

Open Research Position Statement

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Purpose of the Statement

This Statement summarises the University's approach to Open Research. Informed by external frameworks including the [Concordat on Open Research Data](#) and the [UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science](#), it sets out key principles for the conduct and support of Open Research at De Montfort University, and is supported by more detailed Policy Frameworks for [Open Access](#) and [Research Data Management](#).

This Statement is owned by the University Research and Innovation Committee (URIC).

Open Research at DMU

The terms 'Open Research' and 'Open Science' can be used interchangeably. In a UK context, the term 'Open Science' tends to be seen as restricted to 'hard' scientific disciplines. Therefore, at DMU, along with many UK institutions, we choose to use the term 'Open Research' as inclusive of all disciplines and research communities.

Open Research is research which seeks, at **each stage of the research lifecycle**, to be discoverable, accessible, reusable, transparent and sustainable. Practising Open Research means sharing research outputs and processes as early as possible in the research lifecycle in a way that enables access and reuse by others. Examples of outputs/processes that might be shared include (but are not limited to) plans, methodologies, protocols, images, recordings, code, data, performances, publications, lab notebooks, open source software etc. Open Research involves collaborative working and sharing, and includes participative methods of research, such as 'Citizen Science' and Participatory Action Research.

DMU believes that knowledge brings the most benefits the more widely it is shared. The University promotes and supports Open Research to enhance inclusivity and collaboration, increase transparency and reproducibility, underpin research integrity, enhance impact, and to share knowledge as widely as possible.

For funded research and for certain types of outputs, the University mandates Open Access and Open Data in accordance with funder and government requirements, while recognising that there may be ethical, legal or commercial reasons why some of the outputs of research cannot be made openly accessible. However, the University also encourages researchers to make outputs of research and their accompanying data, 'as open as possible, as closed as necessary', whether externally funded or not.

DMU encourages all its researchers, at all career stages, to explore and use Open Research approaches. The University recognises Open Research approaches already being used by a number of its researchers, and encourages the sharing of this good practice. Understanding that dissemination will vary in different disciplines, DMU supports the freedom of researchers to pursue new knowledge and to make their research as openly accessible as possible within the parameters of their subject area.

DMU recognises the benefits of open approaches, not only through the sharing of DMU research, but also through sharing in the research of others. The University encourages

academic colleagues to make use of Open Access outputs and Open Data, both in research and in teaching.

DMU's support for Open Research

DMU acknowledges a growing enthusiasm for Open Research amongst its researchers and has identified individuals making significant efforts to engage with Open Research, in particular through sharing publications, data and software. The University endeavours to support these efforts and to encourage others to work openly.

DMU supports researchers to use Open Research approaches by:

- Providing an Open Access institutional publications repository (DORA) and a repository for data and non-text outputs (DMU Figshare)
- Providing support, guidance and training on Open Access and Open Data

Links

[Policy for Managing Open Access at DMU](#)

[Guidance on Open Access](#), including links to bite size training sessions

[DORA](#) publications repository

[Policy on Managing Research Data at DMU](#)

[Guidance on managing research data](#), including link to online training course

[DMU Figshare](#) data repository