ucl library services

Office for Open Science & Scholarship Operational Plan 2021-24

# 1.0 Purpose of document

This document sets out the vision, context and high-level objectives for the UCL Office for Open Science & Scholarship 2021-2024

# 2.0 Vision

Establish the Office for Open Science as a central focal point across the University for information and support across all 8 Pillars of Open Science, in support of the commitment to the Open Agenda described in the UCL Research Strategy 2019[[1]](#footnote-1).

# 3.0 Context - The Office for Open Science & Scholarship

The UCL Office for Open Science and Scholarship (OOSS) supports the UCL community in the adoption of Open practices and approaches. It is predominantly virtual and is comprised of a number of teams from inside Library Services and across the university, including the Open Access, Research Data Management and Bibliometrics teams, Research integrity and the Extreme Citizen Science Research Group among others.

The work of the Office for Open Science & Scholarship is built upon the 8 pillars of Open Science:

1. FAIR Data
2. Research Integrity
3. Next Generation Metrics
4. Future of Scholarly Communication
5. Citizen Science
6. Education and Skills
7. Rewards and Initiatives
8. European Open Science Cloud

## 3.1. Wider context

The 8 Pillars of Open Science were outlined by the EC as an organising principle for its Open Science policy[[2]](#footnote-2) and a version was published in 2018 by LERU[[3]](#footnote-3), The League of European Research Universities of which UCL is a member. These principles are widely accepted as underlying principles in the Open Science landscape.

The work of the OOSS builds on these pillars and is supported centrally by the UCL Open Science Committee. As necessary, policy implementations are approved by the relevant UCL committee, e.g. UCL’s Open Access mandate was unanimously approved by a vote in Academic Board; the UCL Academic Careers Framework was approved by Human Resources Policy Committee after wide academic consultation; the UCL Bibliometrics Policy was approved by Academic Committee after pan-UCL consultation on both its principles and practice.

In addition, the Office for Open Science ensures that UCL is in line with the Open Science requirements of external funders. The Wellcome Trust, for example, is makes specific requirements of funded institutions to demonstrate how they are implementing the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA), as well as stringent requirements regarding open access to publications which it funds. UKRI is publishing its new Open Access policy in the summer of 2021 which will help dictate the content of the next REF OA policy.

The UK is also a member of the Open Government Partnership[[4]](#footnote-4) which promotes and supports the right to information, gender and inclusion, digital governance and rights, protection of civic space and natural resources, and corruption. Many OGP governments work to make education information more transparent, to directly engage citizens in improving quality, and to ensure appropriate accountability. Local jurisdictional partners include Glasgow and Northern Ireland. OGP is supported through the Government Digital Service, in the Cabinet Office. The current National Action Plan (2019-2021) has commitments relevant to UCL *inter alia*:

* Opening up policy making to citizens
* Transparency around publicly owned natural resources
* Improvements to the quality and quantity of data we publish as a government to show accountability and drive improvements in the way we deliver public services through third party contractors

UCL’s Open Science could become a part of the next plan which is under development, as an example of working across government.

# 4.0 Objectives for the period 2021-24

The objectives below were developed through a series of meetings with stakeholder groups, from questions asked in post-event feedback forms, as well as the 2020 LERU Open Science report[[5]](#footnote-5) from the League of European Research Libraries, which outlined more than 40 potential activities for research-intensive universities to implement Open Science.

A more detailed Implementation Plan will be drawn up to support delivery and monitoring of the objectives for each pillar.

