

This information has been extracted from the Panel Criteria and Working Methods document (REF 01.2012) published by the REF Team in January 2012.

UOA Descriptor

The UOA includes research into all aspects of the disciplines of allied health professions, dentistry, nursing, midwifery, and pharmacy. Its boundaries include research in underpinning science, laboratory-based work, applied clinical research and research into public health, social care and health promotion. Research into psychosocial, philosophical and ethical aspects of health care, as well as education, policy and methodology relevant to these disciplines, is also included. It is anticipated that such work will use qualitative, quantitative and mixed methods, as well as theoretical approaches.

For allied health professions, submitted research is expected to underpin clinical practice, social care, and policy development and implementation, and includes research in biomedical and nutritional sciences, vision sciences, optometry, orthoptics, diagnostic imaging, therapeutic radiography, audiology, podiatry, occupational therapy, physiotherapy, speech and language therapy, clinical linguistics, paramedics, prosthetics/orthotics, music therapy, drama therapy, and arts therapy. For dentistry it includes research in basic and applied dental, oral and craniofacial sciences encompassing all the related clinical disciplines, primary dental care, biomaterials sciences relevant to oral and craniofacial science, and other such sciences relevant to dentistry. For nursing and midwifery it includes specialist, community and public health nursing, and all the contexts within which they operate. For pharmacy it includes all aspects of the design, synthesis, formulation, action and use of pharmaceuticals (including biological and neutraceuticals), to include medicinal chemistry, pharmaceuticals, pharmacology, clinical pharmacy, underlying biomedical science, and the practice of pharmacy.

Submissions may cover the full translational range of research, from basic underpinning studies through to implementation research. It is expected that there will be some overlap with UOA 1 (Clinical Medicine), UOA 2 (Public Health, Health Services and Primary Care), UOA 4 (Psychology, Psychiatry and Neuroscience), UOA 5 (Biological Sciences) in the areas of biomedical sciences and pharmacology, and UOA 6 (Agriculture, Veterinary and Food Science).

Outputs

Citations	<p>This sub-panel will be provided with citation data by the REF Team.</p> <p>Panels will be provided with the number of times each output has been cited and the norms for the field (Scopus data).</p> <p>Citation data will be considered by the sub-panel as a positive indicator of the academic significance of an output.</p> <p>No panels will use impact factors, journal lists, rankings, or publisher quality information.</p>
Eligible output types	<p>All outputs are eligible providing they embody research as defined for the purposes of the REF¹. This includes review articles and textbooks where they add a significant new perspective.</p>

¹ 'For the purposes of the REF, research is defined as a process of investigation leading to new insights, effectively shared'. See REF 02.2011 Assessment Framework and Guidance on Submissions for the full definition.

Non-text or practice-based submissions	Accepted. HEIs must include a description of the research process and content in REF2 for each applicable output (max 300 words).
Double-weighted outputs	Accepted in exceptional circumstances. HEIs may request that outputs of extended scale and scope be double-weighted. HEIs may include a 'reserve' output with each output requested for double-weighting. A justification (max 100 words) will need to be submitted for consideration by the sub-panel (for example, a single authored monograph).
Co-authored or collaborative outputs submitted in different submissions (same HEI but different UOAs, or different HEI same/difference UOA)	Accepted but only where an author has made a significant contribution to the output. No additional information is required where either: i) there are fewer than 6 authors; or, ii) there are 6 or more authors but the individual against whom the output is listed is identified either as the lead or corresponding author. If there are more than 6 authors and the individual is not the lead or corresponding author then HEIs are required to justify the contribution by selecting from a list of statements in form REF2.
Co-authored or collaborative outputs submitted in the same submission (same HEI and same UOA)	All panels consider that the fullest and most favourable impression of research will normally be gained when each co-authored output is listed once within a submission. If a co-authored output is listed against 2 authors in the same submission and is not accepted by the sub-panel then one occurrence of the output will be listed as Unclassified. Co-authored outputs within the same submission will only be accepted in very exceptional cases against a maximum of 2 individuals per submission (must be explained in REF2, max 100 words).
Additional output information required	None mentioned.

Criteria and level definitions	<p>The sub-panels will look for evidence of some of the following types of characteristics of quality, as appropriate to each of the starred quality levels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • scientific rigour and excellence, with regard to design, method, execution and analysis • significant addition to knowledge and to the conceptual framework of the field • potential and actual significance of the research • the scale, challenge and logistical difficulty posed by the research • the logical coherence of argument • contribution to theory-building • significance of work to advance knowledge, skills, understanding and scholarship in theory, practice, education, management and/or policy • applicability and significance to the relevant service users and research users • potential applicability for policy in, for example health, healthcare, public health, animal health or welfare. <p>Unless there is sufficient evidence of at least one of the above, or the definition of research used for the REF is not met, research outputs will be graded as Unclassified.</p>
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Impact

Eligibility of submitting the impact of teaching	Excluded unless the impact extends significantly beyond the submitting HEI.
Impact case studies – quality of the underpinning research	The case study must include references (average of three) to confirm the quality, for example, peer reviewed external income, outputs in peer reviewed journals, outputs have won prestigious prizes, etc.

Environment

Additional environment data to be provided	None required.
Environment elements weightings (5 elements)	25% - overview and strategy combined 25% - people 25% - income, infrastructure & facilities 25% - collaboration & contribution to the discipline
Structure of submissions	HEIs are encouraged to structure submissions using research groups, and to link individuals to research groups.