REF 2021

Outputs sub-profile: Criteria and definitions of starred levels

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| **The criteria for assessing the quality of outputs are ‘originality, significance and rigour’** |
| Four star | Quality that is world-leading in terms of originality, significance and rigour. |
| Three star | Quality that is internationally excellent in terms of originality, significance and rigour but which falls short of the highest standards of excellence. |
| Two star | Quality that is recognised internationally in terms of originality, significance and rigour. |
| One star | 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. |

Source: Page 84, Annex A: Assessment criteria and level definitions, REF2021 Guidance on submissions (2019/01)