

# Licences

Data **accessibility** is defined by the presence of a user license. The license you select will determine the freedom with which others can **reuse** your data. When choosing a license, it is important that you adhere to any funder, repository, institutional, legal or ethical obligations.

## 1 Data



### CC0

**Creative Commons Zero** is ideal for openly sharing data – it has no restrictions on Reuse whatsoever. While CC0 contains no requirement for attribution, citing CC0 datasets is widely accepted and expected in science.

### Other CC licenses

If you find the use of a CC0 license is inappropriate for your data, you should consider the following CC licenses all of which require attribution in addition to further restrictions:

**CC-BY** – Prevents others from applying legal restrictions beyond the terms of the license to the licensed dataset.

**CC BY-SA** – Requires outputs derived from licensed dataset to also be licensed as CC BY-SA.

**CC BY-NC** – Prevents the licensed data from being used for commercial purpose.

**CC BY-ND** – Prevents the licensed data from being modified.

**CC BY-NC-ND** – Prevents the licensed data from being used for commercial purposes or modified.

**CC BY-NC-SA** – Prevents the licensed data from being used for commercial purposes, and requires outputs derived from licensed dataset to also be licensed as CC BY-SA.

### Caution!

NC, ND and SA licenses have implications for **reuse** and **interoperability**.

We suggest using a license that allows your data to be “as open as possible and as closed as necessary”.



## 2 Software

Making your software open source allows it to be freely used, modified, and shared by others. To ensure this is the case, you should consider using a license approved by the [Open Source Initiative](#). Popular OSI approved licenses include: [MIT](#), [GNU General Public License](#), and [Apache License 2.0](#).

### Dual licensing

It is possible to license your software under both an open source license (typically GNU GPL) and a proprietary license. The restrictions on the **reuse** of your software will then depend on which license the software is distributed under. Dual licensing allows you to potentially profit from your software whilst maintaining the benefits of open source licensing.

## 3 Applying a license

Once you've selected a license, you need to apply it. Most licenses include application instructions, so its best to follow these. Repositories also often support license application by allowing you to select a license from a pre-defined list on deposition.

### Caution!

Be aware of any licensing restrictions where your dataset contains data derived from a 3rd party.



### Caution!

Licenses cannot normally be revoked, and license conditions may differ with version.



## Toolbox



- [OSI Approved Licenses](#)
- [Choose an Open Source License](#)
- [CC License Chooser](#)
- [How to License Research Data](#)