

What are Chest Agreements?

A Chest Agreement is a contract that guarantees licence pricing and terms and conditions for software and online resources. For education and research communities in the UK and the Republic of Ireland.



What do Chest Agreements cover?

There are more than 70 Chest Agreements from about 40 vendors.

Software Agreements cover products widely used in teaching and research as well as software that can benefit the entire institution. They include:

- software from Microsoft and Adobe
- software in specialist areas such as GIS, statistics and maths, qualitative data analysis, mind mapping and more
- tools for software asset management and security

Online Resource Agreements include all types of digital resources: from eJournals, eBooks, backfiles, databases, reference materials, standards, to videos... and more.

Which organisations are Chest Agreements open to?

Chest Agreements are open to publicly funded and private universities and colleges, research organisations and charities. At last count 95% of universities and around 75% of colleges subscribe to at least one Chest Agreement, with many institutions subscribing to more.

Around 520 universities, colleges and associated organisations benefit currently

What are the advantages of Chest Agreements?

- Any organisation buying Chest licences can be confident that they are getting value for money as prices are heavily discounted.
- Organisations have access to the latest versions of resources.
- Preferential licence terms and conditions that are fit for purpose.
- Chest works with the academic community to check that products and licence proposals meet their needs.

Chest's expert knowledge and experience supports Suppliers with a tried and tested route into the academic market. This helps everyone to save time and money.

In 2018/19 Chest Agreements saved the academic community nearly £79 million in licence fees and efficiency savings

All Jisc Members are eligible to subscribe to Chest Agreements

Chest Agreements in brief

Preferential terms and conditions	Guaranteed pricing	Licence
Standard licence	Transparent, fixed, banded if appropriate	Between the institution and the vendor or service provider
Based on UK Law	Typically, over a 3-year term	Site licences cover use by all staff and students
Consistent and easy to understand language	Opt-out options or one-year licences are common	Use for administration and management allowed

Background

In 1988 the first Chest Agreement for engineering software was an immediate success with 98 universities benefitting from the cost savings and the favourable licence terms.

The collaborative approach caught on and a permanent team, with licence knowledge and negotiation skills, was formed at the University of Bath with the purpose to secure more deals. By the late 1980s Further Education Colleges were taking part and, soon after, online resources were added to the portfolio.

Eduserv, the parent company of Chest, was founded in 1999, and was then merged with Jisc in 2019. The Chest Team continue to negotiate and manage Chest Agreements as a separate business unit within Jisc. Over time Chest licensed content, if feasible, will be moved to Jisc Licence subscriptions manager.

Chest:

- offers a dedicated Help Desk to answer licensing queries;
- organises and supports a range of events that foster knowledge sharing between the academic community and suppliers;
- publishes bespoke eNewsletters, the Software and Online Resource Messengers.

Sign up for the bi-weekly Software or Online Resources Messengers.

Online Resource Suppliers

The American Mathematical Society (AMS)
American Psychological Association (APA)
Brill Academic Publishers
Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS)
Cobweb Information Ltd
Elsevier BV
Emerald Publishing Limited
Euromonitor International plc
F1000
IGI Global
IHS (Global) Limited
The Institution of Engineering & Technology (IET)
International Monetary Fund (IMF)
MarketLine, Progressive Digital Media
Nielsen Book Services Ltd
New Scientist
The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
Springer Nature
Taylor and Francis (Routledge)
Thieme Medical Publishers Inc
United Nations Publications
Wize Nordic

Software Suppliers

Adobe Systems Incorporated
DigitalEd
Document Insights Ltd
Esri UK
Harris Geospatial Solutions
Hexagon Geospatial
License Dashboard Limited
Malwarebytes Ltd
Microsoft Corporation
MindGenius Ltd
The Numerical Algorithms Group Ltd
Open Text Inc.
Prio Infocenter AB (URKUND)
Prolifiko
QSR International (UK) Ltd
SAS Software Limited
Snow Software
Sterling Geo Ltd.
TermSet
Waterloo Maple Inc.

Get in touch with Chest (a Jisc Enterprise)

Tel: **0300 121 0878**

Email: **help@chest.ac.uk**

Web: **www.chest.ac.uk**

Jisc is a company limited by guarantee, registered in England (company number 5747339), and a registered charity (charity number 1149740), whose registered office is One Castlepark, Tower Hill, Bristol, BS2 0JA. T: 0203 697 5800

VAT No: GB 197 0632 86. Chest and OpenAthens are Jisc enterprises operating from 4 Portwall Lane, Bristol, BS1 6NB



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