

RESEARCH COMMISSION OF 4 FEBRUARY 2021

Policy for promoting actions for open science in the internal evaluation of research at Sorbonne University

On 28 March 2019, Sorbonne University and its research staff set up a charter known as the “Sorbonne University Charter for Open Access to Publications”, following unanimous approval from the Research Commission of its Academic Council. This charter specifies the reciprocal investments of the university and its staff in scientific publication.

However, this progress does not go far enough, as it is now necessary to develop the criteria and methods of internal evaluation of research results at Sorbonne University in line with the university’s strong commitment to open science and open access to publications, and to move towards a fairer and more relevant evaluation in the interests of both the university and its staff.

Evaluation should be based on the analysis of scientific content rather than bibliometric indicators or the reputation of journals or publishers. Thus, all research output (publications but also datasets, software, and patents, among others) must be valued in the evaluation and the commitment to open science must be recognised.

It is by taking the additional step of an evaluation policy along these lines that it will really be possible to encourage all research staff and doctoral students at Sorbonne University to publish in open access, in the spirit of the “Sorbonne University Charter for Open Access to Publications”.

This would also allow Sorbonne University to respond to a broader and increasingly shared aspiration, as recently shown by an electronic consultation on open science conducted by UNESCO¹ between February and July 2020, in the form of an online survey. The need to harmonise incentives for open science, in particular by modifying current scientific evaluation and reward systems, has been cited as one of the main priorities in Western Europe and North America.

As a reminder, internal evaluation is particularly relevant to:

- the recruitment of faculty members;
- applications for grants;
- applications for promotion;
- responses to an internal call for proposals;
- research leave.

Consequently, Sorbonne University affirms its desire that internal evaluation should take into account as a matter of priority:

- the content and intrinsic quality of research work;
- open access publication;
- the opening of research data;
- the dissemination of knowledge;
- other actions in favour of the opening of science.

In this perspective, Sorbonne University undertakes:

- to enhance the content and intrinsic quality of the open scientific output of research staff and doctoral students at Sorbonne University in accordance with the principles set out in the “Sorbonne University Charter for Open Access to Publications”;
- to promote all other research results (datasets, software, patents, actions in favour of open and participatory science, etc.), beyond scientific publications alone, by considering a wide range of criteria to assess their quality and scope;
- not to use solely journal-based indicators, such as the impact factor, as a substitute for assessing the quality of individual publications when making local decisions on recruitment, applications for grants, promotion or selection following an internal call for proposals;

¹ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

² <https://hal.sorbonne-universite.fr/page/charte-de-sorbonne-universite>

- to notify, prior to any internal evaluation of research projects and work, the criteria used, stressing the importance and intrinsic value of scientific content in relation to the usual publication indicators or the reputation of journals;
- to implement these principles in university faculties by adapting their application to each of the disciplines and research communities they bring together;
- to direct each research unit to appoint a referent in charge of informing staff about the challenges of open science and to encourage them to deposit their publications in full text in Sorbonne University's HAL portal³.

The appropriate councils of the university and its faculties are responsible for ensuring that these principles are applied.

Sorbonne University calls on research staff and doctoral students to:

- respect the commitments of the "Sorbonne University Charter for Open Access to Publications";
- recognise the value of actions in favour of open science, the dissemination of scientific, technical and industrial culture and participatory science, when evaluating research activities internally;
- produce, when they are evaluators, analyses based more on scientific content than on publication indicators alone, and to apply the principles described in this document.

³ <https://hal.sorbonne-universite.fr>