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| **ID** | **Pillar** | **Objective** |
| 1 | Research Integrity | Map elements of Research Integrity & Ethics team work onto the 8 Pillars of Open Science and integrate training and support paths between the two teams. |
| 2 |  | Respond to upcoming outcomes of UCL’s Research Culture Scoping project. |
| 3 |  | Investigate further use of the CREDIT taxonomy and its possible development for use by UCL​ |
| 4 | Future of Scholarly comms | Support and advocate for the development of the UCL OA E-Textbook platform as a major support for the Student Experience in UCL |
| 5 | Education and skills | Establish the OOSS Annual Conference, with a clear definition of its scope, aims and objectives |
| 6 |  | Establish a regular programme of education/training sessions in Open Science and Scholarship, co-ordinated by the office team |
| 7 |  | Expansion of existing online training programme by associated teams across UCL to include more interlinking content, and more focus on supporting developing areas (see below) |
| 8 |  | Re-introduction and expansion of in person training from associated teams to match and build on the online offering |
| 9 |  | Co-ordinate the creation of a ‘Passport for Open Science[[6]](#footnote-6)’ for PhD students and ECRs |
| 10 |  | Explore further development of the Open Education Resources repository and continue advocacy for Open Education |
| 11 | Citizen Science | Establish a central point of contact for Citizen Science activity across UCL |
| 12 |  | Promote existing Citizen Science activity undertaken across UCL |
| 13 |  | Increase collaboration on and community around existing UCL Citizen Science projects, particularly in regard to the opportunities offered in UCL East |
| 14 |  | Establish best practice guidelines for creating open citizen and community science projects based on the 10 principles of citizen science[[7]](#footnote-7) developed by ECSA (European Citizen Science Association), IGP-UCL social citizen science guidance and UK EOF UK Environmental Observation Framework[[8]](#footnote-8) |
| 15 | Rewards and Initiatives | Work with UCL HR and other teams in UCL to further identify Best Practice in Open Science and to embed such practice in UCL policies and procedures, which are approved by relevant UCL committees |
| 16 |  | Further the adoption of DORA and the principles of the Leiden Manifesto in evaluation activities across UCL in light of growing funder requirements |

## 4.1 Additional Training Development

As highlighted in Objective 7 above, there are some specific areas that will be included in the implementation plans for the expansion of existing training provision offered by teams associated with the Open Science Office.

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| The future of scholarly publishing | * Open Access publishing options and requirements, Transformative Agreements, OA funding, eTextbooks, Preprints, Registered reports. * Induction – ‘starting out with RPS’ * Advocacy for developing areas like CRediT & Researcher contribution statements, ORCID and other Persistent Identifiers (PIDs) |
| FAIR data | * Advocacy of best practice across all aspects of FAIR and Research Data Management * Tools and services provided by UCL that can help researchers ensure their data is as FAIR as possible * Link FAIR explicitly to other aspects of Open Science e.g. Metrics, Impact, Open Access Publications * Linking RDM principles to more material types i.e. Software * Promote policy developments, techniques and frameworks |
| Next-generation metrics | * Responsible metrics policy and best practice * Use of metrics tools and understanding outputs from them in the context of responsible use. * Alternative metrics * Responsible metrics for supporters of researchers e.g. identifying metrics-related issues in letters of support and funding bids |
| Citizen Science | * Citizen Science, Public engagement and Impact * Approaches, tools, techniques and publishing in citizen natural and social sciences |
| Research Integrity | * Integrity linked to all other training and support for Open Science principles more widely, especially reproducibility and transparency |

# 5.0 Communication

The UCL Office for Open Science & Scholarship has a Blog, Twitter account and a termly newsletter which will reach multiple internal and external audiences. In the near future, the Office will be implementing a mailing list using new tools currently in testing by UCL ISD. There are a number of other internal mailing lists and newsletters that reach multiple audiences, such as those of the eResearch Domain, Office of the Vice-Provost (RIGE), the internal ReproducibiliTea group as well as TheWeek@UCL. Each of these will be utilised for relevant communications to their respective audiences.

The following tables show a high-level stakeholder analysis, noting any additional comms channels specific to each group.

## Internal

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| **Stakeholder group** | **Stake** | **Specific Channels** |
| PhD students | Engagement with Open Science will set PhD students in good stead for their future career in academia as well as support them throughout their project | Doctoral School & Students Union mailing lists  Supervisors  Add events to LibCal |
| ECRs | Engagement with Open Science will set ECRs in good stead for their future career in academia. ECRs can also be an influential group in Open Science, both in supporting PhD students and contributing to the work of established academic staff. | Direct email to Deans and Heads for dissemination  Funding support teams  Periodic REF Reports  Emails to PIs by funder  Library Staff communications |
| Established Academic staff | Open Science is of increasing importance in the work of academic staff, whether teaching or research. The UCL academic promotions framework explicitly recognises open behaviours. | RITS/ARC mailing lists |
| Library Staff | Engagement with Open Science will help Library staff understand and support researchers, as well as communicate the principles in their regular interactions with other stakeholder groups. | Liblist mailing list, internal news |
| Professional Services | Professional Services teams will be instrumental in supporting communication and acting as an additional link between the academic community and the Office team | Direct email |
| University Leadership | The support of university leadership is essential for the success of the Open Science agenda. | Direct email |

