Roadmap for Open Research – Self-Assessment 2024/25

The following table contains a self-assessment on Queen's University Belfast's readiness for Open Research, based on the 37 criteria set out in the LERU Open Science Roadmap.

	Topic	Question	Assessment of progress	Proposed next steps	RAG Status
			Cultural change		
1.	Leadership	Has your university appointed a senior manager to lead Open Research (OR) approaches across all eight pillars of the Open Science debate identified by the European Commission?	• OR Group was established • Open Science Guidelines were produced by the School of Psychology • ReproducibiliTea network was established for Queen's researchers interested in OR • Library Services joined the Digital Preservation Coalition (DPC), implemented a Digital Preservation Policy, subscribed to a digital preservation platform (Preservica) and appointed a Digital Preservation Officer	• Research and Enterprise (R&E) will consider the most appropriate way to take forward Psychology's Open Science Guidelines as part of research culture developments • Institutional membership of UKRN will be kept under review • Queen's is participating in UKRN's Open and Responsible Researcher Reward and Recognition project (OR4) as a case study institution • Library Services is acting as a champion for digital preservation within the University	
2.	HR	Has your university developed a programme of cultural change, which is necessary to support the changes in principle and practice which OR brings?	• University has a Research Culture Action Plan in place, with one of five strategic priorities committed to "Incentivise a culture of creativity and innovation in which researchers have the freedom and flexibility required to explore ambitious and novel research	• R&E will consider including OR-specific questions in future research culture survey • Work is being undertaken on embedding conversations around OR into PDR process for researchers	

			ideas in the spirit of openness, transparency and integrity" • School of Psychology has included OR in recruitment documentation • OR team is coordinating efforts on elements of OR: open access (OA), e-theses, research data management (RDM) and Persistent Identifiers (PIDs) such as ORCID	
3.	Advocacy	Does your university have advocacy programmes to identify the benefits of OR approaches, whilst being realistic about the challenges?	• ReproducibiliTea network at Queen's meets regularly • OR team has OA, e-theses and RDM outreach programmes • Open and Responsible Research Symposium was held	• OR Group will consider running an Open and Responsible Research Symposium annually • Open Science Workgroup in the School of Psychology is advocating (through the Open Science Guidelines and discussions with staff) Open Science within the School
4.	Communication	Does your university have communication strategies which enable the whole university body to become familiar with OR practices?	• OR team produced OR webpages • Representative from OR team attends Faculty Research Committee meetings when required	• OR team will continue to encourage the use of the more inclusive term "Open Research" over "Open Science"
The future of scholarly publishing				
5.	Compliance	Does your university have institutional mandates to support the move to full OA and does it monitor implementation of these mandates?	• Research Publications and Copyright Policy, which supersedes the University's OA Policy, aligns with Research Excellence Framework (REF) OA Policy	• OR team will review the REF support they provide to researchers once the REF 2029 OA policy is announced • OR team is supporting UKRI funded authors in complying with

				new OA policy for long form publications via monthly training sessions and [webpages](#) that include funding and exemption application forms. A crib sheet is also in development that will help authors when liaising with publishers about publication costs.	
6.	Planning	Can relevant stakeholders work together to deliver a roadmap for how they, or specific groupings, can develop agreed plans for the future of scholarly publishing in their institution?	• OA for journal articles and conference papers is well established at the University • OR team provides support for OA monographs via: advocacy and training; [webpages](#); Pure (University's Current Research Information System (CRIS)) validation workflows for books and book chapters; and an institutional OA monograph fund • Developing Digital Preservation Strategy and workflows with relevant Special Collections and Archives, OR and Digital and Information Services (D&IS) stakeholders • Collaborative Digital Asset Register in place, with automated syncing to facilitate preservation planning across units	• OR team is providing advice and training on the University's new thesis model, With Publications Submission (WPS). This model allows research postgraduate students to include work they have published without having to rewrite it to the traditional thesis format.	
7.	Advocacy	Does your university advocate the use of author identifier systems such as	• ORCID is integrated with Pure • There are over 1000 staff and postgraduate research students in		

