



Research Excellence Framework 2021



Results – May 2022

What is REF?

REF is the UK's system for assessing the quality of research in UK higher education institutions. It is undertaken by the four UK higher education funding bodies.

**Informs the allocation
of around £2 billion
government research
funding per year**

**Informs League Table
Positions**

**Provides
benchmarking
information**

**Provides
accountability for
public funding**

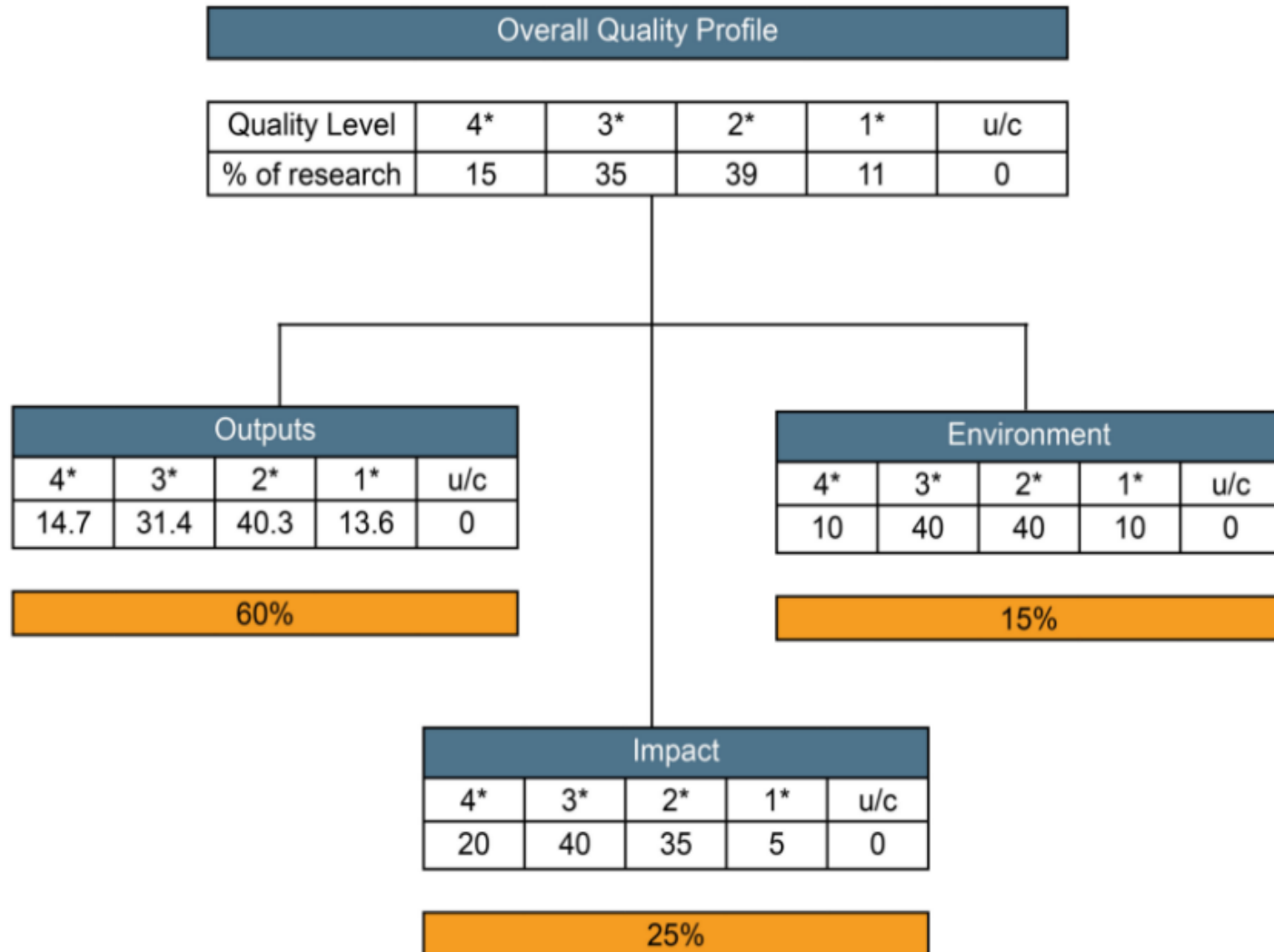
**Attracts Staff and
Students**

The Assessment Exercise

	Submission type		
	Outputs	Impact	Research environment
Proportion of overall result	60%	25%	15%
Assessed for...	Originality, significance and rigour.	Reach and significance of impacts.	Vitality and sustainability
Guiding principles for all panels	Equity Equality Transparency Value for money		

