Oxford
Mathematics

UNIVERSITY OF
OXFORD
Mathematical
Institute

Information on REF and Open Access for new academics and research staff

The Mathematical Institute receives a large amount of funding from the government (via the UK higher education funding bodies) based on its ranking in a national assessment process called REF (Research Excellence Framework).

REF evaluations are held periodically, approximately every 7 years, with the next one scheduled for 2027. As part of this, it is likely[1] that you will be asked to contribute your best papers (up to five) during the relevant period. However, if a paper has been published in a journal, then to be eligible for REF it must satisfy the Open Access conditions specified by the funding bodies. This means that within 3 months of the Acceptance Date (the date when the editor tells you the paper has been accepted) the Author Accepted Manuscript (the version with your formatting, not the journal's) must be deposited in Oxford's central ORA repository using the Symplectic system.

In order to facilitate identification of papers within the Symplectic system, and other processes, you are also asked to obtain an ORCID (Open Researcher and Contributor ID) and link it to your Symplectic account.

For more details, see the department webpages at:

https://www.maths.ox.ac.uk/members/research-support
https://www.maths.ox.ac.uk/members/research-support/act-acceptance
https://www.maths.ox.ac.uk/members/research-support/open-access
https://www.maths.ox.ac.uk/members/research-support/scopus-orcid-research-fish-and-google-scholar

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The key messages are:

- **Act on Acceptance**: when you get the acceptance email immediately (before you forget!) deposit the paper using the Symplectic system.

- Obtain an ORCID and link it to your Symplectic account.

The funding we receive through REF is essential for the department, so this is really very important.

For queries contact ref@maths.ox.ac.uk.

The University also has a dedicated team to provide technical assistance with Symplectic:

> symplectic@admin.ox.ac.uk

and a team to answer questions about 'Open Access':

> openaccess@bodleian.ox.ac.uk

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[1] Academic staff and Research Fellows are usually required to contribute papers. Postdoctoral Research Assistants are not required to submit papers for REF, but should nevertheless follow this guidance as a matter of good practice.