Research Excellence Framework – REF-2021

• National assessment of research quality in universities
• Measured in terms of
  • Outputs (60%) - ~320 papers from Informatics and EPCC
  • Impact (25%) - ~10 impact case studies
  • Environment (15%) – vitality and sustainability of research environment
• REF is important since it is used to determine our funding
• Lots of information on the Informatics REF web pages http://web.inf.ed.ac.uk/infweb/research/ref
• Informatics REF team
  • Bjoern Franke (Impact)
  • Victoria Lindstrom (Admin)
  • Steve Renals (REF Coordinator)
REF Outputs

• REF-eligible staff each return 1–5 outputs (averaging 2.5/FTE) from the REF period 2014-2020.

• Outputs will be assessed from 1* – 4*
  • 4*: “world-leading”, “agenda setting”, “major influence”, “great novelty”
  • 3*: “important contributions”, “significant influence”
  • 2*: “useful knowledge”, “incremental advances”, “influence”
  • 1*: “minor influence”

• Quality not quantity
  • We need to return ~320 outputs from the REF period
  • The most important thing for returned staff is to have at least one output with as a high quality as possible
REF Outputs in Informatics

• Continue to make sure that you deposit publications in PURE in a timely fashion (as is happening now – thanks!)

• The “100 words”
  • A 100-word statement for each output that you write to support the quality of the output (significance, rigour, originality) – very different to the abstract!
  • Will be particularly important in REF-2021 as panels will be looking to avoid grade inflation
    • The 3*/4* boundary will be a difficult one!
    • Don’t assume a good publication venue (low accept rate) will guarantee 4*!
  • Improving our 100 word statements
    • Work with one or more colleagues within your institute to improve the 100-words
    • School-level workshops on writing the 100 words
    • School REF committee will also review and improve 100-word statement

• See http://web.inf.ed.ac.uk/infweb/research/ref/outputs/outputs-in-informatics
REF Timetable

- March-April-May 2019: Focus on preparing our draft REF submission
- Late 2019 – Early 2020: Improving our REF Submission
- November 2020: University submission to REF
- See the key dates for REF-2021 at [http://web.inf.ed.ac.uk/infweb/research/ref/key-dates](http://web.inf.ed.ac.uk/infweb/research/ref/key-dates)