



How to develop a good submission

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Research Excellence Framework Interdisciplinary issues

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Draft panel criteria and working methods & Guidance on submissions

All sub-panels will have at least two members appointed as interdisciplinary advisers.

The interdisciplinary advisers will offer guidance to the sub-panels in their assessment of interdisciplinary outputs to ensure that they are assessed robustly and fairly.

This may include advising on the allocation of outputs and the calibration and moderation of scoring.

An underpinning principle of the REF is that all types of research and **all forms of research output** across all disciplines shall be assessed **on a fair and equal basis, including interdisciplinary** and collaborative research.

We have appointed an Interdisciplinary research advisory panel (IDAP) to advise the REF team, REF panel chairs and the UK funding bodies on the development and implementation of measures to support the submission and assessment of interdisciplinary research in the REF.

IDAP will not advise on individual assessments, but will advise on process, and provide advice and support for cross-panel collaboration.

Institutions are invited to identify outputs across their submissions that meet the definition of interdisciplinary research

The use of the interdisciplinary identifier is distinct from the cross-referral process .

Definition

For the purposes of the REF, interdisciplinary research is understood to achieve outcomes (including new approaches) that could not be achieved within the framework of a single discipline.

Interdisciplinary research features significant interaction between two or more disciplines and / or moves beyond established disciplinary foundations in applying or integrating research approaches from other disciplines.

There will be **no advantage or disadvantage** in the assessment in identifying outputs as interdisciplinary.

The main and sub-panels will apply the standards of excellence defined by the starred quality levels equally to research in interdisciplinary areas and to research within distinct disciplines.

The main and sub-panels consider that all such research is capable of displaying the highest standards of quality.

Assessment

Originality and significance can be identified in one, some, or all of the constituent parts brought together in the work, or in their integration; they do not need to be demonstrated across all contributing areas/fields.

Rigour can be understood in the context of interdisciplinary research as the design and application of relevant and robust approaches, methods and concepts to achieve productive interactions between the disciplines.

Environment (REF 5b)

Within the environment template, a submitting unit should provide information about how they support collaboration both within and beyond academia, and panels will give due credit where these arrangements have enhanced the vitality and sustainability of the research environment or the submitted unit's contribution to the wider research base, economy or society.



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The REF2020 Documents: Structure and Content

**Read the
manual !!!**

**Ah, so much advice
... what should I do?**

**Follow what the
guidelines say**

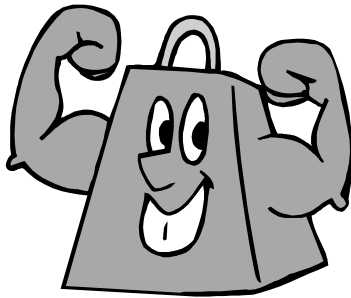
**...Not what (some)
other people tell you
they think they say 😊**



Assessment Criteria

When assessing outputs, keep in mind:

- **Rigour**
- **Originality**
- **Significance**



When assessing impact, keep in mind:

- **Reach**
- **Significance**

Planning

It's always later than you think ... but don't panic

The word limits are tight

– **Make this a positive:**

- » **Be ruthless in selecting what to include**
- » **Form a narrative**



In each section:

- Focus **explicitly** on the brief
- Decide on your message
- Match volume of content to the % score available
- Be clear ... Be concise ... Be precise

Focus on Achievements

Where possible, emphasise growth (compare with REF2014 and RAE2008)

... so you need to be familiar with these previous submissions

- Growth in outputs
- Expansion in number of contract research staff
- Expansion in international academic collaborations (eg through EU projects; and other partnerships)
 - % of the outputs with collaborating authors in other academic institutions
- Expansion in collaborations with industry (through direct partnerships, large-scale project consortia, and industry-funded PhD studentships)
 - Funding from industry and public corporations
- Increase in expenditure on research awards
 - Emphasise UK Research Councils (if you can)
- Expansion in number of doctoral student graduations per annum
 - Enhanced student training environment
- New research facilities, infrastructural investment
- Highlight any leadership of major international research consortia
- Highlight any Centres of Excellence, partnerships with industry/public sector and research users
 - Focus on delivery of impact, stimulating regional economic development/ public services



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REF2021

Panel D

Sub Panel 32

September 2018



KEY ISSUES



Definition of Research

A process of investigation leading to new insights, effectively shared

Research –

- A process of investigation
- New insights
- Effectively shared

Decisions on staff and outputs

‘Substantive connection’

Staff appointed on the minimum eligible fractional contract (0.2 FTE) who do not have a clear connection to the submitting institution will not be eligible for inclusion

17. We will consult the main and sub-panels on a full range of indicators that might evidence a **substantive connection**, and will develop guidance on instances when a statement may not be required for staff on the minimum fractional contracts (for example, staff employed in the **creative arts where fractional contracts are standard practice**, or staff with caring responsibilities or other personal circumstances).

...Fractional staff can't have less than 1 output!

Sub panel 32

...all aspects of the history, theory and practice of art and design, and disciplines where these relate to visual, material and spatial cultures. The sub-panel will consider outputs, in whatever genre or medium, that meet the definition of research



Panel D

Interdisciplinarity

The sub-panel 32 recognises the overlapping boundaries in the sub-panel descriptors, and that aspects of research are naturally interdisciplinary or multi-disciplinary or span the boundaries between individual UOAs. The sub-panel welcomes the submission of research that may equally be submitted to other sub-panels. Where judged necessary by the panels, expertise will be augmented by additional assessors, or work will be cross-referred to relevant panels, according to the process detailed in Part 5, paragraphs 387 to 392.

Simplified sub unit subject descriptors – e.g. architecture, media.



OUTPUTS

Portfolio= Body of Work

Double Weighing outputs

Research

The tail reappears?

IMPACT

Loosening link to underpinning research.

Risk of losing focus

Expect greater granularity of scores

Annex A: Examples of impacts and indicators

ENVIRONMENT

Greater use of metrics?

Can a great environment exist without those indicators

OUTPUT TYPES – little change

Annex C: Main Panel D – output types & submission guidance

Sub-panels in Main Panel D receive the widest diversity of output types across the exercise.

Mostly DOI, PDFs, USB

Each output needs a single classification selected from:

Artefact, Design, Devices & products – *no IRL option.*

Authored books, Chapter in Book, Edited book - *new pdf*

Composition, Conference contribution, Confidential report, Research report

Digital or visual media

Exhibition

Journal article

Patent/ published patent

Performance – *includes DVD*

Research datasets and databases

Scholarly edition – *includes option for 'object'*

Software

Translation

Working paper

Other