

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>