



Open Access Guide for Grant Applicants

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Introduction

Grand Challenges Nigeria is dedicated to fostering innovation and translating knowledge into actionable solutions that improve the lives of people in Nigeria. To maximize the impact of the research and projects we fund, we are committed to ensuring that the results, publications, and data generated from Grand Challenges Nigeria-funded projects are shared openly and as promptly as possible. This guide outlines our open access requirements and provides detailed guidance for applicants to comply with these principles. Our goal is to enhance the dissemination of knowledge, encourage further innovation, and contribute to public health and development.

1. Open Access Policy Overview

1.1. Definition of Open Access

Open Access (OA) refers to the practice of making research outputs freely available online without any access restrictions. This includes peer-reviewed research articles, data, software, protocols, and other related materials. OA ensures that the scientific community and the public can access and build upon these outputs without cost barriers.

1.2. Policy Scope

The open access policy applies to all research outputs generated from projects funded by Grand Challenges Nigeria. This includes:

- Peer-reviewed journal articles
- Data sets

- Research protocols and methodologies
- Software and tools
- Educational resources and materials

2. Open Access Requirements

2.1. Publications

1. **Open Access Journals:** All peer-reviewed publications arising from Grand Challenges Nigeria-funded research must be made openly accessible. Grantees are encouraged to publish in fully open-access journals or platforms that provide immediate access to their articles without any embargo period.
2. **Green Open Access:** If publishing in a subscription-based journal, authors must deposit a final peer-reviewed manuscript in a public repository (e.g., PubMed Central, institutional repositories) at the time of publication, ensuring it is freely accessible within six months of publication.
3. **Licensing:** Publications should be licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) license or an equivalent license, allowing others to distribute, remix, adapt, and build upon the work, even commercially, if the original author is credited.

2.2. Research Data

1. **Data Sharing:** All research data (including raw data, metadata, and any supporting materials) must be deposited in a public data repository and made available as soon as possible, but no later than the time of publication of the related research findings.
2. **Data Licensing:** Data should be shared under a license that allows for free access and use, such as the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) license or an equivalent.
3. **Data Management Plan:** Applicants must include a data management plan (DMP) in their proposal, detailing how data will be collected, managed, and shared. This plan should ensure compliance with ethical standards and protect sensitive information.

2.3. Software and Tools

1. **Open Source:** Any software, code, or tools developed as part of the project must be made available under an open-source license (e.g., MIT, GPL), ensuring that others can freely use, modify, and distribute the software.
2. **Repository Submission:** Code should be deposited in a public repository (e.g., GitHub, GitLab) with clear documentation and licensing information.

3. Guidance for Compliance

3.1. Selecting an Open Access Journal

Applicants should:

- Prefer journals that are fully open access.
- Review the journal's policies on open access fees and consider budget allocation for publication costs.
- Ensure the selected journal's policies align with Grand Challenges Nigeria's open access requirements.

3.2. Depositing Publications in Repositories

- Identify suitable repositories (e.g., PubMed Central, institutional repositories) for depositing manuscripts.
- Ensure the deposited manuscript includes a CC BY license or equivalent.
- Provide the repository link in publications and reports to Grand Challenges Nigeria.

3.3. Data Sharing and Management

- Choose appropriate data repositories (e.g., Dryad, Zenodo) for your data type.
- Ensure data sets are accompanied by metadata and documentation to facilitate reuse.
- Follow ethical guidelines, ensuring the protection of personal and sensitive data.

3.4. Licensing and Attribution

- Use the appropriate Creative Commons license for all publications and data.
- Clearly state the license type in all outputs, ensuring proper attribution and reuse.

3.5. Reporting and Monitoring

- Grantees must include a report on open access compliance in their final project report.
- Regularly update Grand Challenges Nigeria on the status of open access publication and data sharing.

4. Support and Resources

4.1. Financial Support

Grand Challenges Nigeria recognizes that open-access publishing may involve additional costs (e.g., Article Processing Charges). Applicants can include these costs in their grant budget proposals.

4.2. Technical Support

Grantees may seek technical assistance for data management, repository selection, and compliance with licensing requirements. Contact the Grand Challenges Nigeria support team for guidance.

5. Conclusion

Grand Challenges Nigeria is committed to advancing open access to accelerate scientific discovery and societal impact. By adhering to these guidelines, grantees contribute to a more inclusive and transparent research ecosystem, benefiting the people of Nigeria and beyond. For any questions or further assistance, please contact Grand Challenges Nigeria at info.gcng@nutritionnigeria.org