

FMD REF2028 ELEMENTS DATA COLLECTION TRIAL

Background information

The exact details regarding university submission to the Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2028 assessment are still being negotiated and developed. Considerable change in the process has been proposed and final guidance is likely to be published in late 2024/25. In the meantime, FMD is testing a new process of data collection and collation using Elements, that if successful is likely to be rolled out across the University. The aim of this trial is to identify a process that is the least burdensome for all those involved in submission and collation of materials. In addition, this review will give us some data that might be useful for future modelling of strategy to our submissions.

For this first trial, we are evaluating all academics (TR/PI/TS). It is very possible that following publication of the final guidance, individuals included for REF2028 will be broader. There are four steps to our process:

1. Academics ensure all papers since 2021 accepted and listed in Elements and assign a flag to all likely 4* papers in Elements. If there are no 4* papers, please do not assign a flag.
2. Institute Directors/Managers confirm that all academics within Institute have updated Elements.
3. Library collates all Elements papers across the Faculty.
4. FMD Internal Review Panel reviews all scores and process.

Details of timetable can be found [here](#).

Guidance for all FMD Academics:

For this trial to guide our future approach we need all academics to complete the exercise. This means that you must enter Elements and ensure that all your publications since 2021 are accepted. We would like to collate all original research articles published as of January 2021 and also identify those that are likely to be rated 4* (see descriptor below). All academics need to identify, within Elements, any paper that is likely to receive a 4* rating using the flagging system for which we have provided [guidance](#).

If you feel you do not currently have a 4* paper, then please do not flag any papers. Together with this paper we provide full guidance on how to flag papers within Elements. The Dean for Research has used this guidance and completed the exercise in less than 10 minutes.

Guidance for FMD Internal Review Panel:

SCORING: All 4* papers should be scored as per the below criteria:

REF STAR GRADING

- **4*** Quality that is world-leading in terms of originality, significance and rigour. This is research that needs to have evidence of impact
- **3*** Quality that is internationally excellent in terms of originality, significance and rigour but which falls short of the highest standards of excellence.
- **2*** Quality that is recognised internationally in terms of originality, significance and rigour.
- **1*** Quality that is recognised nationally in terms of originality, significance and rigour.

U Quality that falls below the standard of nationally recognised work. Or work which does not meet the published definition of research for the purposes of this assessment.

AND

CONFIDENCE

- **Strong** At the upper boundary of the REF star grading given.
- **Solid** The output is in the middle of the REF boundary grading given.
- **Weak** The output is on the lower boundary of the REF star grading given.

FMD Internal Review Panel:

- Dean for Research (Chair)
- VP Health
- Dean for Research Impact
- 2 academics from each institute to rate papers
- 2 senior academics (individuals with REF Panel experience, chosen by Dean for Research) to rate and calibrate ratings
- Faculty EDI Lead

Panel administration

- Research EO team member