

VC Research's report:

1. FRAP report

The Future Research Assessment Programme has been released for consultation, announcing the broad lines of the next REF: <https://www.jisc.ac.uk/future-research-assessment-programme/initial-decisions>.

Some key elements include:

- The weighting for research outputs decreases from 60% to 50%. At least 10% of this will be around “contribution to knowledge and understanding”, and assessment of outputs will be expanded to include a judgement of a unit’s contribution to knowledge and understanding. Output submissions will now need to include a “structured statement” covering their “wider contribution to knowledge and understanding in the disciplinary area, supported by evidence and data, the contributions that enable the research of others outside the HEI and how the outputs submitted are representative of the research undertaken within the disciplinary area”.
- ‘Environment’ becomes ‘People, culture and environment’ and accounts for 25% of the score, up from 15%. There will be greater guidance around what that should contain which focuses on demonstrable outcomes and it will be expanded to include research culture.
- Impact retains 25% a weighting and will be renamed ‘impact and engagement’. A “structured explanatory statement which sets out the wider contribution of research activities to society and the economy” will need to be included alongside impact statements. HEIs will have to submit at least 1 impact case study per submission with the total number dependent on the FTE number of contributing staff in the unit.
- Each unit will need to submit 2.5 research outputs for every full-time equivalent researcher, with no maximum or minimum outputs that each researcher can submit.
- Institutions will be able to submit the same output to multiple UoA submissions, provided it falls within the UoA descriptors.

The initial decision documents, annexes and supporting documents are below:

- [Research Excellence Framework 2028: initial decisions and issues for further consultation \(REF 2023/01\) \(pdf\)](#)
- [Equality impact assessment for the Future Research Assessment Programme \(pdf\)](#)
- [Future Research Assessment Programme international advisory group report \(pdf\)](#)

2. Small Grants

The Small Grants committee met on 26th May 2023 and awarded funding to the following projects:

- Memories of the BUMIDOM (Antonia Wimbush)
- Meeting in the Middle: Bringing Together UCML's ECA Community (ECA SIG)

3. 30 June Thinking Strategically event

Alongside Charles Burdett I co-chaired the 'Thinking Strategically: Acting on the Voices of the Research Community' event: <https://ilcs.sas.ac.uk/events/thinking-strategically-acting-voices-research-community>. The session reflected on the findings of the *Modern Languages Open* article 'Research in Languages, Cultures and Societies: Voices of Researchers in the UK' by Nicola McLelland and Katie Harrison. <https://modernlanguagesopen.org/articles/10.3828/mlo.v0i0.476>. The article reflected on some of the findings from the AHRC Future of Languages Research Fellows. The discussants were Nicola McLelland (Nottingham), Liam Lewis (Liverpool), Naomi Wells (ILCS), Emanuelle Santos (Birmingham), Becky Muradás-Taylor (Leeds), Abir Hamdar (Durham).

One of the recommendations of the report was for institutions such as UCML to promote awareness of the support and resources available from the Institute for Government for researchers who wish to engage with government. The guide *How to Engage with Policy Makers: A Guide for Academics in the Arts and Humanities* (2020) is available at:

<https://www.instituteforgovernment.org.uk/publication/report/how-engage-policy-makers>.

4. LSP Dialogues

I have written an article in collaboration with Fransiska and Emma which has been published in the 'Dialogues' section of the *Languages, Society, Policy journal*:

<https://www.lspjournal.com/post/research-in-languages-societies-and-cultures>

The article responds to the reports of the three Fellows of the AHRC Future of Languages scheme, focussing on how we mobilise the strengths of modern languages research to respond to inequalities in languages provision and the needs of stakeholders within and beyond the languages community.