## External

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Stakeholder group** | **Stake** | **Specific Channels** |
| University leaders | UCL is recognised as a global leader in Open Science activity and has a responsibility to communicate and share its work and insights with external groups. | Personal contacts  LIBER/LERU/Scientific Knowledge Services |
| External audiences including librarians, publishers, Jisc, CILIP/ARMA and other networks /associations/ partners and communities involved in UCL projects | External networks are vehicles for widening engagement with Open Science and for communication of events and established best practice. | Mailing lists and personal networks; community fora |
| Public/Press | UCL is committed to engaging with its local communities, particularly UCL East. Citizen Science especially is an area where this emphasis should be communicated externally. Open Science also has the potential to increase the impact of UCL research | News/CAM |

## 5.1 Communications plan

Most communications for day-to-day activities, such as training or events, will be shared with all stakeholders, prioritising the general channels outlined above. Other communications will target specific groups on an ad hoc basis depending on the nature of the content and its desired audience.

For example, there are certain Open Science pillars for which additional communication is essential above that required to provide the core services of the Office.

* **Education and skills** – to understand where changes towards open practice need to be made and where skills development is needed.
* **Rewards and incentives** – as the discussion continues to develop, communicating rewards and incentives will become more important in growing the reach of and awareness about the Office.
* **Citizen Science** – promoting the principles of Citizen Science, gathering projects and developing communities with a shared focus. A large part of the Time4CS project revolves around communication, both internal and external, and the Office will be instrumental in this element of the project. UCL would also benefit from additional communication with other ongoing UK and global social and environmental citizen science projects e.g. east London, ProCol UK Youth Prosperity, and in Kenya, Lebanon, China, Caribbean (Jamaica and Grenada)
* The **European Open Science Cloud** (EOSC) – not yet fully established. Ongoing training and development needs TBD but communication of project development will become important within the period of this plan.

# 6.0 Governance

RIGE

OOSS Steering Group

Open Science Committee

The UCL Office for Open Science and Scholarship (OOSS) is led by Dr Paul Ayris, Pro-Vice-Provost and its committee and day-to-day operations are coordinated by Kirsty Wallis.

The UCL Open Science Committee, chaired by Professor David Price, Vice-Provost for Research, Innovation and Global Engagement (RIGE) is responsible for setting the strategic direction for Open Science and Scholarship activities in UCL. It reports to a new pan-RIGE committee co-ordinating RIGE activity, and from there to the new University Management Committee, which replaces UCL SMT.

The OOSS Steering Group will sponsor this plan, be responsible for the upkeep and monitoring of the associated Implementation Plans and will guide communication. The Steering Group will report to the UCL Open Science Committee.

# 7.0 Next steps

If this document is approved by the Steering Group, the next step will be to create Implementation plans for each Pillar to support the delivery of the objectives summarised in section 4, as well as assigning responsibilities and an approximate timeline, along with an assessment of resource requirements.

1. <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/research/sites/research/files/uclresearchstrategy2019_final.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/strategy/goals-research-and-innovation-policy/open-science_en> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. <https://www.leru.org/publications/open-science-and-its-role-in-universities-a-roadmap-for-cultural-change> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. <https://www.opengovpartnership.org/> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Implementing Open Science: Challenges and Opportunities for research-intensive universities in LERU (December 2020): <https://www.leru.org/files/Implementing-open-science.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Based on the [established guide in France](https://www.ouvrirlascience.fr/passport-for-open-science-a-practical-guide-for-phd-students/#:~:text=The%20Passport%20For%20Open%20Science%20is%20a%20guide,and%20is%20aimed%20at%20researchers%20from%20all%20disciplines) [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. <https://osf.io/xpr2n/wiki/home> [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. <https://www.ukeof.org.uk/> [↑](#footnote-ref-8)