

Governance & Policy Office: KE & Impact Support

How To Guide No. 1: Types of Research Impact

Types of impact

Non-academic impact, i.e. research that makes a difference *outside* of academia, falls into 3 broad types of societal, economic and environmental.

Examples include:

- Enhancing quality of life, health and well-being;
- Contributing towards evidence-based policy-making and influencing public policies and legislation;
- Improving social welfare and social cohesion;
- Changing organisation culture and practices;
- Contributing towards environmental sustainability;
- Contributing towards wealth creation and economic prosperity.

Useful information

The National Coordinating Centre for Public Engagement summary document [Update on Public Engagement and the REF](#) provides types of impact, along with examples of impact and indicators/evidence of impact, for each of the four Panels in REF2014. See page 34 for a summary of impact types.

See also:

Science Foundation Ireland [Types of Impact](#)
RCUK [Types of Research Impact](#)

Categories of impact

Multiple types of impact can arise through different routes. It is therefore helpful to identify impacts by category, which include:

Instrumental: influencing/changing the development of policy, practice or service provision; shaping and changing standards and regulation/legislation; altering behaviour, perceptions and attitudes.

Conceptual: contributing to the understanding of policy issues; influencing public debate; challenging traditional orthodoxies and understandings; stimulating learning and reflexion; increasing awareness.

Capacity building: teaching new skills, through technical and personal skill development/training; inspiring participation and progression.

Contacts

The KE & Impact Officers are able to advise on all things impact-related:
Denise Davidson (School of Health; Medicine Divisions of Diabetes, Endocrinology & Gastroenterology; Medical Education [incl. CHSTM]; Cancer Sciences)
denise.davidson@manchester.ac.uk 0161 306 0528
Dr Lauren Tempelman (School of Biology; Medicine Divisions of Cardiovascular Sciences; Dentistry; Developmental Biology & Medicine)
lauren.tempelman@manchester.ac.uk 0161 275 7657