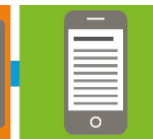


The Research Excellence Framework – everything you wanted to know but were afraid to ask

Claire Choong
LRS Seminar
7th March, 2018



What is it?

An assessment of
the research
undertaken by
higher education
institutions in the
UK

A process of expert review

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Purposes of the REF

Photo by [Talia Cohen](#) on [Unsplash](#)

To inform the selective allocation of funding for research

To provide accountability for public investment in research and produce evidence of the benefits of this investment

To provide benchmarking information and establish reputational yardsticks, for use in the higher education sector and for public information



Administering the REF



34 units of assessment (UOAs)

Main Panel A: Medicine, health and life sciences

Main Panel B: Physical sciences, engineering and mathematics

Main Panel C: Social sciences

Main Panel D: Arts and humanities

Sub-panels

Advisory panels

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Who, what, and how many?

All staff employed on the census date of 31 July 2020 with “significant responsibility” for research must be submitted

A minimum of one and a maximum of five outputs, with an average of 2.5 outputs for each full-time equivalent researcher

Even death is no escape.

Photo by [VincentBotta](#) on [Unsplash](#)



Elements to be assessed

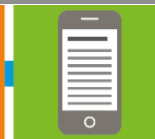


Outputs

Impact

Environment

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Outputs

The result of a research investigation

60% of the REF assessment

Produced by the University during the
assessment period

(1st January 2014 to 31st December
2020)

Photo by [Kimberly Farmer](#) on [Unsplash](#)



Open access

“...to be eligible for submission to the REF 2021, authors’ final peer-reviewed manuscripts must have been deposited in an institutional or subject repository. Deposited material should be discoverable, and free to read and download, for anyone with an internet connection.

The requirement applies only to journal articles and conference proceedings with an International Standard Serial Number.”

<http://www.hefce.ac.uk/rsrch/oa/Policy/>



Impact

“...the effect on, change or benefit your research makes to the economy, society, culture, public policy or services, health, the environment or quality of life beyond academia.”
(UCA REF terms explained)

25% of the assessment

Case studies detailing the benefits from our research

Stays with the institution where the research was carried out

Photo by [Matthew Mazzei](#) on [Unsplash](#)



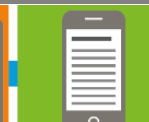
Environment

Describes the environment we have to support research (e.g. research strategy, staff development, support for postgrads, collaborations, equality & diversity)

‘Open research’ section (criteria TBC)

15% of the assessment

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Scoring

Grades for each element contribute to an overall grade point average (GPA)

GPA for each UOA and for the University as a whole

GPA's are then used for calculating the amount of QR (Quality Related) funding the University receives + league tables

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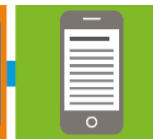
Star ratings

4*	Quality that is world-leading in terms of originality, significance and rigour.
3*	Quality that is internationally excellent in terms of originality, significance and rigour but which falls short of the highest standards of excellence.
2*	Quality that is recognised internationally in terms of originality, significance and rigour.
1*	Quality that is recognised nationally in terms of originality, significance and rigour.
Unclassified	Quality that falls below the standard of nationally recognised work. Or work which does not meet the published definition of research for the purposes of this assessment.



Timetable

Winter 2017-18	Appoint panels
Spring 2018	Panels meet to develop criteria
Summer to Autumn 2018	Publish draft guidance, and consultation on panel criteria Publish guidance on Codes of Practice
Winter 2018-19	Publish final guidance and criteria
2019	Complete preparation of submission systems
Spring 2019	Submission of Codes of Practice (tbc) CCCU Mock
2020	Submission phase
2021	Assessment phase



Further info

LRS shared area (under 'Research', then 'REF')

HEFCE website (open access info): <http://www.hefce.ac.uk/rsrch/oa/>

REF2021 website: <http://www.ref.ac.uk/>



Questions



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