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

REF Open Access

REF OA FAQs published
The REF team have published their REF2029 Open Access policy FAQs. Please do let us or the Library (sro@sussex.ac.uk) know if you have any general or specific REF Open Access questions.

The REF OA policy – what this means for authors
We have created a short guide for authors on achieving REF OA compliance, attached to this newsletter. The guide explains the requirements an article or conference proceeding must meet to be compliant with the REF OA policy and provides links to guidance material and further reading. Please feel free to share this with your colleagues as relevant, and let us know if any further information would be helpful for your Faculty/UoA etc.

REF Engagement and Impact policy deep dive

REF have announced an Engagement and Impact policy deep dive event on two full days over 5 to 6 June 2025. This is likely to cover topics including, but not limited to: the definition of engagement and its role in the assessment framework; the definition of rigour; the content and weighting of disciplinary statements; the number of case studies required in REF2029. More details can be found here. We would encourage everyone who is interested and able to register their interest for the event, though ask that those who do apply to email RQI to let us know and allow us to check if anyone gets selected from Sussex.

Elements UoA Publications Dashboard

The Library have created a new publications dashboard report in Elements that allows users to filter publications by UoA group, based on the UoA groupings in the Assessment Module. All Assessment Module managers can access the report here, or you can navigate to the Reporting Hub in Elements and search for 'UoA Publications Report'. Click the report title then the blue arrow icon in the top right corner and select your UoA from the dropdown menu at the bottom of the page before clicking the arrow in the top right to run the report. You can also filter by date range before running the report.

Faculty/RQI box folders

Ahead of each Faculty REF review day, we have set up Faculty-level RQI collaborative box folders, titled 'RQI and [Faculty name] Faculty folder'. We will use these folders to share documents that will be useful for all UoAs within a Faculty, for example, the notes from the Faculty REF review days. If you have not yet had your Faculty REF review day, your Faculty's folder will not be accessible yet.

Please let us know via email if anyone should be added/removed from these Faculty-level folders, as well as the UoA-level folders.

Faculty REF Review Day notes

The RQI team are working on collating summary notes following the Faculty REF review days. We will let you know when these are available to view in your Faculty/RQI folders.

Seb Oliver transitions from DPVCR to ADRI for SEM

Seb Oliver has now stepped down as Deputy Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research and Innovation and has transitioned into his new role as Associate Dean for Research and Innovation for the Science, Engineering and Medicine Faculty. Keith Jones, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research and Innovation, is now the senior leader overseeing REF preparations.

The RQI team would like to thank Seb for his leadership and support during his time as DPVC and wish him all the best in his new role, where we will continue to work with him and with the other ADRIs, all of whom now sit on the University's REF Steering Group.

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Sussex Impact Support Network Relaunch

The Sussex Impact Support Network enjoyed a successful relaunch on Wednesday 26th March, with Professional Services and academic colleagues from across the University coming together to

discuss a range of topics and agree on an exciting itinerary of meetings and workshops for the remainder of the year. The Network is led by Professional Services colleagues with significant responsibility for supporting impact, but also welcomes academic leads who have managing impact in their remit. If you fit this bill and would like to join the Network and receive news of upcoming events, please email the RQI team at rqi@sussex.ac.uk.

Reminders

Applications for REF sub- and main-panel membership closes 28 April

REF's main and sub-panels are at the heart of the REF assessment process, and they bring together specialist expertise in each UoA. There are four main panels and 34 sub-panels.

REF are seeking to recruit members to their main and sub-panels for REF2029. It would be great to see Sussex colleagues on REF panels, as participation brings benefit to the whole University community as well as to the broader sector, so do consider applying. Please note, you must have the support of your School/department to apply for a panel role, so please discuss with your line manager before applying.

The application form will remain open until **midday 28 April 2025**.

You can apply for the following roles:
- Sub-panel member
- Main panel international expert
- Main panel PCE expert
- Main panel user expert
- Main panel interdisciplinary expert

See REF's overview page here, and click here to apply.

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