

# Open Research and the Research Cultures Action Plan at the University of Edinburgh

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Edinburgh Open Research  
Conference, 4th June 2025



Edinburgh Open Research

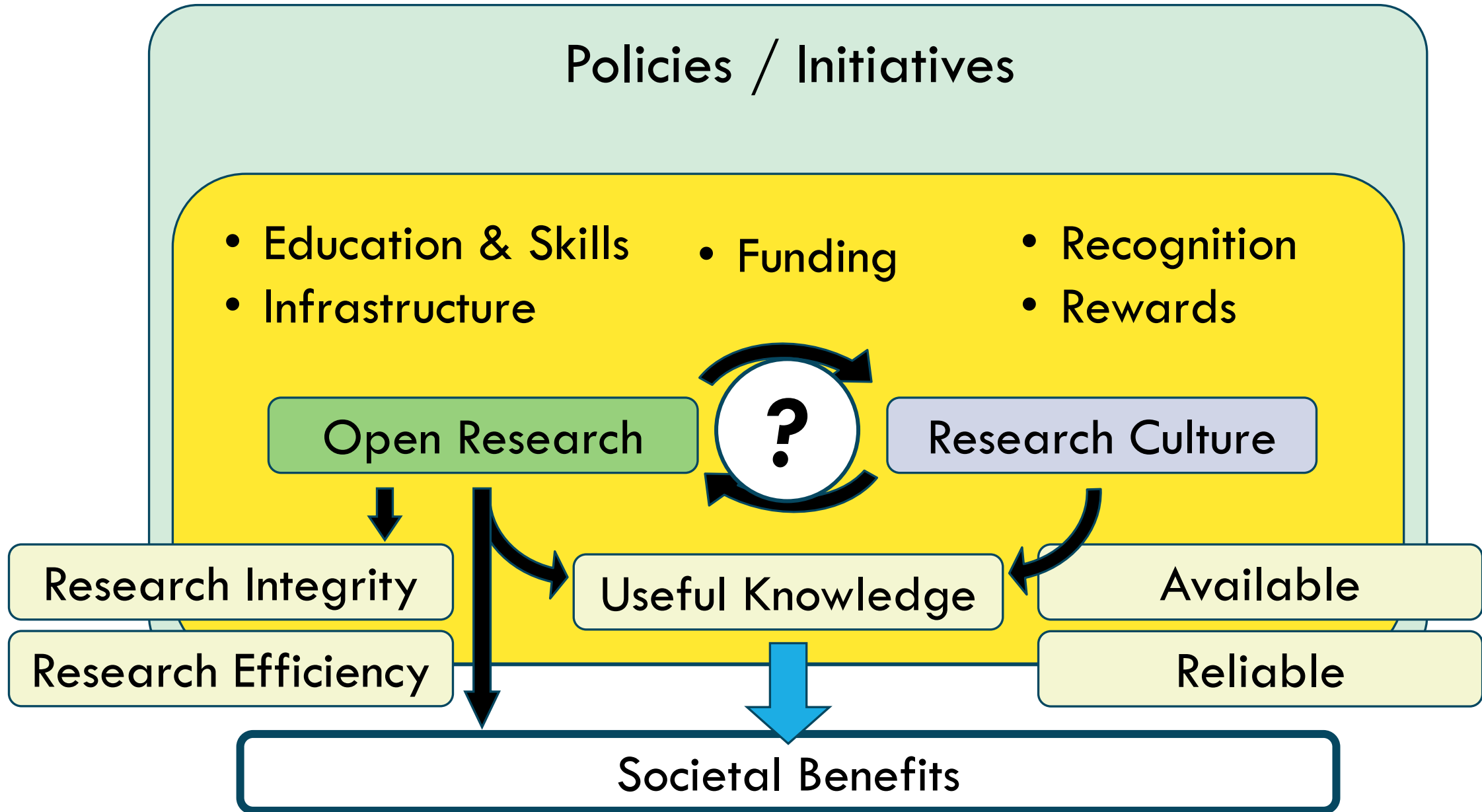


# Overview

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1. Why is Open Research important? What is it for?
2. What is being done to support it? *Policies, communities, infrastructure, and practices:*
  - Locally at the University of Edinburgh
  - Across the UK
  - Internationally
3. The UK Reproducibility Network
4. Future directions and challenges, *and how to meet them...*
5. The University of Edinburgh Research Cultures Action Plan
- 6. What else can we do??**

# 1. Why is Open Research Important? What is it for?



## 2. Support for Open Research: (a) University of Edinburgh



**Edinburgh Open Research**

<https://openresearch.ed.ac.uk>

**Good Research is Open Research**

Home > Library > Research Support > Open Research Services

### Open Research Services

Find out more about the services and resources provided by the Library Open Research team and Open Research practices. Explore key services with respect to data management, open-access publication, and participatory research, along with useful tools to support Open Research in practice.

