

Westminster Higher Education Forum Keynote Seminar:

Developing the next Research Excellence Framework

Timing: Morning, Tuesday, 7th March 2017

Venue: Glaziers Hall, 9 Montague Close, London SE1 9DD



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Agenda subject to change

- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chair's opening remarks**
Ehsan Masood, Editor, Research Fortnight
- 9.05 - 9.35 **Developing REF 2021**
Kim Hackett, REF Manager and Head of Research Assessment, HEFCE
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.35 - 10.30 **Revising the structures of REF: Units of Assessment and the diversity of their panel members, the role of metrics and encouraging interdisciplinary research**
Examining Units of Assessment and the diversity of their panel members, the role of metrics and encouraging interdisciplinary research. Views on proposals to maintain the same Units of Assessment as REF 2014 but with potential special arrangements for areas of concern highlighted previously such as film and media and criminology. Will the proposals on nominating assessment panel members meet the challenges set out in the Equality and Diversity Advisory Panel's January 2015 report; what further measures might be considered? To what extent should metrics play a greater role in aiding assessment? How should interdisciplinary research be encouraged through the REF, and what views are there on the proposal for Interdisciplinary Research Champions on each panel?
Professor Natalie Fenton, Professor of Media and Communications, Goldsmiths, University of London and Chair, Media, Communication and Cultural Studies Association
Ellen Pugh, Policy Programme Manager, Equality Challenge Unit
Paul Simmonds, UK Managing Director, Technopolis
Dr Simon Kerridge, Director of Research Services, University of Kent and Vice-Chair, CASRAI
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.30 - 10.35 **Chair's closing remarks**
Ehsan Masood, Editor, Research Fortnight
- 10.35 - 11.05 Coffee
- 11.05 - 11.10 **Chair's opening remarks**
Carol Monaghan MP, Shadow SNP Westminster Group Leader (Public Services and Education) and Member, House of Commons Science and Technology Committee
- 11.10 - 12.00 **Who's in? Reforming REF to cover all 'research-active' staff and addressing portability of outputs**
Views on proposals to expand REF to cover all 'research-active' staff and how this should be defined. What would be the likely impact - including on early career researchers - of the proposal to end portability of research outputs in a bid to tackle concerns around a 'transfer market' for academics?
Dr John Gathergood, Associate Professor in Economics, University of Nottingham and Author, *How Much is that Star in the Window? Professorial Salaries and Research Performance in UK Universities*
Katy McKen, Head of Research Information and Intelligence, University of Bath
Dr James Callaghan, Director of Research & Enterprise Service, Newcastle University
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.00 - 12.55 **The next steps for 'Impact' and the 'Research Environment': weighting, broadening the definition of 'Impact', rewarding data sharing and introducing institution-level assessment**
Examining the proposed introduction of new institution-level assessments of Impact and Research Environment. Should the 20% weighting for Impact be maintained, as the consultation proposes, or should it be extended to 25% as recommended by the Witty Review of Universities and Growth? Views on the proposals to broaden the definition of Impact to make clear that case studies include impact on 'public engagement and understanding, impact on cultural life, academic impact outside the field, and on teaching'. How could the REF encourage greater data sharing and the widespread adoption of 'open data' principles across the UK research base?
Professor Roger Kain, Dean and Chief Executive, School of Advanced Study, University of London and Vice-President, Research and HE Policy, British Academy
Professor Jenny Ames, Associate Dean (Research and Innovation), UWE Bristol and Member, University Alliance Pro Vice-Chancellor Research and Innovation Network
Matthew Guest, Senior Policy Advisor (Research & Innovation), GuildHE
Dr Victoria Moody, Director of Communications and Impact, UK Data Service
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chair's and Westminster Higher Education Forum closing remarks**
Carol Monaghan MP, Shadow SNP Westminster Group Leader (Public Services and Education) and Member, House of Commons Science and Technology Committee
Jonny Roberts, Associate Editor, Westminster Higher Education Forum