

# Information & FAQs for the preparation of a no-deal situation with Springer Nature in 2026

Version 1.0, 18 December 2025

*This document will be updated when necessary and re-published with a new version number and date.*

## Background on big deal negotiations

Negotiations with publishers are part of the [Swiss National Open Access Strategy](#). The negotiation aims and governance for the negotiations are defined by the [Delegation Open Science](#) (DeLOS) and approved by the members of swissuniversities. The results and lessons learnt from the negotiations are regularly discussed among the stakeholders involved.

On behalf of swissuniversities, the [Consortium of Swiss Academic Libraries](#) (CSAL) negotiates licences for access to digital publications. Almost all Swiss higher education institutions are covered by the consortium licences for the major academic publishing houses. For the consortial licences with Elsevier, Springer Nature, and Wiley, so called 'big deals' are negotiated. By signing the mandate, the mandating institutions commit themselves not to conduct parallel negotiations or prolong bilateral agreements between institutions and publishers for Open Access publications. Mandating institutions also accept a "no deal" state if the negotiations prove unsuccessful or require more time to produce the required results.

The negotiations with Springer Nature for their journal portfolios, covering both hybrid and Gold OA journals, started in early 2025 and have not yet resulted in a mutually acceptable agreement. As the current agreement ends on 31 December 2025, preparations were put in place for a scenario without agreement as of 2026. Meanwhile, the negotiation team continues its effort to find a solution with Springer Nature.

## Situation Overview and FAQ

For the mandating institutions and their researchers, a no-deal scenario will affect both **reading access and publishing in the Springer Nature journal portfolios**. The overview below shows the impact on reading and publishing for each of the portfolios.

Portfolio	Reading
<b>Springer Hybrid Journals</b>	<p>If the publisher grants a grace period, reading access may not be disabled immediately.</p> <p>Once Springer Nature disables access, journal content published from 1 January 2026 onwards will not be accessible, except if available Open Access.</p>

Portfolio	Reading
	<p>Perpetual access will be provided to content published during 2017-2025. Perpetual access to older content may be available but can vary by institution.</p> <p>In addition, the <a href="#">Swiss National Licence</a> provides access to Springer Journals archive titles from 1832 to 2020.</p> <p>See factsheet "<a href="#">How to get the Article</a>" to retrieve articles through alternative channels.</p>
<b>Nature Research Portfolio</b> (Nature, Nature Research journals and single title subscriptions such as Nature Reviews)	<p>If the publisher grants a grace period, reading access may not be disabled immediately.</p> <p>Once Springer Nature disables access, journal content published from 1 January 2026 onwards will not be accessible, except if available Open Access.</p> <p>Perpetual access will be provided to content published from 2002-2025; the exact coverage depends on the years in which each institution participated in the consortium licence and on its own subscription history.</p> <p>See factsheet "<a href="#">How to get the Article</a>" to retrieve articles through alternative channels.</p>

Portfolio	Publishing
<b>Springer and Nature Hybrid Journals</b>	<p>Researchers can still publish in hybrid journals without charges, but articles will not be made Open Access by the publisher.</p> <p>To make a publication Open Access use the Green OA route:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ For Springer hybrid journals (incl. Palgrave Macmillan): Authors may self-archive the accepted manuscript (peer-reviewed, but prior to copy-editing and typesetting) version (AM) after an embargo period of 12 months. Authors may also share the AM version on their personally maintained website immediately upon acceptance, with no embargo.*</li> <li>➤ For Nature Research hybrid journals: Authors may self-archive the accepted manuscript (peer-reviewed, but prior to copy-editing and typesetting) version (AM) after an embargo period of 6 months.</li> </ul> <p>Please review the options and restrictions (e.g., embargo periods) on the publisher's <a href="#">website</a>.</p>

Portfolio	Publishing
	<p><i>*Springer Nature authors publishing across all imprints are also able to immediately share their research articles peer-to-peer via the <a href="#">SharedIt initiative</a>. SharedIt allows authors and subscribers to provide read-only access for non-subscribers through shareable links.</i></p> <p>Researchers and institutions are strongly discouraged from paying Article Processing Charges (APC) from decentral or central funds to publish Open Access in hybrid journals. So-called “costs in the wild” weaken the Swiss negotiation power significantly.</p> <p>Researchers are encouraged to consider publishing their articles in journals with an existing agreement. Please ask your library for advice.</p>
<b>Springer Nature Gold OA Journals</b>	<p>No change to agreement period 2023-2025 as publishing in fully OA (Gold) journals was not included in the agreement (except for researchers from institutions with previous BMC/Springer Open membership programs).</p> <p>Institutions are strongly discouraged from paying Article Processing Charges (APC) from decentral or central funds to publish Open Access in fully OA journals. So-called “costs in the wild” weaken the Swiss negotiation power significantly.</p> <p>Researchers are encouraged to consider publishing their articles in journals with an existing agreement. Please ask your library for advice.</p>

## Frequently Asked Questions – FAQ

### 1. Will a no-deal situation jeopardise Swiss research and education?

*Experience in Switzerland and internationally shows that a no-deal situation restricts access to literature but **does not significantly impede research and teaching**. Research articles can be obtained legally through alternative channels (see factsheet “[How to get the Article](#)”).*

### 2. How long does a no-deal situation last?

*A no-deal situation will last as long as there is no acceptable agreement with Springer Nature. The negotiation team will continue the negotiations with Springer Nature to find a mutually acceptable solution.*

3. Can institutions or researchers continue to pay APCs for individual articles?

*Researchers and institutions are strongly discouraged from paying Article Processing Charges (APC) from decentral or central funds to publish Open Access in hybrid and fully OA journals. Researchers are encouraged to consider publishing their articles in journals with an existing agreement. Please ask your library for advice.*

4. Will the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) pay Open Access fees for Gold Open Access journals of Springer Nature?

*In accordance with the above recommendations, the SNSF will stop paying APC for Gold OA journals of Springer Nature. The SNSF recommends avoiding publishing in Springer Nature journals and considering alternatives.*

5. If an agreement can be found later in 2025, will articles in hybrid journals be made Open Access retrospectively?

*This will be part of the negotiations.*

6. If there is a no-deal, “costs in the wild” are likely to increase. How will this impact the negotiations?

*With the above recommendations, “costs in the wild” should not increase significantly. This is important for the Swiss negotiation power.*

7. Can my institution subscribe to individual journal titles?

*No. By signing the mandate, institutions committed to not conduct parallel negotiations between themselves and Springer Nature, to not conclude new contracts or extend existing contracts for overall or partial services (e.g. Gold OA) with Springer Nature, and to accept and actively prepare for a “no deal” state if the negotiations with this publisher prove unsuccessful or require more time to produce the required results.*

8. How can authors comply with the Open Access requirement of the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) and other funders? Are they temporarily suspended?

*If publishing in hybrid journals, authors can still comply with the SNSF's OA requirements by applying the “Rights Retention Strategy” and depositing their final manuscripts in a repository (Green OA). In any case, the SNSF monitors compliance to its OA regulations sensibly and will account for a contractless scenario accordingly.*