

UCL RCUK APCs summary 2016-17

This report presents key findings on APC payments using the data in UCL's RCUK open access report 2016-17.¹

Total APCs and overall average

UCL paid a total of £1,604,821 for 1,056 APC payments from its RCUK open access block grant in the RCUK financial year April 16-March 17. The average APC (including those split between RCUK and COAF funds) was £1,676. The average cost per APC to UCL's RCUK block grant was £1,520. Just over 60% of UCL's RCUK-funded APCs were paid through prepayment/deposit accounts; the rest by invoice.

UCL's relatively low APC averages reflect its work to drive down the cost of APCs through publisher offsetting and prepayment schemes, made possible in part by UCL's size and volume of outputs. UCL publishes around 12,000 papers a year, and pays more than 2,000 APCs – most of them RCUK- or COAF-funded.²

Publication charges

UCL has continued to pay publication charges from its RCUK block grant, since authors may no longer budget for these charges in their research grants, but asks authors to avoid additional charges where possible. £55,580 was spent on additional publication charges in 2016-17.

Costs by publisher

More than 25% of UCL's RCUK APC spend was paid to Elsevier. The average cost to UCL's RCUK budget for Elsevier APCs was £1,801; the average Elsevier APC (including Lancet and Cell Press articles) was £2,054. The ten most expensive APCs were all in Lancet or Cell Press journals. The most costly, in *The Lancet HIV*, cost £4964. Similarly, UCL's highest publication charge, £1,865, was for a paper in an Elsevier journal.

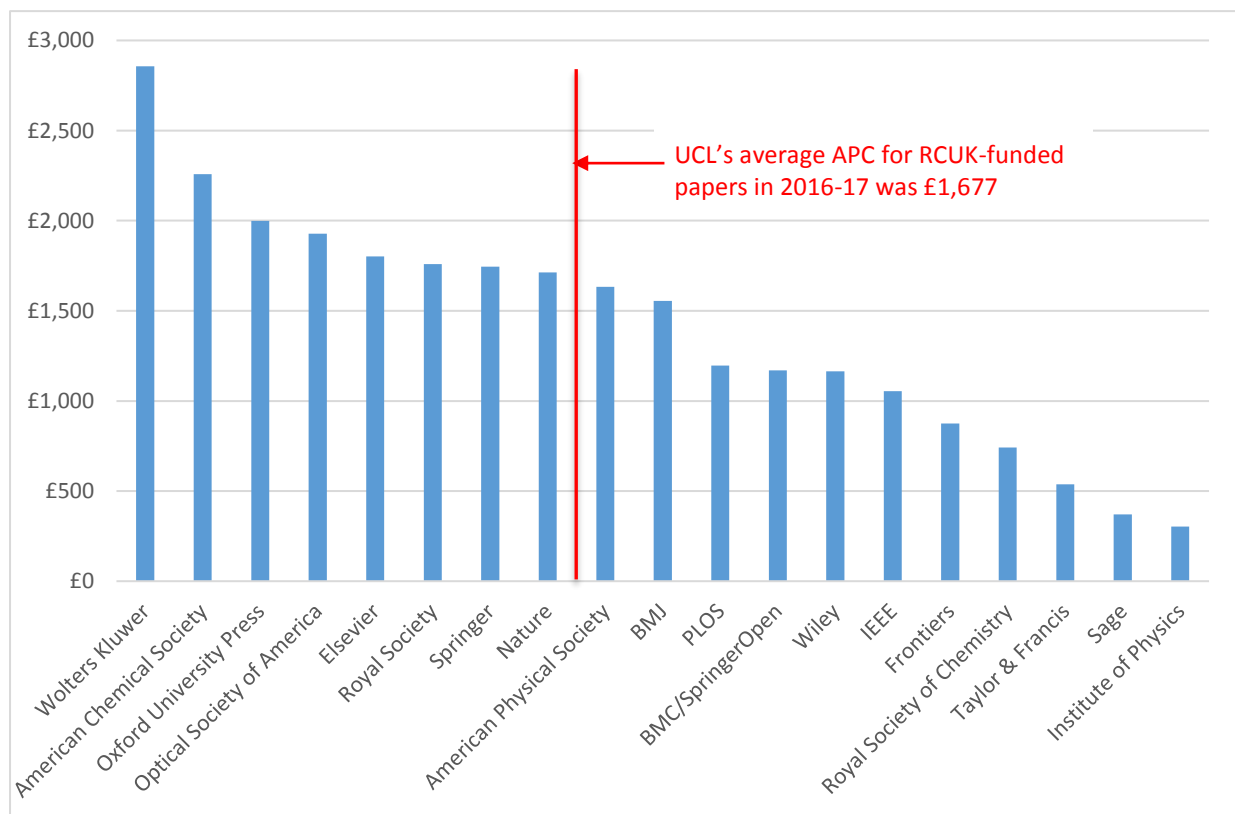
There were 19 publishers to whom UCL paid 10 or more RCUK APCs each in 2016-17. Of these, Wolters Kluwer has the highest average cost, at £2,857. The Institute of Physics has the lowest average, at £302, owing to a beneficial UK offsetting deal. A long tail of 55 publishers were paid fewer than 10 APCs each from UCL's RCUK funds.

¹ Available at: <http://discovery.ucl.ac.uk/1563500/>

² COAF is the Charity Open Access Fund, comprising Arthritis Research UK, Bloodwise, British Heart Foundation, Cancer Research UK, Parkinson's UK and the Wellcome Trust:
<https://wellcome.ac.uk/funding/managing-grant/charity-open-access-fund>

Average APC (10 or more APCs per publisher)

Publisher	Total spend	Number of papers	Average APC
Wolters Kluwer	£54,281	19	£2,857
American Chemical Society	£76,779	34	£2,258
Oxford University Press	£121,979	61	£2,000
Optical Society of America	£32,784	17	£1,928
Elsevier	£405,300	225	£1,801
Royal Society	£21,120	12	£1,760
Springer	£64,568	37	£1,745
Nature	£152,534	89	£1,714
American Physical Society	£21,237	13	£1,634
BMJ	£49,770	32	£1,555
PLOS	£62,249	52	£1,197
BMC/SpringerOpen	£56,151	48	£1,170
Wiley	£146,717	126	£1,164
IEEE	£33,713	32	£1,054
Frontiers	£21,878	25	£875
Royal Society of Chemistry	£21,492	29	£741
Taylor & Francis	£23,640	44	£537
Sage	£3,713	10	£371
Institute of Physics	£4,233	14	£302



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