

Nature Communications OPEN — FAQs for Authors

What is the hybrid model?

The hybrid model is a mixed revenue model of subscription charges and publication fees. It offers authors of accepted papers the choice to pay an article-processing charge (APC) in order for their articles to be made open access, and so freely available online immediately upon publication. The open-access option is available to all authors submitting original research.

What are authors paying for?

As costs are involved in every stage of the publication process, from peer-review to copy-editing and hosting the final article on dedicated servers, the author is asked to pay an APC of \$5,000/£3,035/¥637,350/€3,570 (plus VAT where applicable) in order for their article to be published open access, without access control. By paying the one-off APC, authors are also permitted to post the final, published PDF of their article on a web site, institutional repository or other free public server, immediately on publication.

Will there be additional charges, especially if an article contains colour images?

At *Nature Communications* there are no additional publication charges, unless authors wish to order reprints where charges will continue to apply.

What article types are included in the open-access initiative?

The fee applies to primary research papers only.

How will readers know which articles are available free?

Articles are marked clearly with an icon bearing 'Open' – this is used to identify open access-articles in the journal's Table of Contents online, and on the full-text and PDF formats of the published work.

When will authors be given the choice to pay the APC?

Authors have the option of ticking a check box at submission to indicate their intention to pay the APC so that their paper, if accepted, is published open access. However, authors don't have to make a final decision until their manuscript is accepted for publication.

Authors are offered this option once more when their article is accepted for publication and must complete a payment form, a link to which is provided in the letter from the editor, as well as a relevant license-to-publish form. Authors must forward both forms before their manuscript can be formally accepted.

The APC payment process is administered by the publisher, Nature Publishing Group (NPG), and payment can be made either by credit card or by requesting that an invoice be raised.

It is mandatory for the payment form to be sent to NPG along with the license-to-publish form. Failure to return the payment form will result in the article being published as a standard paper behind access control.

What if I want my institution to pay on my behalf?

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What time period do I have within which to make the payment?

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How will you ensure that the payment of publication charges by authors has no influence on whether an article is accepted for publication in a particular journal?

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