

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 from all aspects of the history, theory and practice of art and design. The sub-panel will consider outputs, in whatever genre or medium, that meet the definition of research (as outlined in ‘guidance on submissions’, Annex C). The sub-panel acknowledges the diversity and range of related methods of academic study and artistic practice, and therefore adopts an inclusive definition of its remit.

**Practice** encompasses all disciplines within art and design, in which methods of making, representation, interrogation and interpretation are integral to their productions. **History** and **Theory** encompass the history, criticism, theory, historiography, pedagogy and aesthetics of architecture, art, craft, and design in their widest chronological and geographical framework. The UOA may also embrace fields such as anthropology, archaeology, cultural, social and gender studies, entrepreneurship, innovation, management and business studies, media studies, museology, and urban planning, where these relate to visual, material and spatial cultures. In a number of cases, the fields of work may be interdisciplinary, and thus have no firm or rigidly definable boundaries. For this reason the subpanel expects to assess submissions that do not necessarily map onto institutional structures. The subpanel is committed to applying criteria and working methods that are appropriate to all submitting units, whatever their size or structure, without privileging any particular form of research output or environment.

The following is an illustrative list of subject areas within practice, theory and history of art and design that the sub-panel expects to assess: animation; applied and decorative arts; architecture; conservation, the study of materials and techniques; crafts; creative and heritage industries; critical, historical, social and cultural studies; entrepreneurship and enterprise; film and broadcast media; fine arts; landscape and garden design; museology and curatorship; photography; policy, management and innovation studies; product design; spatial, two- and three-dimensional design; textile, dress and fashion; time-based and digital media; visual and material culture.

Sub-panels 34, 35 and 36 recognise that much research relating to a range of media platforms could readily meet the remit of any of them, and might sit in the wide boundaries that imprecisely separate the three areas of assessment responsibility. It will be the aim of these sub-panels to ensure that a decision to submit to any one of them should not advantage or disadvantage any research. This will be ensured by a common approach to assessment within the three sub-panels, and cross-referral between them where appropriate.

### Outputs

<b>Citations</b>	This sub-panel will not be provided with citation data by the REF Team.  No panels will use impact factors, journal lists, rankings, or publisher quality information.
<b>Eligible output types</b>	All outputs are eligible providing they embody research as defined for the purposes of the REF <sup>1</sup> .

<sup>1</sup> ‘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.

<p><b>Non-text or practice-based submissions</b></p>	<p>Accepted.</p> <p>HEIs must include a description of the research imperatives and process in REF2 for each applicable output (max 300 words).</p> <p>A portfolio must be provided to support outputs where, for example, the output is ephemeral or is one in a series of works.</p>
<p><b>Double-weighted outputs</b></p>	<p>Accepted in exceptional circumstances.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>A justification (max 100 words) will need to be submitted for consideration by the sub-panel (see Main Panel D Criteria paragraph 64 for examples of what would constitute a double-weighted output).</p>
<p><b>Co-authored or collaborative outputs submitted in different submissions (same HEI but different UOAs, or different HEI same/difference UOA)</b></p>	<p>Accepted but only where an author has made a significant contribution to the output.</p> <p>No additional information is required, although if the sub-panel is unclear as to the significant contribution of an individual to the output then it may request further information from the HEI through an audit.</p>
<p><b>Co-authored or collaborative outputs submitted in the same submission (same HEI and same UOA)</b></p>	<p>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.</p> <p>Co-authored outputs within the same submission only be accepted in very exceptional cases against a maximum of 2 individuals per submission (must be explained in REF2, max 100 words).</p>
<p><b>Additional output information required</b></p>	<p>None stated.</p>

## Criteria and level definitions

In assessing outputs, the sub-panels will look for evidence of originality, significance and rigour and apply the generic definitions of the starred quality levels as follows:

In assessing work as being four star sub-panels will expect to see evidence of, or potential for, some of the following types of characteristics:

- a primary or essential point of reference
- of profound influence
- instrumental in developing new thinking, practices, paradigms, policies or audiences
- a major expansion of the range and the depth of research and its application
- outstandingly novel, innovative and/or creative.

In assessing work as being three star, sub-panels will expect to see evidence of, or potential for, some of the following types of characteristics:

- an important point of reference
- of lasting influence
- a catalyst for, or important contribution to, new thinking, practices, paradigms, policies or audiences
- a significant expansion of the range and the depth of research and its application
- significantly novel or innovative or creative.

In assessing work as being two star, sub-panels will expect to see evidence of, or potential for, some of the following types of characteristics:

- a recognised point of reference
- of some influence
- an incremental and cumulative advance on thinking, practices, paradigms, policies or audiences
- a useful contribution to the range or depth of research and its application.

In assessing work as being one star, sub-panels will expect to see evidence of, or potential for, some of the following types of characteristics:

- based on existing traditions of thinking, methodology and/or creative practice
- a useful contribution of minor influence.

Research will be graded as 'unclassified' if it falls below the quality levels described above or does not meet the definition of research used for the REF.

## Impact

<b>Eligibility of submitting the impact of teaching</b>	Excluded unless they extend significantly beyond the submitting HEI.
<b>Impact case studies – quality of the underpinning research</b>	The case study must include references to confirm the quality, for example, peer reviewed external income, outputs in peer reviewed journals, outputs have won prestigious prizes, etc

## Environment

<b>Additional environment data to be provided</b>	None required.
<b>Environment elements weightings (5 elements)</b>	20% - overview 20% - strategy 20% - people 20% - income, infrastructure & facilities 20% - collaboration & contribution to the discipline
<b>Structure of submissions</b>	Not mentioned.