

# UU Humanities Diamond Open Access fund

## Introduction to the Humanities Diamond Open Access Fund

The Humanities Diamond Open Access fund was established in 2025 by Utrecht University's Faculty of Humanities in collaboration with the Utrecht University Library. By setting aside part of the existing library budget to establish this fund, the Faculty of Humanities encourages Diamond Open Access and supports the shift from subscription content to open and equitable scholarly communication. The annual amount budgeted is € 70,000 and is divided by the Utrecht University Library in three support routes:

**Route 1: article-based donations.** The library donates to specific Diamond Open Access journals or platforms based on the number of publications by Humanities researchers. No application by journals or researchers is required.

**Route 2: journal subsidies.** Diamond journals can apply for structural support from the fund (three years, max. €5000 a year, renewable). To apply, read descriptions and criteria below.

**Route 3: Diamond book support.** The library donates to specific Diamond book publishers that have published monographs or edited volumes by Humanities researchers. Authors are encouraged to contact the library ([diamond.support@uu.nl](mailto:diamond.support@uu.nl)) if they want to publish a book in Diamond Open Access and/or put a particular publisher on our radar.

The fund is managed by the Open Access librarians of the library's Publishing Support department. For more information contact [diamond.support@uu.nl](mailto:diamond.support@uu.nl).

## Route 2: Diamond OA journal subsidies

Diamond OA journals in the Humanities often struggle with funding and have difficulty in professionalising and offering better services to their communities. The Faculty of Humanities is committed to supporting these journals and to contribute to a more stable and diverse publishing ecosystem. The funding can be used for a wide range of purposes including editorial support, proofreading, typesetting, translation, and hosting costs.

## Definitions

**Diamond OA journals:** journals that are community-owned and non-profit, do not charge mandatory fees (APCs or other) to either its readers or its authors, are peer-reviewed, and apply an open license (e.g., CC BY) to their articles.

**Community-owned:** a journal is community-owned when it belongs to a research group, university department, or scholarly society rather than a for-profit company. This means the community owns the title of the journal, sets editorial policies, controls peer review standards, and makes decisions about access, licensing, and ethics.

## Eligibility criteria

The following basic eligibility criteria apply:

- 1) The journal is **Diamond OA** (see Definitions above) OR will transition to Diamond OA during the funding period (\*)
- 2) The **main applicant** is an individual who has the **right to communicate on behalf of the journal** (usually an editor). From 2026, journals do not need to have anyone affiliated with UU Humanities on the editorial board to qualify for funding. However, for external applications, we require a statement of support from a staff member affiliated with the UU Faculty of Humanities.
- 3) The journal has a **proven publication history** at the time of submission (or can demonstrate long-term viability in other ways).
- 4) The journal has its **own bank account** to receive funding. The Utrecht University Library cannot transfer funding to individuals.

Eligible journals can apply for a **maximum of €5000 a year, for 3 years** (€ 15,000 in total).

If the journal performs well and still meets the conditions after 3 years, it is possible to extend the funding for another 3 years (upon application).

(\*) Diamond OA journals that are published by for-profit publishers (such as Brill or John Benjamins) or hosted on for-profit publishing platforms (such as Ubiquity) are not excluded from applying. These journals will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, considering, for example, whether the provider's fees are reasonable in comparison with non-profit alternatives. Depending on this evaluation, the journal may be asked to use the funding period to transition to a not-for-profit publishing model to qualify for renewal after three years.

## Assessment

Award or rejection will be decided based on the criteria below:

1. The journal meets the Eligibility Criteria (see above)
2. The journal is relevant for the UU Faculty of Humanities

3. The journal is compatible (or is working towards compatibility) with a Diamond Open Access publishing model (see Definitions above)
4. The journal has a strong project plan and budget proposal.

## Procedure

Applications can be submitted to the Library Publishing Support Team at [diamond.support@uu.nl](mailto:diamond.support@uu.nl).

There are two application rounds per year. Please refer to this UU page for call announcements and deadlines.

- When submitting an application, please use the **Application template** provided with the call.
- If you are a non-UU applicant, please include the statement of support by a researcher affiliated with the UU Faculty of Humanities. Please use the **Statement of support template** provided with the call.