



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

External updates from the REF Team

During August, the REF Team shared two policy updates, on the open access policy and on the relationship between REF and HESA.

1. Open Access (read the full update [here](#))

The full REF2029 Open Access policy position will be published in 'autumn/winter 2024', and will apply no earlier than 1 January 2026, allowing a year for implementation planning.

In a significant decision, longform outputs (i.e. monographs) will now **not** be in scope of the REF2029 open access policy (they are, however, expected to be in scope for the post-2029 REF). Journal articles and conference proceedings will continue to be in scope of the policy.

2. HESA (read the full update [here](#))

As had been previously announced, the volume measure (i.e. the number of outputs and impact case studies required, and possibly other aspects of each submission) for REF2029 will be calculated using staff data taken directly from the HESA staff returns for 2025-26 and 2026-27. The 2024-25 return (which will be made in autumn 2025) will be a pilot year for this. The recent update clarifies that research independence (the 'REF eligibility' factor for staff on research-only contracts) will be counted at contract level rather than person level. This means that if a research-only colleague has multiple contracts and not all of them involve independent research, only their FTE associated with the contract(s) that *do* involve independent research will be counted in the volume measure.

Further details of how HESA will be used to calculate the volume measure, and guidance relating to the revision and renewal of REF Codes of Practice, is due in 'autumn/winter 2024'.

HESA Return

Lorena Croitoru in the Research Information & Systems team is currently liaising with Schools regarding this year's HESA return. The RQI team and Seb Oliver are leading a HESA-REF Task and Finish Group to look at options for introducing greater consistency of approach to the HESA return in future years, as HESA data for 2025/26 and 2026/27 will be used to calculate REF2029 volume measures.

Elements – Impact module updates

The impact module settings in Elements have been updated and users can now complete an Impact Summary Box which will display on their public profile. This is a free-text box that can be accessed when editing your profile and enables a user to present a narrative summary of their research impact with text formatting and the option to link to external web pages for public display on their profile.

In addition, users can now adjust the privacy settings for individual impact activity types. Please note, the default setting will remain private, but they can choose for activities to display on either their internal or public profile.

If you have any queries about any aspect of the impact module in Elements, contact James on the RQI email or the Elements team at elements@sussex.ac.uk.

Reminders

Engagement and Impact Review

A reminder that the 2024 Engagement and Impact review is due on the 31 October 2024. You should now have received information about the review and the relevant Box links via email from the RQI team but do let us know if you haven't received it.

If you have any queries about the review, do email us on the RQI email. James will also be available for some drop-in sessions relating to the review in mid-September. These are available to all Schools, including those for whom James is the usual impact contact and those that were previously supported by Rebecca. If you'd like to talk through any aspect of the review or have any queries, do sign up for a slot here: <https://calendly.com/jm2147-sussex/engagement-and-impact-review-drop-ins>

Elements – Assessment module

For UoA Leads

If you have not done so already, please send through the following information to rqi@sussex.ac.uk:

- Your UoAs amended staff list (if applicable). A list of staff members that have been loaded into the assessment module was sent to all UoA Leads in June. Please review this list and let us know

if anyone should be added/removed.

- Any staff members that should be added as managers in the assessment module. UoA Leads and DRaKEs have been added as default.

- A list of output reviewers and the names of individuals whose outputs they are to review (if they are not to review the entire UoA).

Further training sessions will begin in October as part of the [Library's Elements Essentials Workshops](#). Details of these sessions will be circulated soon.

There is an Elements Assessment Module Teams chat, which is the main access point for information and updates regarding the Assessment Module. If you would like to be added to this chat, please email rqi@sussex.ac.uk.

If you do not wish to be included in this distribution list or would like an individual or team to be added, please reply to this email with details.

[Research Quality and Impact Team](#)

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