REF newsletter June 2018

Welcome to the latest REF newsletter which is circulated to provide colleagues with information about external developments in relation to the REF, as well as more information about Leicester’s internal preparations.

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External Developments

Panel membership

Research England has recruited sub-panel chairs and some of the panel members for REF2021. Nominations were invited through learned societies and subject associations. A further round of recruitment for additional panel members to participate in the assessment phase will take place in 2020.

We are delighted that Leicester is well-represented on a range of panels. These are prestigious appointments which enable Leicester to contribute to the exercise and demonstrate our academic leadership. Our appointees are:

**David Mattingly**: Sub-Panel chair 15 Archaeology.

**Pat Heslop-Harrison**: Sub-Panel 5 Biological Sciences

**Sue Page**: Sub-Panel 14 Geography

**Martin Halliwell**: Sub-Panel 27 English Language and Literature

**Peter Lunt**: Sub-Panel 34 Communication, Cultural and Media Studies, Library and Information Management

**Nilesh Samani** is representing the British Heart Foundation on Main Panel A as a research user

**Pauline Muya** is a Panel Adviser for Main Panel D.

Iain Gillespie, PVC Research and Enterprise said of the appointments “It is testament to the quality of research at Leicester that we have such strong representation on the panel membership for REF 2021. We offer our congratulations to all of our appointees”.

The full panel membership can be found [here](#).
**Draft guidance on submissions and consultation on panel criteria**

Research England will be publishing draft Guidance on Submissions and Panel Criteria and Working Methods in July 2018. During a 12-week consultation period, Research England will consult the sector on a number of questions, before the full documents are issued in January 2019.

Once the documents have been published, the RED REF team will prepare a digest of key points to brief staff and are happy to attend departmental meetings to present this information as appropriate. The REF team will seek input to inform our institutional response to the consultation.

**Regional Event held at Leicester**

On 25 May, Leicester hosted a regional REF meeting on behalf of East Midlands universities. We were delighted to welcome 95 colleagues from 8 universities across the region.

Professor Dinah Birch, chair of Main Panel D and Professor Greg Walker, chair of the English sub-panel were joined by panel members from Leicester (Martin Halliwell, David Mattingly and Pauline Muya) and presented the latest developments on emerging issues ahead of the consultation in July.

**Research England REF Timetable**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Action</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 2018</td>
<td>Publish draft guidance and launch of consultation on panel criteria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 2018</td>
<td>Consultation closes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 2019</td>
<td>Final guidance and criteria published</td>
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<tr>
<td>31 July 2020</td>
<td>Census date for staff, impact and environment</td>
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<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>Submission phase</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 2020</td>
<td>Submission deadline</td>
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<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>Assessment phase</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 2021</td>
<td>Results published</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring 2022</td>
<td>Quality related funding allocations announced using REF2021 results</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 2022</td>
<td>Start of QR funding using REF2021 results</td>
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Internal preparations

Leicester’s management and governance arrangements for REF2021

ULT has agreed that our REF submission should be centrally led and managed to ensure that we make the strongest possible submission and improve on our REF 2014 performance. We will use evidence and data to inform our decisions. Outputs and impact case studies will be deployed tactically to maximise our flexibility and the outcome for Leicester.

In order to achieve this, we have established a REF Steering Group which will bring together College Directors of Research, relevant Professional Services and the RED REF team to plan our submission. A group has also been established for the UoA leads to ensure coordination of submissions across Units of Assessment. Separate groups will take the lead on impact and environment. An Advisory Group with external representation has also been set up to provide a wider viewpoint.

Unit of Assessment (UoA) Leads

UoA leads and deputies have been appointed for all UoAs to which Leicester may make a submission, including some to which we may not in the end submit. These individuals will play a vital role in driving and delivering the submission, working within and across UoAs. Our thanks to these colleagues, who will make a significant contribution to our REF preparations over the next 30 months.

Outputs

We are likely to submit around 2000 outputs to REF2021. The number of outputs required for each submission will be 2.5 x FTE submitted, although each current individual staff member must be linked to a minimum of 1 and a maximum of 5 outputs. Outputs from former staff can be included, although this is not obligatory, in most circumstances. ULT has mandated that all outputs submitted to the REF must be internally reviewed and at least 25% must be externally reviewed, and funding is available from RED for this. Scores from these reviews will be used to inform modelling exercises which will help to determine the configuration of the optimal institutional submission.
Impact

We anticipate that we will require 75-80 impact case studies across the full range of disciplines. We are completing a comprehensive review of potential case studies and have submitted them to internal and external review. This has given current and potential scores, assuming further impact can be achieved before 2020, as well as information on possible units of assessment to which the case study could be submitted. Impact development funds will be used strategically to prioritise the acceleration of impact for REF 2021 to strengthen case studies. The Impact Working Group will play a key role in taking forward this aspect of REF, reporting to the UoA Leads and Steering Group.

Environment

The Environment Working Group has developed an action plan for REF2021 preparations. Over the summer we will be requesting that academic staff enter appropriate esteem factors into the ‘professional activities’ element in IRIS. UoA leads and deputies and other senior colleagues will be able to give advice on the most appropriate factors for their discipline.

UoA leads will be drafting the first environment statement for their UoA during the summer. These drafts will be revised and developed further over the next two years, with internal and external review planned on iterations of the drafts to drive up quality and consistency across UoAs.

Staffing news

We’d like to offer a warm welcome to Jean-Marie Sherry who joins us on 6 June as Research Impact Officer.

We bid a sad farewell to Sarah Hall who leaves us at the end of June to take up a new role as Head of Research Impact at Warwick. We will be recruiting a replacement as soon as possible.

Louise Thompson has moved into the new post of Research Outputs Officer where she will be leading on the external review of outputs and Open Access compliance requirements.

The next edition of this newsletter will be circulated in September to summarise the main points of the guidance on submissions, panel criteria and consultation.

You can find out more about our REF2021 preparations here

Any comments or questions about REF2021 can be sent to ref2021@le.ac.uk