

Five illustrative uses of the RQ+ Approach

Using RQ+ across multiple stages of a research process can support risk management, transparency and continuous learning.

Use	Why?	How?
<p>1. Priority Setting</p> <p>Building a shared vision of research quality</p>	<p>RQ+ cultivates a shared understanding of, and common approach to research quality by making quality goals explicit and transparent.</p>	<p>RQ+ enables actors to articulate the values and principles underlying their research and its management.</p> <p><i>E.g. A funding agency uses RQ+ to describe to applicants what they look for in quality work.</i></p>
<p>2. Design</p> <p>Creating projects and cohesive portfolios or teams</p>	<p>RQ+ helps establish the desired results of a project or portfolio and strengthens design across the identified dimensions of quality.</p> <p>RQ+ helps to identify contextual factors that may influence research processes and introduce risk.</p>	<p>Contextual factors and quality dimensions will flag aspects that should be addressed in proposals by researchers and in application reviews by funders.</p> <p><i>E.g. A think tank constructs a research proposal for a local government, which embodies the attributes derived from their vision of quality research and acknowledges the contextual considerations built into the project.</i></p>
<p>3. Implementation</p> <p>Monitoring, adaptive management, risk mitigation and course correction</p>	<p>RQ+ supports adaptive management of research projects and portfolios. It can support real-time learning as a program progresses through project-by-project monitoring, self-reflection by researchers or funders, and/or serve as a formative or developmental evaluation framework.</p>	<p>RQ+ enables meaningful expectations and goals to be established and the development of appropriate milestones. RQ+ can be used for tracking progress over time and informing project or program decision-making.</p> <p><i>E.g. A research team uses RQ+ as checklist at a team meeting to identify areas for attention and action.</i></p>
<p>4. Evaluation</p> <p>Learning and accountability</p>	<p>RQ+ provides an assessment framework to judge research quality based on clear criteria. Evaluations can be done on a variety of entry points (e.g., a paper, a faculty, a project) and a common RQ+ Framework facilitates meta-evaluation. The results of these individual or meta evaluations can support learning and demonstrate accountability by showcasing measured results against criteria that are valued and meaningful.</p>	<p>Contextual factors and quality dimensions provide evaluative criteria which can be approached using rubrics or other evaluative ranking system. The systematic nature of the RQ+ Approach enables compilation of quality assessments across units. For example, projects, programs, portfolios, disciplines, organizations, funding modalities, and so on.</p> <p><i>E.g. A journal assesses manuscripts received using a tailored version of RQ+, and at annual junctures examines metadata to understand strengths, weaknesses and opportunities within its community.</i></p>
<p>5. Communication</p> <p>Telling meaningful and evidence-informed stories</p>	<p>RQ+ provides qualitative and quantitative evidence for the dimensions of research that matter most to those who enabled and undertook the work.</p>	<p>Reporting and communicating against the dimensions and contextual factors builds a meaningful, holistic and useful story about results, strengths and limitations.</p> <p><i>E.g. A university faculty uses RQ+ to identify, evidence and report compelling illustrations of their work.</i></p>