

## REF2021

Month	Milestone
Jul-18	Funding Councils publish draft Guidance on Submissions, draft Panel Criteria, guidance on Code of Practice
Jan-19	Funding Councils publish final Guidance on Submissions and Panel Criteria
Feb-19	Funding Councils Survey of Submission Intentions (month TBC, 2019). Also applications for Multiple Submission permissions (month TBC, 2019)
Mar-19	Submit University Code of Practice (month TBC, spring 2019)
Jul-20	<b>31 July 2020 = staff census date, end of impact and environment assessment period.</b>
Nov-20	<b>Deadline for submission (likely end Nov)</b>
Dec-20	<b>31 December = end of publication period.</b>

UoM preparations for the next Research Excellence Framework continue, with the completion of the latest Research Review Exercise (see below) and a review of our portfolio of impact case studies currently underway. By the end of June we will have a clear understanding of the readiness and potential quality of our REF impact case studies, with a central review group providing calibration and constructive feedback.

The next significant milestone is the publication of the **draft Guidance on Submissions** and the **draft Panel Criteria**, which will be out for a 12 week consultation towards the end of July. We will be asking Faculties to engage with the UoM consultation response, and individual academics should also respond via their subject communities as appropriate.

Further details on UoM REF plans are available on the RBESS intranet or contact your Vice Dean for Research: <http://www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/services/rbess/intranet/ref2021/>

### Research Review Exercise (RRE) 2018

The annual RRE is both an internal management tool to judge our current research profile, and a key element of our preparation for the REF. This year 3800 new outputs were reviewed and initial analysis has been completed on the strength of UOAs in terms of REF2021.

The key measure at this time is **the number of world leading (four star)<sup>1</sup> outputs that each UOA currently has 'in the bank'** compared to how many outputs they are estimated to require for REF2021. (Each UOA will need 2.5 outputs for every FTE on the census date). Twenty of our thirty UOAs currently have less than 30% four star banked. These UOAs account for just over half of our staff FTE. The expectation is that the new rules in REF2021 will see the strongest institutions in the UK making almost 100% 4\* output returns.

In REF2021 **all eligible staff will have to be returned with at least one output**, removing our ability to choose not to return staff with fewer or weaker outputs. Therefore particular effort is required to support staff to publish at least one 3\* or 4\* output. The numbers of staff who do not yet have one

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<sup>1</sup> Four star outputs receive four times as much QR funding as three star outputs. Two star, one star and unclassified outputs receive no funding at all.

3\* publication in the RRE is concerning and should be point of focus for all Heads of School. Large numbers of staff with only one output also puts additional pressure on colleagues who will need to contribute more to compensate.

Research Strategy Group and the REF Project Board will work together on actions to address these issues.

Colette Fagan

Vice-President for Research