay the AOP costs from your own budget if you would like to do so (Note it is not possible to reimburse the money via MDR).

When you select the Green Open Access route, contact your university library to see if you can publish your manuscript in the university repository. When this option is not available, you can either

upload your manuscript to Europe PMC or bioRxiv. Both repositories are registered in the directory of Open Access Repositories and meet the requirements of NWO's green route.

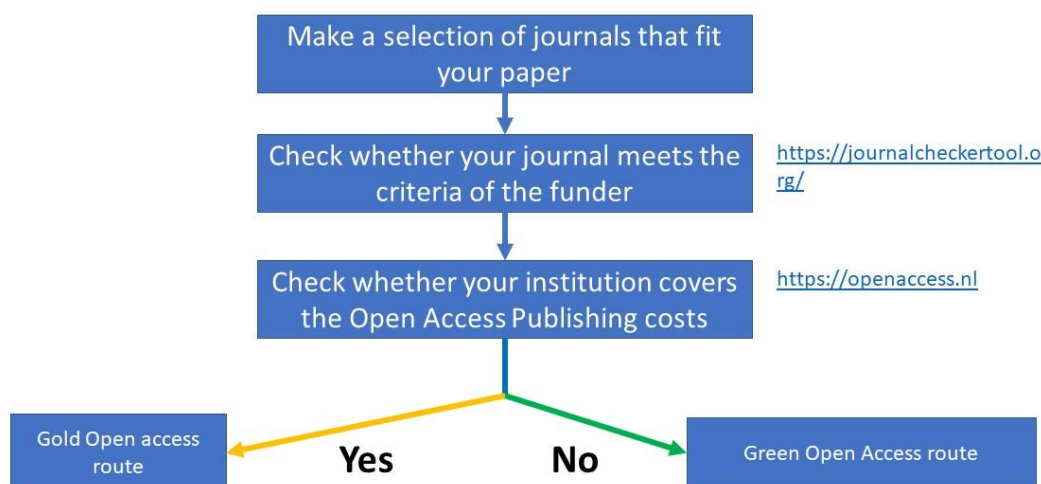


Figure 1 Workflow to determine whether you can use the Gold or Green Open Access routes.

When you choose to take the Green route, please be aware of the following requirements by NWO:

1. No embargo accepted.
2. Preferably the Version of Record but at least the Author Accepted Manuscripts or preprint.
3. Repository registered in [openDOAR](https://openDOAR.org/).

When you are not sure if you meet the Green Open Access route requirements, you can contact your library and ask their data stewards for help.

### Open access repositories

[Europe PMC](https://www.europepmc.org/) is hosted by EMBL's European Bioinformatics Institute (EMBL-EBI), which aims to make the world's public biological data freely available [2]. One main advantage of Europe PMC is that you can link your data to the research paper in Europe PMC. It is possible to link articles to protocols, smart citations, peer review materials, and more.

[BioRxiv](https://www.biorxiv.org/) is a free online archive and distribution service for unpublished preprints in the life sciences [3]. Articles are not peer-reviewed, edited, or typeset before being posted online. However, all articles undergo a basic screening process for offensive and/or non-scientific content and for material that might pose a health or biosecurity risk and are checked for plagiarism.

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With these building blocks, the six different license types are created (listed from most to least permissive)”

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1. Access.nl O. You share, we take care! <https://www.openaccess.nl/en/in-the-netherlands/you-share-we-take-care>. Accessed 10 Mar 2022.
2. Europe PMC. Europe PMC. 2021. <https://europepmc.org/About>. Accessed 2 Mar 2021.
3. BioRxiv. BioRxiv - the preprint server for biology. 2021. <https://www.biorxiv.org/about-biorxiv>.
4. (CC) CC. Creative Commons License. 2021. <https://creativecommons.org/>. Accessed 2 Mar 2022.