		ORCID across the institution?	• Pure with ORCID iDs • ORCID is incorporated into OR team outreach and training and [PID webpages](#) have been produced • Research Publications and Copyright Policy, which supersedes the University's OA Policy, encourages researchers to make use of ORCID		■
8.	Innovation	Has your university considered supporting new forms of scholarly publishing from third parties, such as OpenEdition and Knowledge Unlatched, which are dedicated to OA approaches?	• Library Services supports number of OA publishing initiatives. E.g., [Modern Languages Open](#) (OA publishing platform) and [Open Book Publishers](#)	• Library Services will continue to support new publishing initiatives where possible	■
9	Innovation	Where appropriate, has your university established new mechanisms for scholarly publishing based on the good practice identified in this chapter?	• Queen's does not have a university press and D&IS does not host OA journals • Library Services is a member of the [Open Institutional Publishing Association](#). This is a community of practice that reports on developments within institutional publishing and more widely on how funder policies effect institutional presses • Library Services has joined the [Scottish Universities Press (SUP)](#),	• Library Services is a partner institution in [National Open Research Fund (NORF)](#) 2022 Open Research Fund projects • OR team will consider developments in Diamond OA to determine if Queen's should implement local support services for researchers, such as journal hosting or monograph publishing	■

			which is an OA publishing press coordinated by SCURL and managed by member libraries on a not-for-profit basis. SUP provides Queen's researchers with a cost-effective publishing route for OA monographs • Library Services arranged a demo of the Octopus publishing platform		

FAIR data					
10.	Institutional policy	Has your institution a research data policy or strategy?	• University's RDM Policy was introduced in 2015 and updated in March 2024 • Research Data Management Subgroup (comprised of RDM support stakeholders) of the OR Group was established • University's Digital Object Identifier (DOI) Policy upholds FAIR principles regarding assigning DOIs for datasets in the data repository. Sets out an eligibility criteria to ensure high Findability, Accessibility, Interoperability and Reusability of datasets in Pure • Digital Preservation Subgroup of the OR Group established. • Digital Preservation Policy published, which incorporates FAIR principles to manage the data lifecycle	• R&E are preparing a Responsible Research Assessment Policy for consideration at the next meeting of R&I Committee. This will embed the University's commitments under DORA, and dovetail with related policies such as the DOI Policy	

11.	Institutional policy	Does your institution research data policy or strategy include FAIR principles?	• University's RDM Policy predates the FAIR Principles • Research Data Librarian is participating in the FAIR IMPACT award for Research Performing Organisations (Feb - June 2024). This is a tailored [support programme](#) run by the Digital Curation Centre (DCC) to enable institutions to become familiar with FAIR-enabling tools, approaches and methods	• OR team will update the University's RDM Policy to include FAIR Principles	
12.	Institutional support	Has your institution established a dedicated service to provide data stewardship to its researchers?	• Research Data Librarian post was created within the OR team to provide RDM support, advocacy and training • Library Services subscribes to [DMPonline](#), which helps academic staff create data management plans (DMPs) • University-specific guidance was added to DMPonline to make it easier for researchers to complete DMPs • OR Team mints DOIs for datasets in Pure. The DOI policy ensures the embrace of FAIR principles with the assignment of DOIs to dataset content in data repository (Pure) • Digital Preservation post created to provide support, training, and advocacy for long-term data	• To assist researchers with research proposals, a digital support 'one-stop-shop' will be produced that signposts services available in these areas	

			preservation		
13	Infrastructure	Does your institution provide access to an infrastructure storage and publication of research data? If it does not, does your institution inform its researchers of available infrastructures that follow the FAIR principles?	• Academic staff can access to 5TB of cloud-based storage via Microsoft OneDrive • New and enhanced Research Data Storage platform has been deployed to support the secure storage of large datasets for the duration of research projects • A subscription to Preservica was purchased so that Special Collections and Archives digital assets and the University's e-theses can be preserved	• Project group for the procurement of a new institutional data and e-thesis repository was convened	
14	Data	Does your institution gather information about the data archived and published by its research community?	• Regular reports on data held in Pure are provided to the Open Research Group • Information is not gathered about data that is deposited externally by researchers	• OR team are monitoring whether Data Access Statements are being included in UKRI funded research papers	
15.	Metadata	Does your institution publish all metadata about research data generated or obtained within its research community?	• Pure is used as the University's data catalogue • An extra OR Assistant post was introduced to assist with metadata enrichment and validation • Metadata records in Pure are not routinely created for data that is deposited externally by researchers	• OR team will encourage academic staff to create metadata records in Pure that describe and link to externally deposited datasets	
16.	Assessment	Does your institution include research data as a valuable output in research	• OR team's outreach and training stresses the importance of data deposit in a data repository to		

		assessments?	increase citations, improve visibility, fulfil funder mandates, decrease research reproduction and increase collaboration		

