

## **EMBO Open – FAQs for Authors**

### **What is EMBO Open?**

EMBO Open is an initiative from the European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO), which from 1st January 2007 offers authors of accepted papers the choice to pay a fee in order for their articles to be made freely available online immediately upon publication. This applies to both *The EMBO Journal* and *EMBO reports*.

### **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 a fee of £1,485/\$2,795/€2,200 (plus VAT where applicable) in order for their article to be published online without access control. By paying the one-off EMBO Open fee, authors will also be 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?**

The optional EMBO Open charge is in addition to any standard publication charges, such as for colour images. These charges will therefore continue to apply.

### **What article types are included in the EMBO Open initiative?**

The fee will apply to primary research papers only.

### **How will readers know which articles are available free under EMBO Open?**

Articles will be marked clearly with an EMBO Open logo, which will be used to identify EMBO Open articles in the journal's Table of Contents, both in print and online.

### **When will authors be given the choice to pay the EMBO Open fee?**

Upon *submission* authors have the option of ticking a check box to indicate their intention to take up this offer and pay the one off fee to make their paper open access.

Upon *acceptance* of their article for publication, authors will need to complete a payment form a link to which will be provided in the acceptance letter (this can also be downloaded from the individual journal's online Instructions to Authors).

The author charge process will be administered by the publisher, Nature Publishing Group (NPG), and payment can be made either via a credit card or by requesting an invoice to be raised.

It is mandatory for the payment form to be sent in along with the licence to publish form and failure to send in 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?**

As indicated on the payment form, authors can request an invoice to be sent to their institution.

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

With payments done by credit card the process is immediate, but NPG understand that often authors do not pay themselves and it takes time to raise an invoice via their institution and send it on. Therefore, NPG do not stipulate a fixed time period.

However, invoices will be chased periodically, but if after 90 days no payment is received, the author will be contacted directly.

Sending in the payment form is a requirement of the author pays option. Papers will not be published as open access unless this form is received.

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

All articles are treated in the same way as any other article submitted. They go through the journal's rigorous process of editorial consideration and peer review, thereby ensuring that the high standards the community has come to expect from the journal are maintained. Editors will be blind to the author's choice, avoiding any possibility of a conflict of interest during through peer review and acceptance.

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