



Updates from the RQI team

Welcome to the April newsletter from the Research Quality and Impact team. Please see important news items and reminders below. You can view all previous newsletters on our [Updates from the RQI team page](#).

News

REF2029 Open Access consultation

The Library and RQI will be coordinating an institutional response to the [REF2029 Open Access consultation](#) and will be seeking input & opinion from across the Schools and PS divisions. The Library will be reaching out to individuals via email to gather feedback over the next few weeks, with an institutional response deadline of 17 June.

People, Culture & Environment pilot exercise

Institutions keen to participate in the [PCE pilot exercise](#) are required to submit an Expression of Interest to REF by 24 April, which the RQI team will be coordinating. If we are selected to participate, we anticipate the pilot will involve seven Sussex UoAs, of which the Heads of School have been notified, with a submission deadline in November 2024.

Participation in the pilot is expected to provide several benefits, including insights into what the final PCE submission format and process might look like, how ready our systems and processes are for this, and possible influence over how the process and data requirements develop, all of which should have a positive influence on our REF outcomes.

Reminders

Research Impact Awards 2024

A reminder that there are just a few days left to apply for this year's [Research Impact Awards](#)! **The deadline to submit your application is 5pm on Monday 29 April.**

Sussex Impact Days

Don't forget to save the dates for this year's [Sussex Impact Days](#), taking place **Tuesday 18 and Wednesday 19 June** in the ACCA. Split across two days, this year's Impact Days will explore and celebrate the real-world impact from research at Sussex through panel discussions, workshops, and interactive impact surgeries grouped in the following themes: 'Let's talk about impact', 'What does impact success look like?', 'Avenues to impact' and 'Impact and the REF'.

Sessions include: a keynote from Phil Ward, director of Eastern Arc, exploring the value and opportunities of impact from consortium working; a showcase of projects funded by the Sussex AHRC IAA; a facilitated discussion between Policy@Sussex and external speakers on whether research still matters in public policy; alongside workshops from various teams from across Sussex (including RQI, Research Development & Initiatives, and IBP) and much more.

The full programme and registration details will be shared in early May.

Inform RQI of staff changes

Please email rqi@sussex.ac.uk with details of any recent or upcoming personnel changes in REF and Impact-related roles within your School (e.g. DRaKE, UoA Lead, REC etc.) so we can keep our records up to date.

Training & Workshops

With a recent particular focus on impact, the RQI team have developed and delivered a wide range of training opportunities to support colleagues. In 2022/23, our training supported colleagues in their understanding of what impact is and how to manage impact data. In 2023/24, our training is aimed at supporting colleagues in understanding the different ways to achieve impact. As we get closer to the next REF submission, we are going to expand our training opportunities to encompass all aspects of the REF. We will also continue to work with other teams across Sussex to make sure we can provide you with the best support possible.

Upcoming training and workshops

SSRP Interdisciplinarity in REF

At this workshop - the second in SSRP's series of events focussing on supporting researchers in preparation for REF2029 case studies - we will cover:

- Review of selected sector analyses of interdisciplinary and multi-disciplinary impact case studies
- The various stages of building an impact case study – for this we invite you to bring along your own potential interdisciplinary case study idea
- Submitting to multiple Units of Assessment
- Storing your impact using Elements

Whether you are an early career researcher or a more experienced academic, there will be something for everyone to learn at this workshop.

- Date: Wednesday 5 June 2024
- Time: 13:00 – 15:00
- Location: In-person, Jubilee 118, University of Sussex
- This event will be delivered by SSRP and RQI colleagues
- [Sign up here](#)

Introduction to REF2029 for early-career colleagues

The Research Staff Office will be hosting an online Introduction to REF2029 for early-career and postgraduate researchers. Please contact the Research Staff Office at researchstaffoffice@sussex.ac.uk if you wish to join or have an early-career colleague who wishes to do so.

- Date: Thursday 25 April
- Time: 14:00 – 15:30
- Location: Online
- Email researchstaffoffice@sussex.ac.uk to sign up

[Details of upcoming events hosted by the RQI team can be found here.](#)

If you do not wish to be included in this distribution list or would like an individual or team to be added, please reply to this email with details.

[Research Quality and Impact Team](#)

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