The European Open Science Cloud					
17.	Infrastructure development	Has your university established a data repository, or does it have access to a 3rd party repository/repositories which can interact with the EOSC?	• Pure is used as the University's data repository	• D&IS is collaborating with Coventry University to develop open-source Pure-Preservica connector	🟩
18.	Infrastructure development	Does your university have a search and discovery service, enabling users to find what research data is available, and where it is located?	• Research Portal is the University's search and discovery service		🟩
19.	Policy development	Has your university signed the EOSC Declaration as a statement of commitment at a local level?	• University did not sign the EOSC Declaration • Can join EOSC Association but Jisc is already an Observer Member		🟥
20.	Co-operation and collaboration	Will your university develop their research data management offering so that it is aligned with the principles of engagement with the EOSC, once the latter are agreed and available?	• EOSC is still under development and Jisc will advise UK HE community when to begin engaging directly with EOSC	• OR Group will keep engagement with EOSC under review	🟧

Education and skills					
21.	Training	Does your institution offer skills training specifically in OR (in all or certain of the eight areas, or other OR aspects)?	• OR team offers courses (through Staff Learning and Development Programme, Postdoctoral Development Centre and Graduate School) aimed at academic staff and research postgraduates. OR team also offers ad hoc training sessions to schools and research groups	• Joint RDM training involving staff from the Information Compliance Unit, Open Research Team and Governance, Ethics and Integrity will be piloted	
22.	Audience	Is any OR skills training mandatory, and for which categories of staff/researchers/students?	• OR training is not mandatory although an online course on the REF OA Policy was created in Queen's Online		
23.	Assessment	Does your institution monitor or assess the provision, uptake and impact of OR skills training?	• OR team provides training attendance figures for the Open Research Group, Library Services Annual Report and the SCONUL annual statistical return		
Recognition and rewards					
24.	HR policy	Does your institution integrate OR in its HR and career frameworks as an explicit element in recruitment, performance evaluation and career advancement policies?	• Queen's is a signatory to the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA) and has associated institutional recommendations in place	• Work is being undertaken on embedding conversations around OR into PDR process for researchers. Inclusion of OR in academic profiles should also be considered • R&E are preparing a Responsible Research Assessment Policy for consideration at the next meeting of R&I Committee. This will embed the University's	

				commitments under DORA, and dovetail with related policies such as the DOI Policy	
25.	Assessment	Does your institution assess the extent to which individuals, teams or units integrate OR in their daily practice? And does it recognize and/or rewards them for this?	• OR team produced monthly REF OA Policy compliance reports for the REF Champions. These are now available on request • OA KPI has been set as part of the Research and Innovation Strategy 2030 and is shared with the Research and Innovation (R&I) Committee three times a year		
26.	Communication	Does your institution make information about its policies on researcher evaluation open and easily accessible?	• All details on academic progression are available on the University website. Academic 'profiles' for different grades and contract types are made available internally via Queen's Online • REF process not used to assess individuals		
Next generation metrics					
27.	Policy development	Will your university develop a bibliometrics policy grounded in the principles outlined in this paper, with the aim of changing the culture in the academic community about research assessment?	• Queen's is a signatory to the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA) and has associated institutional recommendations in place • A new institutional Publication Quality and Dissemination Action Plan (PQDAP) has been developed to support efforts enhance the overall academic	• R&E are preparing a Responsible Research Assessment Policy for consideration at the next meeting of R&I Committee. This will embed the University's commitments under DORA, and dovetail with related policies such as the DOI Policy	

			reputation and impact of the University through research publishing, to improve awareness and understanding of publication-level and journal-level data amongst the academic community, and to ensure that these metrics are used in a responsible and supportive manner, in line with our commitments under e.g. DORA • Paper on responsible research assessment presented to R&I Committee May 2023, with broad agreement to explore developing an institutional policy statement. This would encompass RRA and the responsible use of metrics. RS&E developing a draft policy for consultation, and approval by R&I Committee later in the academic year. R&I Committee agreed that UKRN membership should be pursued, but indicated that CoARA signatory status should be considered after the institutional policy is developed		
28.	HR		Will your university embed the new forms of research evaluation in its internal processes for promotion/reward and research evaluation?	• Queen's invited to join UKRN's OR4 project as one of 14 'case study' institutions. Queen's will be part of a community of practice through this project which aims to support the institutional	• UKRN project engagement to begin in Autumn 2023, involving R&E and OR team • Review of academic profiles and progression processes underway, led by PVCR&E and

