

Statement on Open Research at the University of Greenwich

Defining open research

The University of Greenwich defines open research as the “practices and outputs of research that are accessible, transparent, reproducible and reusable”.

We recognise the diversity of practices that open research can represent, and at different stages in the research lifecycle. We consider open research to include a wide variety of practices and approaches: open data, preregistration and Registered Reports, replications, open peer review, open access publishing, citizen science, open educational resources, preprints, open resources/materials, inclusive research collaboration, open software, and more.

We recognise that the key components, definitions and practices acknowledged by various bodies (e.g., UKRI, UNESCO, etc.) are diverse, and thereby we defer to the values underpinning them (transparency, sharing, and collaboration) and the following mantra: “as open as possible, as closed as necessary”. This approach is critical to balancing open research principles with the ability to limit access where justified, for example for ethical, legal, commercial or sensitivity reasons.

Why focus on open research?

University values & real-world impact

The University of Greenwich has three shared values: inclusive, collaborative and impactful. There is clear alignment between the ambitions and outcomes of open research with these institutional values, with scope to maximise a substantive range of important organisational strategies and targets to promote long-term sustainability.

Inclusive. Open research principles promote inclusivity at all stages of the research cycle, opening up our work for all to engage in, interrogate, use, reuse and benefit from, without barriers to access.

Collaborative. Advancing open research practices and thinking contributes to a more engaged and collaborative research culture, both locally and internationally. This influence on the broader research culture is expected to have other positive impacts internally, such as encouraging and facilitating interdisciplinary collaboration. Open research practices encourage more efficient research, avoiding unnecessary

duplication of work, and allowing others to build upon our resources and contributions more accessibly.

Impactful. It is widely considered that research created through open research principles is more impactful. Ensuring core stakeholders (such as journalists and policymakers) have access to our research is key for driving opportunities for research impact. Open research allows for more transparent promotion of our research contribution to society. This increased transparency allows us increased scrutiny and therefore trust and confidence in our work, in turn lending the University of Greenwich greater recognition for the quality of work we produce and the public benefit of our research activities.

Action and reporting commitments

The University of Greenwich recognises the importance of open research for research quality, integrity and impact, and the synergy with our institutional values. As such, from 2026, the University of Greenwich commits to publish and make public an annual report on open research. This report will include an update on open research metrics and adoption, identified priority working areas, and updates on ongoing and completed projects relating to open research.

These annual reports and associated projects will be reported to the University of Greenwich Research & Knowledge Exchange Board, which takes overall responsibility for oversight of open research practice and progress.