

RCUK/UKRI Open Access Block Grants post March 2018

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Can funds be carried over from 2017/18 into 2018/19?

Yes, there is no longer a requirement to reconcile grants at the end of March 2018 and both funds and commitments can now be carried forward into 2018/19.

2. Can we commit funds in advance of receiving the OA grant payment?

Yes, funds can be committed in advance of payment, but research organisations should be careful to stay within budget as funding is capped, so may need to look at publishing via the 'Green Route' when funding is short or has already been committed.

3. How will the grants be calculated for 2018/19?

Grants will be calculated in the same way as for previous years. The amount payable is based on the staff effort on active grants and the current Article Processing Charge (APC) rates, with an adjustment to reflect the amount of unspent RCUK open access grant funds carried forward from previous years.

4. Are there any plans to re-run the algorithm used to calculate OA block grants?

We will re-run the algorithm of staff effort on research grants to see if there are any significant changes. Where research organisations have received a significant amount of research funding over the last 2 years or have a considerable reduction in the amount of active grants they hold, there could potentially be changes to the list of organisations that receive RCUK open access block funding.

5. Will there be any open access funding for research organisations in receipt of RCUK funding that do not currently receive OA block funding?

Research organisations that do not receive OA block funding may be able to include associated costs for open access publishing within research grant applications. They should explore this option with the research council they are applying to before submitting their application.

6. What reporting will research organisations be expected to complete post march 2018?

The current programme of reporting will continue for the 2 additional years. At the end of each financial year, research organisations will be required to complete a full Jisc compliance template, then at the end of each quarter thereafter they will be required to complete a light touch financial template.

7. What is the timescale for the payment of the grants going forward?

OA block grants will continue to be paid twice a year with payments reaching research organisations in June and December.