- Occurs every seven years **(Last REF was 2014)**
- All staff with significant responsibility for research **(An inclusive exercise)**
- 34 'units of assessment' (UOA). Each UOA covers a subject area such as clinical medicine, engineering, law or history
- Peer review, informed by metrics in some components of the submission
- All material submitted must adhere to strict eligibility criteria and is subject to audit

The Assessment Exercise

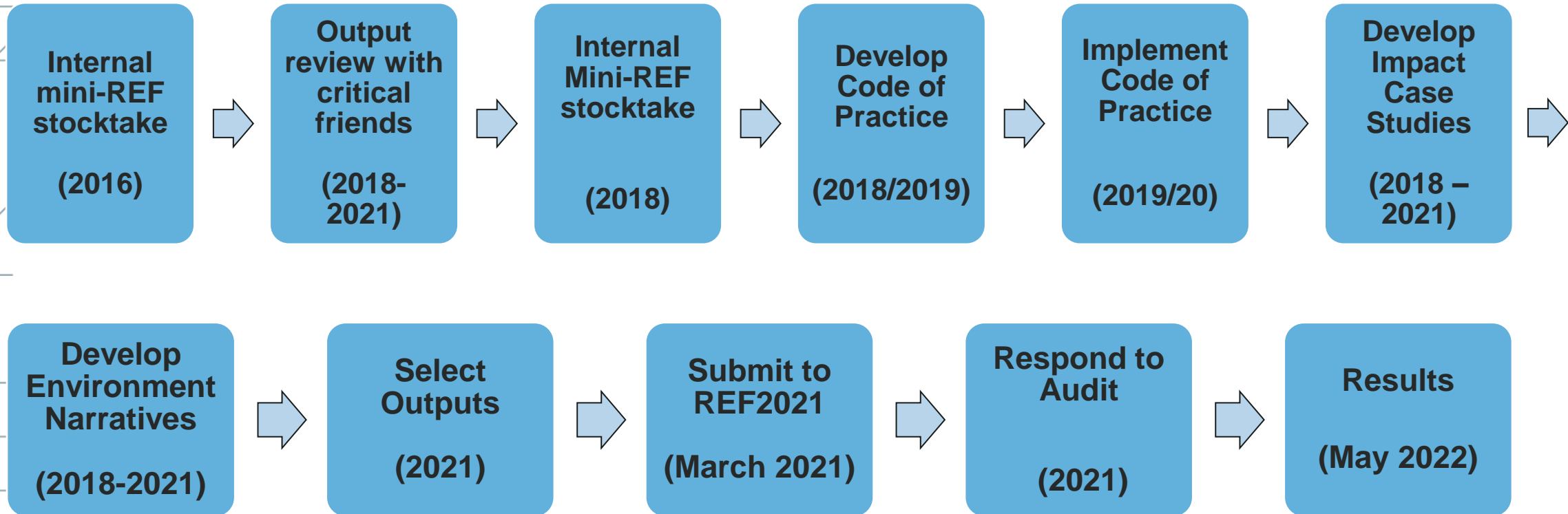


- Each UoA assessment panel uses its professional collective judgement to form an overall quality profile for each UOA. The process is objective and evidence based but is not algorithmic.
- The primary outcome of the panels' work is an **overall quality profile** awarded to each UoA submission.
- The overall quality profile is calculated by applying the sub-profile weightings for Outputs, Impact and Environment.

