Call for participants in the Open Research Pilot Project

Open Research Pilot Project - call for participants - applications close on Sunday 11 December

Are you in favour of more transparency in research? Are you concerned about research reproducibility? Would you like to get better recognition and credit for all outputs of your research process? Would you like to open up your research and make it more available to others?

If you responded 'yes' to any of these questions, we would like to invite you to participate in the Open Research Pilot Project, organised jointly by the Open Research team at the Wellcome Trust and the Office of Scholarly Communication at the University of Cambridge.

What is the Open Research Pilot Project?

The Open Research Pilot Project is a two year long project which will look at gaining an understanding of what is needed for researchers to share and get credit for all outputs of the research process. These include non-positive results, protocols, source code, presentations and other research outputs beyond the remit of traditional publications. The Project aims to understand the barriers preventing researchers from sharing (including resource and time implications), as well as what incentivises the process. It will utilise the new Wellcome Open Research publishing platform, together with other channels, to share these outputs.

Who can apply?
Any Cambridge research group that is funded by the Wellcome Trust and is willing to commit it's time to experiencing what it is like to carry out Open Research, for the duration of the two year long trial. Applications have to be made by (or on behalf of) a Wellcome Trust grant holder.

**What are the obligations?**

Pilot research groups will agree to:

- Commit to sharing of research outputs other than traditional publications, for example, research data, source code, protocols, non-positive results
- Nominate a contact person responsible for the Group’s participation in the Project. The nominated person will:
  - Meet with Cambridge’s research data team once a month to discuss the generated research outputs
  - Meet once every 6 months with the Wellcome Trust representatives to discuss the progress of the Project
- Engage with the Project by:
  - Contributing to writing blog posts every 6 months
  - Contributing to writing peer review papers about the Project
  - Share feedback about the Pilot Project in order to influence and improve current systems and Open Research practice

**What kind of non-publication research outputs could be shared?**

Examples of some (and this list is by no means exhaustive!) outputs which could be suitable for sharing:

- Datasets, including non-positive results
- Source code
- Protocols
- Reports, including reports of non-positive findings
- Presentations
- Posters
- Data management plans
- Articles describing any of the above

**Will I have to share all my research outputs?**

No. All that we require from you is a commitment to sharing and your willingness to share. But, if for any reason, you are unable to share certain research outputs, that’s fine.

**What are the benefits of being involved?**
This is a pilot project, so we will all learn what the benefits of doing Open Research are. However, we think that pilot research groups will likely benefit from:

- Better visibility of their research outputs and recognition in the field for doing transparent research
- Promotion through the Wellcome Trust, the University of Cambridge, as well as through national and international channels, such as conferences and publications in peer-reviewed journals
- Dedicated support for developing effective research management systems
- Opportunity to drive development and influence Open Research policies

**If my group participates, will I get any support for this Project?**

Yes, the Research Data Team from the Office of Scholarly Communication will meet with you on a monthly basis to help you identify research outputs suitable for sharing and decide on best ways of sharing these outputs. Additionally, the Open Research team at the Wellcome Trust will help answer any questions you have regarding publication of your research outputs. Outputs published on the Wellcome Open Research platform will be directly funded by the Wellcome.

**How to apply?**

Simply fill in the form here by Sunday 11 December.

**What is the selection procedure?**

We will be ideally looking for two to three research groups working on different types of research (and thus experiencing different kinds of challenges with sharing their research) and this will be the basis for the selection procedure. The different types of research might be for example:

- Basic biology research not involving big data
- Research generating substantial quantities of sequencing data
- Research focusing on microscopy data
- Collaborative research projects
- Note that for this Pilot Project preference will be given to projects which do not generate confidential information, such as personal/sensitive research data or commercially-sensitive information.

Applications will be also evaluated looking at the commitment to sharing. The selection will be done jointly by the Office of Scholarly Communication and the Open Research team at the Wellcome Trust.

**When will you notify the successful applicants?**

Successful applicants will be notified towards the end of December 2016.

**What is the timeline for this Project?**

The Pilot Project will last for two years:
November 2016 – call opens

11 December - call closes

December 2016 – selection of participating research groups

January 2017 – December 2018 – Pilot Project duration:

- Every month: Cambridge Research Data Team will meet with research groups to discuss research progress, possible shareable outputs and support required

- Every six months: meeting between research groups, the Cambridge Research Data Team and the Wellcome Trust for a mini-project evaluation and assessment of any additional resources required

January 2019 – Project evaluation

Questions?

If you have any questions about the Pilot Project, please e-mail us and we will be delighted to help.

Apply now

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Beginners' guide to version control with Git and GitHub

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