



Bern University of Applied Sciences: Open Access Policy

Approved by the University Executive Board on 5 July 2018

Supporting and promoting Open Access (OA), as described in the Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities signed by the Rectors' Conference of the Swiss Universities (CRUS) – now swissuniversities – in 2006, is a strategic objective of Bern University of Applied Sciences.

The Open Access Policy of Bern University of Applied Sciences is based on the guidelines of the national and international research funding organisations (the Swiss National Science Foundation SNSF, the Swiss Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences SAHS, the European Commission EC).

The policy does not affect academic freedom, and researchers are still guaranteed a free choice of publication media. OA promotes free access to research results, boosts the visibility of these results and means that they are cited more frequently, ensures that research results can be found and accessed faster and at any time and fosters international and interdisciplinary collaboration.

Bern University of Applied Sciences has approved the following guidelines:

1. From 1 January 2020 researchers must make a full version of all publications of publicly funded research results and the corresponding bibliographical information publicly available in the institutional repository of the BFH (ARBOR – Applied Research Bern Open Repository), provided that there are no relevant reasons¹ for not making them public.
2. Researchers are also encouraged to deposit a full version of all already published publications of research results (irrespective of the type of funding) and the corresponding bibliographical information in the institutional repository of the BFH, provided that there are no relevant reasons² for not making them public.
3. The BFH encourages its researchers to in future publish their academic work directly under Open Access (journal or monograph), where appropriate media exist. (OA Gold)

Bern University of Applied Sciences supports implementation of these guidelines by means of the following measures:

- Through the institutional repository ARBOR it provides researchers with an appropriate platform for depositing publications in full text form and the corresponding metadata.
- It regularly provides information and issues practical guidelines on implementation.
- It sets up a specialist Open Access Unit that is responsible for implementing and developing the OA strategy.
- It ensures that the BFH libraries are closely involved in the future-oriented process.
- It offers researchers access to support centres (BFH libraries / specialist Open Access Unit) that can assist in the event of queries.
- It produces a funding plan to assist researchers with OA publishing.

¹ Such reasons include in particular contractual agreements, data protection, patient protection and intellectual property rights.

² As above