

## Understanding Your Publishing Agreement Choices

Authors may publish under one of two agreements:

- **Regular Gold Open Access: Copyright Transfer (Journal Owner/Publisher Retains Copyright)**
- **Premium Gold Open Access: Author License (Author Retains Copyright)**

Both options publish your article as **Open Access** under a Creative Commons license. The difference lies in who holds copyright and how rights are structured.

### Side-by-Side Comparison

| Topic   | Regular Gold Open Access:<br>Copyright Transfer                               | Premium Gold Open Access:<br>Author License                              |
|---|---|--|
| Who owns copyright?                                       | The Journal Owner becomes the copyright holder.                               | The Author retains full copyright ownership.                             |
| Is the article Open Access?                               | Yes. Immediately available online.  | Yes. Immediately available online.                                       |
| Creative Commons license?                                 | Yes. CC BY-NC-ND  | Yes. Authors choose from 6 options                                       |
| Can the author reuse the article?                         | Yes. Authors retain broad reuse rights (teaching, books, repositories, etc.). | Yes. Authors have full reuse rights as copyright holder.                 |
| Can the author post the article online?                   | Yes, with proper citation to the Journal and Owner as the copyright holder.   | Yes, with proper citation.   |
| Can the author publish the same paper in another Journal? | No.   | No.  |
| Is the publishing license revocable?                      | No. Copyright is transferred permanently.                                     | No. The license granted to the Journal is irrevocable once published.    |
| Are editorial control and corrections allowed?            | Yes, Journal retains editorial authority.                                     | Yes, Journal retains editorial authority.                                |
| Article Processing Charge (APC)?                          | Yes. See current APC list for the Journal.                                    | Yes. See current APC list for the Journal.                               |
| Impact on academic freedom?                               | None. Authors retain academic reuse rights.                                   | None. Authors retain academic reuse rights and full copyright ownership. |

## **What Is the Same in Both Agreements?**

Regardless of which option you select:

- Your article is **Open Access**.
- It is distributed under a **Creative Commons license**.
- You may use the article for teaching and scholarly purposes.
- You may post it in repositories.
- The Journal retains editorial authority.
- APC policies apply.
- Ethical and research integrity standards apply.

The difference is simply who holds the underlying copyright.

## **Why we use this license model**

The goal for the Journal is to balance:

- Author rights
- Open scholarship
- Long-term preservation
- Legal clarity
- Institutional responsibility

Our mission is scholarly dissemination—not commercial control.

We offer two agreement options to respect different author preferences:

### **Regular Gold Open Access: Copyright Transfer**

The Copyright Transfer Agreement allows the Owner to manage copyright centrally. This can simplify permissions, protect the scholarly record, and ensure long-term preservation under one copyright holder.

### **Premium Gold Open Access: Author License**

The Author License Agreement allows you to retain full copyright while granting the Journal the rights necessary to publish and preserve your work permanently.

In both cases:

- Your article is Open Access.
- You retain broad academic reuse rights.
- Your work remains freely accessible to the global scholarly community.

We believe transparency builds trust. We want you to clearly understand your rights—and to choose the option that best aligns with your professional and institutional needs.

## What are the types of Creative Commons licenses?

The information below is from the Creative Commons website <https://creativecommons.org/share-your-work/ccllicenses>

These are the 6 available Creative Commons licenses to select from. For Premium, authors may choose only one. For Gold, the CC BY-NC-NC license is used.

### CC BY

Enables others to distribute, remix, adapt, and build upon the material in any medium or format, so long as attribution is given to the creator. The license allows for commercial use.



### CC BY-SA

Enables others to distribute, remix, adapt, and build upon the material in any medium or format, so long as attribution is given to the creator. The license allows for commercial use. If you remix, adapt, or build upon the material, you must license the modified material under identical terms.



### CC BY-NC

Enables others to distribute, remix, adapt, and build upon the material in any medium or format for noncommercial purposes only, and only so long as attribution is given to the creator.



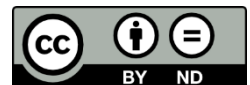
### CC BY-NC-SA

Enables others to distribute, remix, adapt, and build upon the material in any medium or format for noncommercial purposes only, and only so long as attribution is given to the creator. If you remix, adapt, or build upon the material, you must license the modified material under identical terms.



### CC BY-ND

Enables others to copy and distribute the material in any medium or format in unadapted form only, and only so long as attribution is given to the creator. .



### CC BY-NC-ND

Enables others to copy and distribute the material in any medium or format in unadapted form only, for noncommercial purposes only, and only so long as attribution is given to the creator.



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

### 1. What is the difference between Gold and Premium agreements?

The difference is **who holds copyright**.

- Under the **Copyright Transfer Agreement**, the Journal Owner becomes the copyright holder.
- Under the **Author License Agreement**, you retain copyright and grant the Journal Owner a permanent license to publish your work.

In both cases, your article is published **Open Access** under a Creative Commons license.

### 2. Will my article still be Open Access?

Yes. Regardless of which agreement you choose, your article will be freely available online upon publication.

### 3. Can I use my article in teaching and future publications?

Yes. Under both agreements, you may:

- Use your article in teaching and presentations
- Include it in future books or scholarly works
- Post it in institutional or subject repositories
- Share it with colleagues

### 4. Why would the Journal Owner hold copyright?

Centralized copyright ownership can:

- Simplify long-term archiving and rights management
- Protect the scholarly record
- Provide clear legal standing in case of infringement

This option supports institutional stewardship of the work.

### 5. Why might I prefer to retain copyright?

Retaining copyright gives you direct ownership of your work while still allowing the Journal to publish and distribute it permanently. This option appeals to authors who prefer maximum personal control.

### 6. Is the publishing license permanent?

Yes. Once published, the license granted to the Journal is irrevocable in both models. This ensures stability of the scholarly record.

### 7. Does paying the APC affect copyright ownership?

No. The Article Processing Charge (APC) supports publication costs and Open Access dissemination. It does not affect copyright ownership under either agreement.

### 8. Does this affect academic freedom?

No. Your academic freedom, reuse rights, and Open Access distribution remain intact under both agreements.

### 9. Which option do most authors choose?

Both options are common in scholarly publishing. The best choice depends on your institutional policies, funder requirements, and personal preference.