

## **Statement on how Oxford Brookes University meets the Wellcome Trust Open Access policy requirements, January 2021.**

*ORIGIN Steering Group.*

The Wellcome Trust revised Open Access policy comes into force in January 2021. Linked to this, Wellcome have issued clear expectations regarding how Wellcome funded organizations implement the principles of open, responsible and fair research assessment. Wellcome has issued notice<sup>1</sup> that all Wellcome funded organizations should, as a minimum, have in place by January 2021:

1. A statement of commitment to implementing the principles on the institution website – this should be clear and accessible.
2. A plan for implementing the principles, or a clear process in place for developing a plan (with a specified delivery date).
3. A process in place for monitoring and reporting on progress in implementing the principles.

In addition, there is an expectation that:

4. Work to implement the principles should be joined-up with the organisation's broader efforts to enhance research culture and promote research integrity.

Wellcome have indicated that, as part of their regular audits, they may ask organisations to demonstrate that they have met these three high-level requirements. The ORIGIN Steering Group have performed an initial assessment of how Oxford Brookes currently (December 2020) lines up against these requirements and have issued this statement clarifying our planning and ongoing work to ensure these requirements will be met.

1. A statement of commitment to implementing the policy principles on the institution website – this should be clear and accessible.

Oxford Brookes University confirms that it is fully committed to implementing the principles of open, responsible and fair research assessment in line with the diversity of academic disciplines and subjects across the University. In line with the Wellcome Trust policy, in April 2020 Oxford Brookes University has approved a responsible metrics position statement and has also signed up to the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA). These details are available on the outward facing Oxford Brookes website<sup>2</sup>.

2. A plan for implementing the principles, or a clear process in place for developing a plan (with a specified delivery date).

From 2020/21 a new sub-committee of the University Research and Knowledge Exchange Committee (RKEC) has been established to draw together existing University systems and procedures to support and improve open research, integrity and governance mechanisms. The

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<sup>1</sup><https://wellcome.org/grant-funding/guidance/research-organisations-how-implement-responsible-and-fair-approaches-research>

<sup>2</sup><https://www.brookes.ac.uk/research/research-integrity-statement/>

Open Research, Integrity and Governance Improvement Nexus (ORIGIN) Steering Group had its first meeting in October 2020 and has agreed a work plan for the academic year 2020/21. The ORIGIN Steering Group is chaired by the University Academic Lead for Research Integrity and Improvement, appointed from 2020/21 in line with membership of the UK Reproducibility Network (UKRN) which Oxford Brookes has joined. Responsibility for implementing and developing the actions in the Oxford Brookes responsible metrics position statement are now with the ORIGIN Steering Group. The agreed workplan sets out the following responsible metrics actions and delivery dates:

Action	Delivery Date
HR pages referring to recruitment and/or promotion to cross-refer to University responsible metrics statement	Achieved August 2020.
Establish a small working group of Research Leads (RL) to review support and scope of RL work and establish “processes for agreement and roll-out of process for training”.	Establish working group in semester 2 2020/21 and agree tasks and timetable. (RLs currently have limited capacity because of REF and covid-19 commitments).
Prepare resources for academic staff on use of responsible metrics.	Drafted by Scholarly Communications Team for review by ORIGIN semester 2 2020/21.

### 3. A process in place for monitoring and reporting on progress in implementing the principles.

The ORIGIN Steering Group is accountable for monitoring and reporting on progress in implementing the principles set out in the responsible metrics statement. In addition, the ORIGIN workplan also sets out the following action and delivery date:

Action	Delivery Date
Task of monitoring compliance with the responsible metrics statement passed to ORIGIN. ORIGIN to recommend a process of monitoring and benchmarking.	Adapt from approach taken by other UKRN institutions. Agree and pilot in semester 2 2020/21.

### 4. Work to implement the principles should be joined-up with the organisation’s broader efforts to enhance research culture and promote research integrity.

Alongside the already approved Oxford Brookes University responsible metrics statement, the University is consulting on a draft position statement on transparency in research, based on guidance from UKRN, for review and adoption by the University RKEC in 2020/21. This position statement includes recommendations that are specified in the Wellcome OA policy, for example making data open access and the use of pre-prints. ORIGIN is also working with HR to review the incorporation of open / transparent research criteria into recruitment and promotion policies and procedures. This work will be completed in 2021/22. Oxford Brookes is also implementing additional research integrity training for academic and research staff and students, and will conduct a survey and assessment of organisational research culture every two years, in liaison with best practices identified through UKRN, and existing researcher survey activities conducted through *vita*.