



Updates from the RQI team

Welcome to this newsletter edition 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

Questionnaire for Contributions to Knowledge & Understanding section of Faculty REF Review meetings

A short questionnaire has been saved into each UoA's RQI collaborative working folder in Box. **This form should be completed (and the changes saved in this copy in Box) by each UoA Lead at least a week before your Faculty REF Review meeting, which has been scheduled for January or February.** The form is intended to provide contextual understanding for the development of your outputs pool and assessment information for the REF2029 Contribution to Knowledge & Understanding section. It will help to guide RQI in how we can best direct support going forward and will inform discussions in your faculty REF Review Meeting in early 2025.

The CKU section of the REF Review Meetings will include the following:

- An overview of each Unit of Assessment's progress to date in assessing their pool of outputs and a discussion of each unit's further plans in this regard
- Discussion of the formative work required to develop each unit's output profile between now and the end of this REF cycle
- Discussion of any technical process issues arising around research assessment, particularly in relation to the Elements assessment module

The questionnaires are saved in a Box folder titled '2024 CKU Review'. Navigate to: RQI and [School Name] folders > REF2029 RQI and [School Name] > REF2029 RQI and [UoA] > 2024 CKU Review.

Engagement & Impact section of Faculty REF Review Meetings

Many thanks again for submitting your completed Engagement & Impact review templates last month. We have been reviewing the submissions and feedback will be sent out to each Faculty early in the new year in advance of the Faculty REF review meetings. The reviews and feedback will inform the Engagement & Impact section of the upcoming meetings, which will include the following:

- A brief overview of the Faculty's progress, with details of each UoA's progress provided by RQI
- Dedicated time for discussion on UoA and Faculty-level development needs for impact. RQI will compile a list of development needs identified across UoAs in each Faculty, based on the review, to aid this discussion.
- A workshop on the REF impact narrative. This will include interactive elements where a laptop will be required, so please do bring your laptops with you.

As these are Faculty-based meetings, we will not have time to do an in-depth look at each UoA's submission to the review, though each UoA will be given the option of meeting with their respective Research Impact Manager after the Faculty-wide meeting to discuss their impact in more detail.

REF2029 main- and sub-panel recruitment

The [call for panel membership](#) has been released, with a deadline of midday 06 February 2025 for sub-panel chair and deputy chair applications.

As promised, we will discuss panel membership workloads with Faculties and Schools. The REF team estimate that panel membership will constitute 40-60 days of effort over this REF period. We will refer to the [Policy on External Professional Activities](#) in our discussions; feel free to take a look at this document.

REF2029 Open Access Policy Published

REF have released their full [Open Access policy for REF2029](#), as well as a [shorter summary](#) of important points. We encourage you to read the summary and full policy; please find pertinent points below.

Longform outputs

There will be no Open Access mandate for longform outputs (such as monographs) in REF2029. An Open Access requirement for submission of longform outputs will be in place for the next REF, with implementation no earlier than 01 January 2029.

Journal articles and conference contributions

Implementation

The implementation date for the REF2029 OA policy will be 01 January 2026. [REF2021 policy requirements](#) will continue to apply for all in-scope outputs up to this date.

Deposit

From 01 January 2026, the policy requirement will be for deposit post-publication (within 3 months of publication), however, earlier deposit is both accepted and encouraged. The current policy, in place until 31 December 2025, requires deposit within 3 months of acceptance.

Licensing

Publications should be licensed as openly as possible. The funding bodies' preference is for CC-BY or other licenses conferring the same level of openness. However, licenses meeting the standards of CC-BY-NC and/or CC-BY-ND, (including CC-BY-NC-ND), are acceptable.

You can read about the [University's Publications and Copyright Policy here](#).

Exceptions

Some further exceptions have been applied and changes have been made to some of the proposed exceptions, responding to views and information submitted to the consultation. Exceptions are set out in the policy, grouped by exception type.

Get in touch with the Library's Research & Open Scholarship team at sro@sussex.ac.uk if you have any questions about the updated submission requirements or exceptions for REF2029. Also, keep an eye out for their updated [Open Access webpages](#) for further information.

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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