

Advice for Developing an Impact Case Study

Impact case studies that score highly typically:

1. Are well-written, well-structured and free from jargon.
2. Clearly indicate the reach and significance of the impacts claimed.
3. Ensure that impacts are underpinned by excellent research.
4. Highlight the value of the impact to specific groups or sections of society.
5. Feature high-quality and varied corroborating evidence that convincingly links the research to the impact.

✓ Read previous impact case studies

A good starting point is to read published impact case studies submitted to previous REF assessments. You can find examples related to your discipline by searching the official impact databases for the [REF2014](#) or [REF2021](#) assessments. It is highly valuable to review case studies that are known to have scored highly and a collection of these is available at our 4* impact case study databases which include those from the [Faculty of Science, Engineering and Medicine](#), the [Faculty of Social Sciences](#) and the [Faculty of Arts](#).

✓ Focus on the reach and significance of the Impact

The reach and significance of any stated changes will be the basis for assessment of the case study by a panel of experts. It is therefore important to evaluate these parameters and highlight them clearly in the impact section of a case study document. Sometimes, impact reach can be accurately calculated, while in other situations, an estimation is required. In either case, it is important to have evidence to corroborate any figures included.

✓ Start Collecting Evidence Early

Impact evidence can often be difficult to collect if a significant amount of time has passed since the changes occurred. It is therefore wise to collect evidence as you go along. Building and maintaining strong relationships with your partners could be crucial to your efforts as you may need to request testimonials or data from external organisations. Impact evidence can be stored in the [Warwick Impact Capture System \(WICS\)](#). Please contact the Impact Team if you require a WICS account.

✓ Refer to Current REF Guidelines

Underpinning research and impacts must meet REF guidelines to be included in an impact case study. A [timetable](#) for consultation and publication of the guidelines for the next REF is available on the official REF2029 website. Detailed guidelines for impact assessment in the last REF can be found in the [REF2021 panel criteria and working methods document](#).