<https://library.ed.ac.uk/research-support/open-research>



**Edinburgh Open  
Research Conference**  
**4<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

*Held annually since 2022*

# 2a. University of Edinburgh: Open Research Roadmap



## Roadmap for Open Science – University of Edinburgh Self-Assessment January 2024

The following table contains a self-assessment on the University of Edinburgh's readiness for Open Research, based on the criteria set out in the LERU Open Science Roadmap. This self-assessment has been carried out by staff in the Library Research Support (LRS) Team. This is a working document, and we would welcome the views on the accuracy of the self-assessment and the recommendations made.

### Contents

Cultural change .....
The future of scholarly publishing .....
FAIR data.....
The European Open Science Cloud.....
Education and skills .....
Recognition and rewards.....
Next-generation metrics.....
Research integrity.....
Citizen science .....

	Topic	Question	Assessment of progress	Proposed next steps	RAG Status
	<b>Cultural change</b>				
1	Leadership	Has your university appointed a senior manager to lead Open Science approaches across all eight pillars of the Open Science debate identified by the European Commission?	<p>There is not, currently, a senior academic within the University who has responsibility to lead across all 8 pillars for all colleges.</p> <p>A new Head of Research Cultures has recently been appointed they will have responsibility for delivery of the Research Cultures Action Plan and Delivery Plan (<a href="https://support-for-researchers.ed.ac.uk/research-cultures">https://support-for-researchers.ed.ac.uk/research-cultures</a>).</p> <p>Dr. William Cawthorn (Lecturer, Centre for Cardiovascular Science, CMVM) has the role of LERU Open Science Ambassador (OSA) while Dominic Tate (Head of Library Research Support) leads on Open Research for the Library.</p> <p>A number of other senior researchers have taken very active roles</p>	<p>Schools and Colleges should consider engaging Open Research Champions at a local level.</p> <p>The Open Research Co-Ordinator will also identify any other researcher-led Open Research work going on within the University. Once identified the Library will offer support to these groups as well as encouraging them to work with EORI and other existing groups so that they can learn from and support each other.</p> <p>Edinburgh Research Office is involved in</p>	



[https://www.ed.ac.uk/sites/default/files/atoms/files/edinburgh\\_open\\_research\\_roadmap\\_2024\\_march\\_published.pdf](https://www.ed.ac.uk/sites/default/files/atoms/files/edinburgh_open_research_roadmap_2024_march_published.pdf)

**Relevant to Research Cultures Action Plan**  
*(e.g. training, reward/recognition, metrics)*

## 2a. University of Edinburgh: Infrastructure, groups & incentives



**University of  
Edinburgh Good  
Research Practice  
Week**  
*3-6 Feb 2025*



<https://edopenresearch.wordpress.com>

## 2. Support for Open Research: (b) National level

### Policies for Open Access, Open Data, & responsible research assessment



### Broader-level groups/communities/resources





## 2. Support for Open Research: (c) International

### - Policies for Open Access & Open Data



European Research Council  
Established by the European Commission



National Institutes of Health  
*Turning Discovery Into Health*

*...and many publishers*

### - Broader-level groups, communities, infrastructure & resources



Coalition for  
Advancing Research  
Assessment



The League of European  
Research Universities



<https://www.go-fair.org>



Supporting OS in Europe



European Open  
Science Cloud (EOSC)



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific  
and Cultural Organization

Recommendation on  
Open Science



# 3. UK Reproducibility Network (UKRN)



## Open Research Programme

**Organised into four projects:**

- 1. Training**
- 2. Evaluation**
- 3. Sharing & Integrating**
- 4. Open & Responsible Reward/Recognition**

<https://www.ukrn.org/open-research-programme/>

### 3. UK Reproducibility Network (UKRN)



## Open Research Programme

**1. Training:** *Enable UK institutions to improve skills in open research practices*

A) Identify  
scope of  
training topics



B) Train the  
Trainers (TTT)



C) Deliver  
training

# 3. UK Reproducibility Network (UKRN)



## Open Research Programme

### 3. Sharing & Integrating: *improve how institutions share & integrate practice*

Improve how institutions share and integrate practice in support of open research, **making good institutional practice the norm.**



## 4a. Challenges

- **Misunderstanding about OR:** What is it & why should I care?
  - *Perception that OR practices are more time consuming – difficult to fit into already busy workloads.*
- **Confusing landscape:** diverse (often overlapping) policies, infrastructure, recommendations, tools; concepts frequently evolving.
  - *Address through improved training & awareness*
  - *Consolidation/Coordination of existing policies/initiatives?*
- **Changing priorities:** e.g. European Commission has increasing focus on Research Security – potential conflict with Open Research?

## 4b. Future priorities: overcoming these challenges

### A) Incentives & Assessment

- **Reward/Recognition:** how do we usefully measure and reward OR to promote improved research practice? *Need to avoid misuse of metrics.*
- **Metrics for OR** can help to promote responsible research evaluation & incentivise open science practices.  
→ *Measuring different things; Measuring things differently*

### B) Skills & Knowledge

- **Education and outreach** to improve awareness & knowledge.
- **Training** to improve skills → e.g. *FAIR data/code; open software, hardware & infrastructure; new methods of assessment*).