Quality Thresholds

Four star	Quality that is world-leading in terms of originality, significance and rigour.
Three star	Quality that is internationally excellent in terms of originality, significance and rigour but which falls short of the highest standards of excellence.
Two star	Quality that is recognised internationally in terms of originality, significance and rigour.
One star	Quality that is recognised nationally in terms of originality, significance and rigour.
Unclassified	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.

Internal Preparations



Institutional Results

Institutional Quality Profile

	Percentage of the submission meeting the standard for:					Total FTE
	4*	3*	2*	1*	U/C	
REF2021	21	47	29	3	0	251.1
REF2014	10	44	38	7	2	98.9

Performance Measure	2021	2014
Weighted GPA	2.86	2.52

A simple measure of the average quality of research, calculated by multiplying the percentage of research in each grade by its rating (0-4), adding them all together and dividing by 100. This is then weighted by the FTE submitted in each unit to reflect the spread of staff.

Performance Measure	2021	2014
Power (weighted GPA x FTE)	718	250

A Power metric provides a better reflection of a truly inclusive submission by factoring in the volume of staff submitted, as well as the quality.

Institutional Results

Sub-Profile	Version	Percentage of the submission meeting the standard for:				
		4*	3*	2*	1*	U/C
Outputs	REF2021	19	52	27	2	0
	REF2014	11	45	34	9	1
Impact	REF2021	37	43	17	1	1
	REF2014	9	46	36	3	6
Environment	REF2021	1	36	57	7	0
	REF2014	3	33	58	6	0

GPA (weighted)	2021	2014
Outputs	2.88	2.58
Impact	3.13	2.51
Environment	2.31	2.34

The Scottish Sector

Overall	GPA (weighted)			Power (GPA)		
Benchmark Group	ENU 2021 Sector Rank	ENU 2014 Sector Rank	Change	ENU 2021 Sector Rank	ENU 2014 Sector Rank	Change
Scottish	13	15	+2	9	11	+2
Scottish Post 92s	2	3	+1	1	3	+2

UK Modern Universities

Overall	GPA (weighted)			Power (GPA)		
Benchmark Group	ENU 2021 Sector Rank	ENU 2014 Sector Rank	Change	ENU 2021 Sector Rank	ENU 2014 Sector Rank	Change
UK Post 92s	19	29	+10	27	38	+11

UOA Performance - Overall

Unit of assessment	Unit of assessment name	Values				
		UK Power	Scottish Power	UK Modern Power	Scottish Modern Power	
Profile	Unit number	Power	Rank	Rank	Rank	Rank
Overall	3 Allied Health Professions, Dentistry, Nursing and Pharmacy	143	43	4	17	2
	7 Earth Systems and Environmental Sciences	34	37	8	7	2
	11 Computer Science and Informatics	123	29	3	4	1
	12 Engineering	74	65	8	21	2
	13 Architecture, Built Environment and Planning	37	34	6	17	2
	17 Business and Management Studies	66	77	10	25	2
	18 Law	12	68	8	24	2
	20 Social Work and Social Policy	29	68	8	38	3
	24 Sport and Exercise Sciences, Leisure and Tourism	73	22	4	13	2
	27 English Language and Literature	36	77	8	30	1
	32 Art and Design: History, Practice and Theory	23	78	8	40	2
	33 Music, Drama, Dance, Performing Arts, Film and Screen Studies	14	82	6	30	1
	34 Communication, Cultural and Media Studies, Library and Information Management	53	32	3	12	1

UOA Performance - Outputs

		Power	UK Power Rank	Scottish Power Rank	UK Modern Power Rank	Scottish Modern Power Rank
Outputs	3 Allied Health Professions, Dentistry, Nursing and Pharmacy	145	44	4	18	2
	7 Earth Systems and Environmental Sciences	34	39	8	8	2
	11 Computer Science and Informatics	116	34	3	6	1
	12 Engineering	77	67	8	23	2
	13 Architecture, Built Environment and Planning	38	34	6	17	2
	17 Business and Management Studies	65	76	10	24	2
	18 Law	13	68	8	24	2
	20 Social Work and Social Policy	29	68	8	38	3
	24 Sport and Exercise Sciences, Leisure and Tourism	77	21	3	12	1
	27 English Language and Literature	38	74	8	28	1
	32 Art and Design: History, Practice and Theory	25	73	8	35	2
	33 Music, Drama, Dance, Performing Arts, Film and Screen Studies	16	81	6	30	1
	34 Communication, Cultural and Media Studies, Library and Information Management	51	33	3	13	1

