

swissuniversities

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No-deal situation with Springer Nature: recommendations to the higher education institutions

Based on the [Open Access Strategy](#), swissuniversities is conducting [negotiations](#) with the major academic publishers on behalf of and in the name of the Swiss higher education institutions. The negotiations with [Springer Nature](#), which have been ongoing since 2025, could not be successfully concluded by the end of December 2025, as Springer Nature was not willing to offer Swiss higher education institutions publication opportunities at conditions comparable to those applied in other European countries. In order to ensure a coordinated approach during the no-deal situation, the Delegation Open Science has adopted the following recommendations for the higher education institutions:

Do not use central funds for publication fees

swissuniversities recommends that higher education institutions do not use centralised funds to pay publication fees. The use of decentralised funds to cover publication fees is not recommended. Exceptions for young researchers should be considered.

Consider alternatives to Springer Nature

swissuniversities recommends that higher education institutions inform their researchers that they should avoid publishing in Springer Nature journals until further notice and consider alternatives. The libraries are available to provide assistance.

Make publications available in Open Access as secondary publications

swissuniversities recommends that higher education institutions inform their researchers that they can continue to publish in hybrid Springer Nature journals and that they should make their publications available as dual publications in institutional repositories in order to fulfil open access obligations ('Green OA').

Editors should advocate for the Swiss research community

swissuniversities recommends that higher education institutions inform their researchers that they can use their position as editors of Springer Nature journals to advocate for the best possible agreement from the perspective of the Swiss academic community. They should also be informed about the possibility of publishing their journal as Diamond journals with the academic libraries.

Review activities for Springer Nature should be reconsidered

swissuniversities recommends that higher education institutions inform their researchers that they should examine their activities as reviewers critically until further notice; reviews for Springer Nature journals should not be prioritised.