

2025 Annual Report on Open Research at the University of Greenwich

Open research progress to-date at the University of Greenwich

Strategy and commitments

Over the past few years, the University of Greenwich has made several commitments to the prioritisation of open research, including holding a nationally visible representative in this space as our Institutional Lead for the UK Reproducibility Network (UKRN), Professor Thomas Rhys Evans. The Institute for Lifecourse Development has signed the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA), which addresses the need to reform research assessment and encourages recognition of a diverse range of outputs.

In 2025, the University of Greenwich's commitment to open research was formalised with the planned publication of a statement on open research and a commitment to publish annual progress reports for early 2026, of which this is the first.

Open access to research outputs

The following insights use data from [OpenAlex](#) and the University of Greenwich's institutional repository [GALA](#).

The University of Greenwich has already largely succeeded in implementing change towards open research practices when it comes to open access publishing. In 2014 just 32% of our published research outputs were made available open access, compared with 73% a decade later in 2024 (data from OpenAlex). This change has been made possible through a combination of staff and technology investment, supported by buy-in and communication at all levels of RKE leadership. While open access policies from REF and external research funders provided much of the motivation for institution-wide adoption of these practices, the importance and value of open access to research outputs is now widely established across the University.

In 2025, 747 outputs were published by researchers affiliated with the University of Greenwich. 521 (69.7%) of these were made open access at the time of reviewing (Dec 2025). The single biggest route to open access was achieved via gold (234 outputs), while 226 outputs were made open via green open access (predominantly via GALA). We anticipate the number of closed outputs from 2025, currently 226, will decrease as embargoes expire and outputs are able to be made openly available via GALA.

Training on open access publishing is currently delivered twice a year via the Research & Enterprise Training Institute (RETI), in addition to ad hoc sessions for Faculties, Schools, Centres and individuals.

Research data management & FAIR sharing

Our [Statement on Scholarly Communications](#) sets out that all data generated by projects supported or led by University of Greenwich staff shall be made openly available as far as possible.

Training on research data management and sharing has been conducted twice this year via RETI, in addition to ad hoc sessions on data management for Greenwich Business School (GBS) and the Natural Resources Institute (NRI).

On-demand support for the development and review of data management plans (DMPs) is offered and has been engaged in particular this year by those looking to comply with funder requirements.

In May 2025, the University of Greenwich's ethics application form was updated and a requirement for a light-touch DMP to be provided at the time of ethics application was added. Since implementation, this requirement has increased awareness and writing of DMPs among our researchers. However, gaps in DMP quality and understanding have been identified as future areas for guidance and training.

Training & community engagement

In addition to the sessions highlighted above, introductory open research sessions have been delivered both via RETI and on-demand. For example, an open research session was delivered as part of the inaugural Research and Knowledge Exchange (RKE) Compass Programme for early- and mid-career academics.

The Greenwich Open Research and Scholarship Hub (GOSH), sitting within the Institute for Lifecourse Development (ILD), is an inclusive space and discipline-independent community to learn, collaborate on, embed and champion open research practices within teaching and research. In 2025 GOSH ran ~8 sessions covering specific training needs (e.g., navigating predatory publishers) and sharing open collaboration opportunities.

In 2025, the University of Greenwich has collaborated with UK Reproducibility Network (UKRN) to contribute to the Brief Open Research Survey (BORS). The BORS questionnaire has been disseminated to researchers in the University and insights will be used to further guide our action plans and interventions, in addition to building the national picture of awareness and use of open research practices.

Strategy & policy

In 2025, senior research leaders from across the University came together to implement the [recognising and rewarding open research toolkit developed by the Open and Responsible Researcher Reward and Recognition Project \(OR4\) of UKRN](#). Co-led by our own Prof Evans, this toolkit and subsequent discussion of the findings provided a valuable starting point for strategic discussions around the status of open research at the University of Greenwich, and areas for improvement. This led to the University publishing a Statement on Open Research, alongside a commitment to publish annual reports on our progress, of which this is the first.

Priority action areas

There is scope for development of all aspects of open research at the University of Greenwich, however, three priority action areas for focus over the next three years (25/26–28/29) are outlined below. The areas selected both have potential for real changes in culture and practice in a relatively short space of time. These areas will be reported on in our next annual report.

Monitoring open research practices

At the University of Greenwich, we currently have no processes in place for monitoring or evaluating open research practices beyond open access for research outputs. If open research practices were better monitored across the University we would know where to target training and interventions, in addition to allowing reporting and gathering of quantitative indicators for exercises such as REF.

As a first step towards building a programme of open research monitoring at the University, we aim to establish baseline data for key open research practice areas that we believe have scope for development at Greenwich. Once identified, these data will be used to inform future priorities and plans. With a new research digital system being rolled out at the University over the coming year this is a timely opportunity to build data collection opportunities into future workflows.

Example monitoring areas would likely focus primarily on research data sharing to align with other priorities. Examples may include:

- The proportion of research outputs including a data availability statement
- The number and quality of datasets being registered and shared via open repositories
- The breadth of research output types being recorded in GALA

Research data sharing

As outlined above, training and guidance on aspects of research data management and sharing exists but could be maximised with more resources and organised support.

Proposed work areas to further research data sharing over this period include:

- Development of a monitoring mechanism to understand research data management and sharing and practices across the University
- Increased and more visible training opportunities to educate research-active staff on best practice
- Written guidance and resources to support staff in writing data management plans and sharing their research data

Visibility (Internal and External)

Internally, open research is promoted by a number of groups including the Greenwich Open research and Scholarship Hub (GOSH), Faculty Ethics Committee, Research & Enterprise Training Institute (RETI), Institute for Lifecourse Development (ILD) and Greenwich Research & Innovation. There are regular open research training sessions but awareness of internal support and recognition for open practices beyond mandated requirements (e.g., open access publishing) is low. A key priority for the coming years is to explore a range of low-cost and high-impact activities in this space to promote an increase in internal and external visibility of open research. We propose to continue maximising opportunities to expand our foci of open actions across the research cycle and to embed such developments in monitoring and policy once established. We subsequently have proposed a timeframe for integrating open research developments within all relevant university policies and procedures such that we can evidence the 'journey travelled' in promoting and subsequently embedding the values and practices of open research.

Externally, our upcoming public Open Research Statement is the first of many initiatives resulting from our self-assessment on reward and recognition, towards leveraging greater openness across the institution. GOSH is increasing in visibility and is becoming a core base for collaborative 'open' opportunities. For example, Greenwich were part of a collaborative HORIZON bid exploring culture as a catalyst for reproducibility (for which we will hear the outcome in 2026), GOSH is leading an upcoming URKI bid on pre-mortems as an open practice to improve research quality, and is a partner in a number of upcoming meta-science bids which will have implications for sector-wide developments in open research. The GOSH team has also been leading part of a recent NWO-funded project, producing an open training package for educators who wish to embed open practices into their teaching. We aim to flexibly

leverage our contribution to, and impact upon, these international projects to inform our internal strategy and practice.