			implementation of responsible researcher assessment policies and procedures that recognise and reward OR. Full engagement with case study institutions begins Autumn 2023 • An internal R&E project has been delivered to manage the adoption of narrative CVs at Queen's as part of our broader commitment to responsible research assessment. R&E staff have joined the UKRI Alternative Uses Group to take part in a sector-wide discussion on this, and it is intended we will have clear proposals for broader adoption of the narrative CV in place for the start of the next academic year • Institutional review of academic profiles currently underway and R&E colleagues feeding back to People and Culture, which includes embedding references to open and responsible research, and working to tailor the structure of profiles to the Narrative CV	PVC Education. • Narrative CV training actively being delivered, and will be used as broad template for review of academic profiles	
29.	Best practice guidance	Will your university, via appropriate internal bodies, construct guidance for research administrators and academics on good and bad practice in the use of	• Paper on responsible research assessment presented to R&I Committee May 2023, with broad agreement to explore developing an institutional policy statement. This would encompass RRA and	• R&E are preparing a Responsible Research Assessment Policy for consideration at the next meeting of R&I Committee. This will embed the University's	

		traditional bibliometrics and in the development of new metrics, working with the scientific community in this endeavour?	the responsible use of metrics. RS&E developing a draft policy for consultation, and approval by R&I Committee later in the academic year. R&I Committee agreed that UKRN membership should be pursued, but indicated that CoARA signatory status should be considered after the institutional policy is developed	commitments under DORA, and dovetail with related policies such as the DOI Policy. • As part of the new R&E Intranet site, a new online resource has launched entitled 'Publishing Your Research'. This includes information and guidance on the responsible use of metrics, ensuring that academics, researchers and professional support staff are fully aware of the range of metrics used in research publishing, and the tools and approaches that can be used to responsibly utilise them	🟩
30.	Training for early career researchers	Will your university give particular focus to early career researchers, particularly those embarking on a course of doctoral study, providing training to enable them to embrace the change of culture and practice which the responsible use of metrics brings?	• OR team deliver training sessions aimed at research postgraduates and postdocs. Information about OA, ORCID and RDM also included on the Postdoctoral Development Centre website	• As part of PQDAP, R&E have partnered with Elsevier on various projects to improve awareness, understanding and responsible use of a range of metrics. This includes in-person training for all interested staff to take place in November 2023. Staff are also routinely invited to join Elsevier's 'SciVal' accreditation course, an option which a number of colleagues have taken up	🟧
			Research integrity		
31.	Communication	Does your institution promote awareness amongst the research	• OR team outreach and advocacy includes the promotion of the benefits of openness		🟧

		community of how OR can ensure the highest standards of research?	• Through various training and induction programmes OR is promoted to staff and PGR students		
32.	Policy	Does your university have a research integrity code which embraces the principles of OR? If not, does your institution abide by the European Code for Research Integrity (ALLEA Code) and the Open Science provisions it contains?	• The University has a [Code of Conduct and Integrity in Research](#), section 4 of the Code promotes openness and transparency		
		Citizen science			
33.	Policy	Does your university recognise citizen science as an evolving set of research methods, as well as its societal and educational benefits?	• Yes, see commitments to [Engaged Research activities and Engaged Research Action Plan](#). Also, one of the four priorities within [Strategy 2030](#) is Social and Civic Responsibility, and Economic Prosperity		
34.	Communication	Is there a single point for citizen science within your institution?	• Yes, Impact and Engagement team within R&E. Additionally, several engagement hubs existing and further planned including around patient and public involvement (PPI), heritage and sustainable development		
35.	Communication	Does your university raise awareness amongst researchers of criteria for	• Yes, see commitments to [Engaged Research activities and Engaged Research Action Plan](#)		

		successful citizen science?			
36.	Assessment	Are citizen science contributions assessed and research evaluation and reputation systems adapted accordingly?		• Work is being undertaken on embedding conversations around OR into PDR process for researchers	
37.	Policy	Do proposals for granting bodies for citizen science projects include long-term commitment for infrastructures and data repositories?			