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**How are we addressing these  
challenges at UoE?**

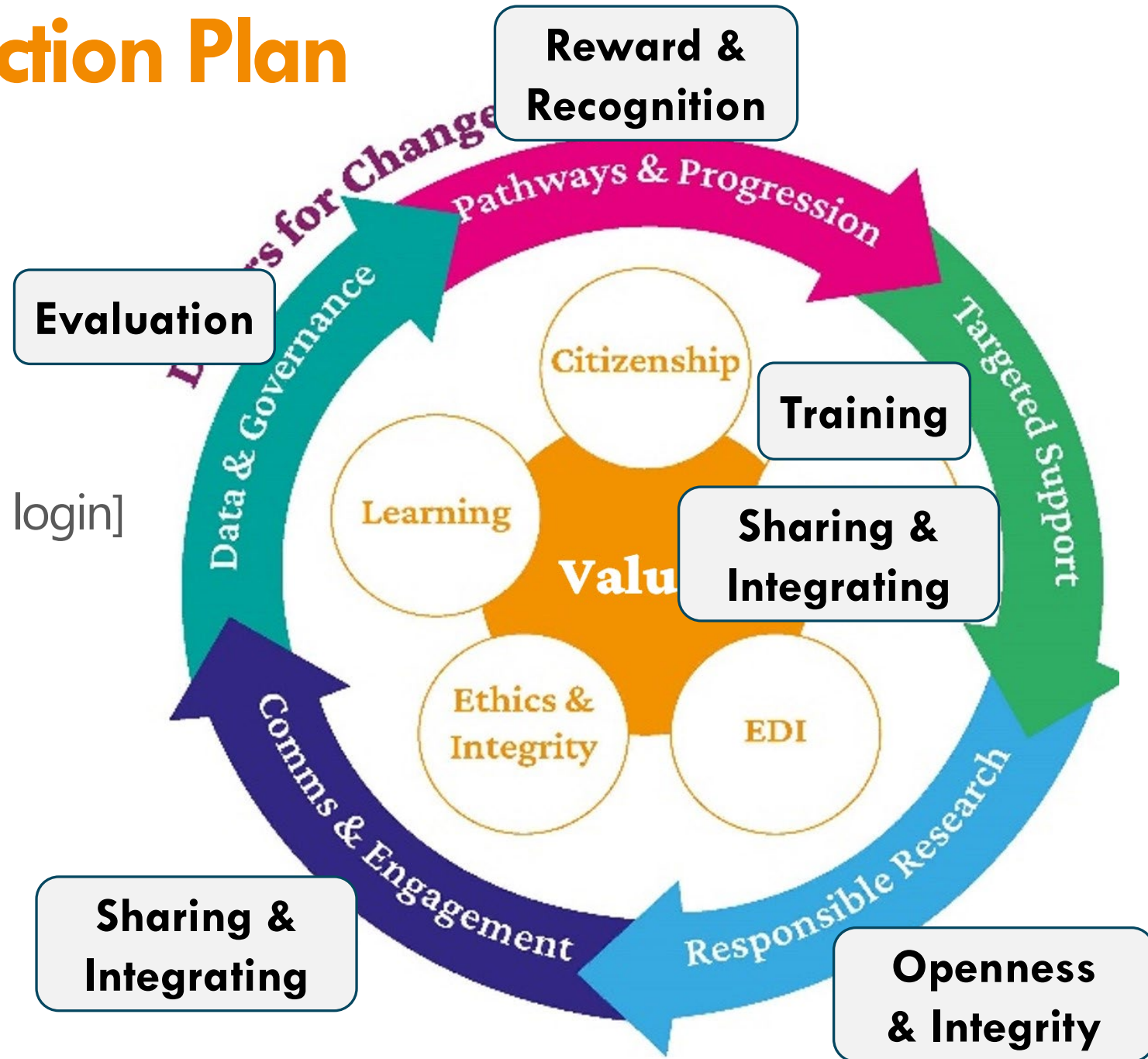
# Research Cultures Action Plan

In 2023 we published our first [Research Cultures Action Plan](#)

[UoE Research Cultures website](#)

[Research Cultures SharePoint](#) [UoE login]

- Progress tracker is available [here](#), updated quarterly





# Actions to support Open Research

- Continue to run our Open Research Conference
  - 2022, 2023, 2024 and now 2025!



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  - 2022, 2023, 2024 and now 2025!
- Undertake a full review of our Academic Promotions Process
  - Review and update all grade descriptors and exemplars
    - Once approved these new descriptors will also be used for recruitment
  - Add a new essential criterion of “Citizenship & Collegiality”



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  - Add a new essential criterion of “Citizenship & Collegiality”
- We’ve published our [CoARA Action Plan](#) where we’ve committed to
  - Include responsible research assessment guidance in recruitment and promotion panel member, and REF reviewer training
  - Support reviewers to assess and include non-traditional outputs
  - Investigate feasibility of Narrative CVs in recruitment



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# What else could we do?