

GUIDE ON OPEN ACCESS PUBLISHING WITH ACS IN 2026

General

This guide highlights cost-neutral publication pathways for corresponding authors at UniNE who wish to publish in the **hybrid journals** provided by ACS: <https://publish.acs.org/app/journal-list?sort=titleAsc&openAccessStatus=HYBRID>

While ACS officially is a 501(c)(3) *non-profit organization*, their policies are focused on the maximization of their income and hindering the sustainable transformation towards Open Access (OA).

In case viable alternative publication outlets are available to you, choosing those over ACS hybrid journals is recommended.

Paying publication fees to the publisher should be avoided.

There is an institutional agreement between the Consortium of the Swiss Academic Libraries and ACS that allows certain hybrid articles to be published OA:

<https://acsopenscience.org/customers/consortium-of-swiss-academic-libraries/>

Articles with SNSF funding (i.e. where SNSF grants are mentioned in the acknowledgements) are exempt from this institutional open access agreement. However, recent experiences of authors show that this rule might be relaxed. For this reason, we recommend authors try and submit all articles through the institutional agreement (Path 1) and, if this fails, choose the Green OA route (Path 2).

Path 1: Publish Through the Institutional Agreement

During your submission, under *Details & Comments* choose the option '*I plan to submit a request for support through an institutional open access agreement.*'

Details & Comments

Open Access Mandates* ⓘ

Are you expected to comply with [Open Access](#) mandates? If Rights Retention Strategy language is included in the manuscript, be advised a fee may apply. Learn more about [ACS Open Science](#).

- ☒ Yes
☐ No

Open Access Publication Charge Payment*

If yes, how are you intending to pay for [Open Access publication charges](#)? Learn more about [institutional open access agreements](#).

- ☒ I plan to submit a request for support through an institutional open access agreement.
☐ I plan to pay with grant funding associated with this manuscript.
☐ I plan to pay with discretionary funding.
☐ I plan to accept a twelve-month embargo period, which my funder mandate allows in exceptions.

Note: There is an annual quota for included articles. When quota is used up, your article will no longer be published for free under the institutional agreement. If your article is SNSF-funded, it might also get excluded from the institutional agreement.

In this case, please proceed with Path 2: Green OA.

Path 2: Green OA

The green OA route and includes publishing the Author's Accepted Manuscript (AAM) on our institutional repository [Libra](#).

1. During your submission, under 'Details & Comments' choose the option '*I plan to accept a twelve-month embargo period, which my funder mandate allows in exceptions.*'

Details & Comments

Open Access Mandates* ⓘ

Are you expected to comply with [Open Access](#) mandates? If Rights Retention Strategy language is included in the manuscript, be advised a fee may apply. Learn more about [ACS Open Science](#).

- ☒ Yes
☐ No

Open Access Publication Charge Payment*

If yes, how are you intending to pay for [Open Access publication charges](#)? Learn more about [institutional open access agreements](#).

- ☐ I plan to submit a request for support through an institutional open access agreement.
☐ I plan to pay with grant funding associated with this manuscript.
☐ I plan to pay with discretionary funding.
☒ I plan to accept a twelve-month embargo period, which my funder mandate allows in exceptions.

2. After your paper is accepted, forward the AAM as soon as possible for the submission to [Libra](#). The library team will make sure that it is published after the twelve-month embargo.

SNSF policy requires authors to make the AAM available to the public immediately at the time of publication of the article. ACS, however, only allows this publication after an embargo period of twelve months.

While publishing an author-accepted manuscript with a twelve-month embargo instead of immediately is a violation of the SNSF's funding regulations, it currently is not sanctioned.

In the past, the SNSF sent reminder emails in cases of potential non-compliance to the OA requirement, but this practice has been discontinued. There have never been any formal sanctions to date and OA compliance in past grants is not an evaluation criterion for future grants.

Changing your Open Access Choice After Submission

You may update your Open Access Mandates response during the revision stage (if the manuscript receives a revision decision). You may also request this change during peer review by contacting either the Editorial Office or ACS Publications Support (support@services.acs.org) and they can update the information on your behalf.

Additionally, you may purchase Open Access for your manuscript at any time after publication, regardless of the response originally provided in the Open Access Mandates section.