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REF 2021 Data Collection Statements for Loughborough
University Staff
The purpose of the Research Excellence Framework 2021 (REF2021) is to assess the quality of
UK research and to inform the selective distribution of public f 6i9yT.6 (iuf)6.3 0but fRE), on behalf of the four UK higher education funding bodies. RE is part of UK
Research and Innovation (UKRI), and under this arrangement UKRI has the role of ‘data
controller’ for personal data submitted by us to the REF.
If you are a researcher who has been included as part of our submission to the REF 2021, in
2021 we will send some of the information we hold about you to UKRI for the purpose of the
REF2021. The information will not be in coded form and your name and details such as your
date of birth, research groups, and contract dates will be provided along with details of your
research. If you are submitted with individual circumstances that allow a reduction in the number
of outputs submitted, without penalty, some details of your personal circumstances will be
provided.
You can find further information about what data are being collected on the REF website, at
www.r
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• Department for the Economy, Northern Ireland (DfE)
• Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW)
• Scottish Funding Council (SFC).
Some of your data (Unit of Assessment, HESA staff identifier code and date of birth) will also be
passed to the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) to enable it to verify coded data
returned to it as part of our HESA staff return (see www.hesa.ac.uk). Data returned to the REF
will be linked to that held on the HESA staff record to allow UKRI and the organisations listed
above to conduct additional analysis into the REF and fulfil their statutory duties under the
Equality Act 2010 (England, Wales and Scotland) or the Northern Ireland Act 1998 (Northern
Ireland).
UKRI and the organisations listed above will use the information to analyse and monitor the
REF2021. This may result in information being released to other users including academic
researchers or consultants (commissioned by the funding bodies), to carry out research or
analysis, in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and the General Data Protection
Regulation (GDPR) (Regulation (EU) 2016/679). Where information not previously published is
released to third parties, this will be anonymised where practicable.
UKRI will require that anyone who has access to your data, held in UKRI’s records, paper or
electronic, will respect its confidentiality and will only process it in accordance with instructions
issued for the purposes specified by UKRI.

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Parts of your data will be passed to the REF expert panels and the Equality and Diversity
Advisory Panel (whose members are independent of UKRI) for the purpose of conducting a
systematic evaluation of submissions, in accordance with predetermined criteria and methods.
Panels will make judgments about the material contained in submissions and will not form quality
judgments about individuals. All panel members are bound by confidentiality arrangements.

Publishing information about your part in our submission
The results of the assessment exercise will be published by UKRI, on behalf of the four UK
higher education funding bodies, in April 2022. The published results will not be based on
individual performance nor identify individuals.
Those parts of submissions that contain factual data and textual information about research
activity will also be published by UKRI, on behalf of the four UK higher education funding bodies,
and will be made available online. Published information is likely to include textual information
including impact case studies in which you may be referenced. Your name,job title and
periods of employment may be included in this textual information. Other personal and
contractual details, including your date of birth and all information about individual staff
circumstances will be removed.
UKRI will also publish a list of the outputs submitted by us in each UOA. This list will not be listed
by author name.
Unless redacted, the information to be published by UKRI, on behalf of the four UK higher
education funding bodies, will include a single list of all the outputs submitted by us in each Unit
of assessment. The list of outputs will include standard bibliogr

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anonymised to protect an individual’s privacy. We will send to Research England a report t

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Loughborough University REF 2021 Data Collection
Statements for Non-Staff
About the REF
The purpose of the Research Excellence Framework 2021 (REF2021) is to assess the quality of
UK research and to inform the selective distribution of public funds for research by the four UK
higher education funding bodies. The REF outcomes are used to calculate about £2 billion per
year of public funding for universities’ research, and affect their international reputations. The
results also inform strategic decisions about national research priorities. The next REF will be
undertaken in 2021.

The REF was first carried out in 2014, replacing the previous Research Assessment Exercise. It
included for the first time an assessment of the broader impact of universities’ research beyond
academia: on the economy, society, culture, public policy and services, health, the environment
and quality of life – within the UK and internationally.

Impact is assessed through the submission of case studies, which describe the changes or
benefits brought about by research undertaken by researchers at the institution. Impressive
impacts were found across all disciplines, with 44 per cent of submissions judged to be
outstanding. A database of case studies submitted in 2014 can be found here:
https://impact.ref.ac.uk/.

Data collection
The REF is managed by the REF team, based at Research England (RE), on behalf of the four
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All panel members are bound by confidentiality arrangements.

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