UOA Performance - Impact

		Power	UK Power Rank	Scottish Power Rank	UK Modern Power Rank	Scottish Modern Power Rank
Impact	3 Allied Health Professions, Dentistry, Nursing and Pharmacy	151	39	4	14	2
	7 Earth Systems and Environmental Sciences	42	36	7	6	1
	11 Computer Science and Informatics	158	23	3	3	1
	12 Engineering	82	63	8	21	2
	13 Architecture, Built Environment and Planning	44	30	6	14	2
	17 Business and Management Studies	70	79	11	26	3
	18 Law	13	67	7	23	1
	20 Social Work and Social Policy	34	63	8	33	3
	24 Sport and Exercise Sciences, Leisure and Tourism	75	24	3	14	1
	27 English Language and Literature	32	74	8	27	1
	32 Art and Design: History, Practice and Theory	22	77	8	39	2
	33 Music, Drama, Dance, Performing Arts, Film and Screen Studies	7	82	6	30	1
	34 Communication, Cultural and Media Studies, Library and Information Management	57	31	2	12	1

UOA Performance - Environment

		Power	UK Power Rank	Scottish Power Rank	UK Modern Power Rank	Scottish Modern Power Rank
Environme	3 Allied Health Professions, Dentistry, Nursing and Pharmacy	122	47	4	19	2
	7 Earth Systems and Environmental Sciences	23	38	8	7	2
	11 Computer Science and Informatics	94	36	5	5	1
	12 Engineering	51	68	8	23	2
	13 Architecture, Built Environment and Planning	22	36	6	19	2
	17 Business and Management Studies	66	73	10	22	2
	18 Law	9	68	8	24	2
	20 Social Work and Social Policy	22	67	8	37	3
	24 Sport and Exercise Sciences, Leisure and Tourism	53	30	4	15	2
	27 English Language and Literature	31	75	8	28	1
	32 Art and Design: History, Practice and Theory	20	78	8	39	2
	33 Music, Drama, Dance, Performing Arts, Film and Screen Studies	15	81	6	29	1
	34 Communication, Cultural and Media Studies, Library and Information Management	53	29	3	10	1

Key Messages

Edinburgh Napier
UNIVERSITY



Top Scottish modern university for both research power and research impact.

Edinburgh Napier
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68% of our research is now assessed as **internationally excellent** or **world leading**

Edinburgh Napier
UNIVERSITY



The University's Research Power metric has **rocketed from 250 to 718.**

Edinburgh Napier
UNIVERSITY



We submitted research in 13 units of assessments and we improved in **every single one of them.**

A year of R&I Successes

207 research degree enrolments against a target of 195 (14% growth)

PRES satisfaction 81%

Research Income up from £3.15m to £4.7m in 2021-22

THE world rankings up into the 500-600 boundary

Strategic investment in new research – focussed academic appointments

Next Steps



**Confidential
feedback from REF
expected June 2022**



**Develop our
Research
Environment**



**Increase our 4*
World-leading
research**



**Submit 400 FTE to
next REF**

**A very big thank you
and congratulations
to everyone**

Impact

Our research pioneered the sale of **carbon** stored by **mangrove trees**



Allowing Kenyans to protect **50,000** hectares of **endangered** forests



Projects provide drinking water, school buildings, textbooks for **local communities**



Our research has been used in video games, mobile phones and films



Innovations include digital acting and faster rendering



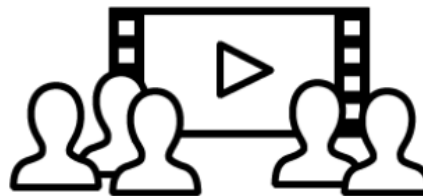
Professor **Kenny Mitchell** has filed over **50** patent inventions



Feature films with direct input from communities



Real experiences used in training & education



Awarded in **international** film festivals

