

# Engagement with Impact

Develop • Consult • Evaluate

RRReady steady

REF:

Getting your

Researchers REF

Ready!

Live Workshops and Programmes

## Overview

REF 2029 may still feel on the horizon, but the foundations are being laid now. The earlier we begin to explore, plan and embed impact planning and evaluation into our research, research cultures and engagement practice, the stronger and more confident we become, both individually and as a community. This suite of live workshops and programmes is designed to support researchers and professional services staff at every stage of the REF journey. From introductory sessions for doctoral and early-career researchers, through to more advanced workshops focused on planning impact, developing robust evaluation approaches, and crafting clear, compelling impact narratives, there is something here for everyone. We have even introduced a new workshop on working with AI on your REF journey.

We are also excited to offer a more structured programme, bringing together a series of workshops with dedicated 1:1 consultancy sessions. This allows for deeper support, personalised guidance, and the opportunity to develop your impact plans, evaluation strategies and narratives with expert input along the way. Furthermore, we also offer tailored team away days and bespoke sessions for departments and professional services teams. These can focus on building evaluation frameworks, strengthening impact strategies, or co-designing REF-ready approaches that work within your institutional context.

If you are looking to build confidence, capability and clarity around REF impact and evaluation in research, research cultures and engagement- we would love to work with you. You can find out about all our opportunities below and [drop us a line here to start the conversation!](#)

## Workshops and Programmes

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## About Us

Engagement with Impact has over 25 years combined experience supporting impact, evaluation and engagement in the higher education sector. Our key mission is to empower researchers and research support professionals with the skills, confidence and practical tools to plan, evaluate and communicate meaningful research and research culture impact. Through engaging, hands-on workshops, coaching and ready-to-use toolkits, we create supportive and energising learning experiences that fit into busy academic lives. Our programmes combine peer learning, self-directed reflection, creativity and real-world case-studies to help researchers and professional staff to feel calm, confident and proud of their work...p.s. there may also be some grounding meditations, dancing and random treasure hunts thrown in too!

## Mapping to the RDF

Our programmes are aligned with the [Vitae Researcher Development Framework 2025 \(RDF 2025\)](#), a sector-leading model that defines the values, knowledge and behaviours of effective researchers. Our workshops have been designed to support the researcher, the research and the research communities. For each workshop we have highlighted up to six key areas mapped onto the researcher development framework.



**Figure 1: The Researcher Development Framework.** An adapted visual representation of the Researcher Development Framework, highlighting the researcher at the centre, surrounded by their research activity and the wider research communities that support and shape their development. [Image adapted from Vitae.](#)

## Getting started with REF impact: bringing research, culture and engagement together

New to REF, impact, research culture or public engagement? Not sure where to begin? Wondering how it all fits together within the REF context?



If this sounds familiar, this live, interactive workshop is designed with you in mind.

This session introduces the key concepts shaping REF 2029, including Engagement and Impact, as well as research environments. Through practical examples and guided discussion, participants will explore what “impact” means in their own context, how it is assessed within REF, and where their work may already be contributing, perhaps more than they realise.

Sound good? [drop us a line here to start the conversation!](#)

**Who's it for:** Doctoral researchers, early career researchers, and those new to REF, impact or public engagement

**RDF Descriptors:** 1.4 Curious 1.6 Adaptable 2.6 Creativity and innovation 4.3 Knowledge exchange and public engagement 5.6 Networking

### Workshop format:

- Online live workshop (plus recording for 1 year)
- 2 hours
- up to 50 attendees

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## Maximising impact: Planning impact with your projects

Eager to create research with meaningful impact? Wondering about your outputs, outcomes and impacts?

This interactive workshop equips researchers with the tools to embed impact from the very beginning. Using logic models and real-world examples, participants will design impact pathways tailored to their own research while developing a more strategic approach to their projects.



Through a combination of peer learning, case studies and guided reflection, participants will leave with a clear example of an impact plan, as well as a draft plan they can apply directly to their own work.

Sound good? [drop us a line here to start the conversation!](#)

**Who's it for:** Researchers planning or developing projects with impact in mind

**RDF Descriptors:** 1.2 Strategic 1.3 Organised 3.2 Project management 4.3 Knowledge exchange and public engagement 5.1 Research culture

**Workshop format:**

- Online live workshop (plus recording for 1 year)
- 3 hours
- up to 30 attendees

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## Elevating your evaluation: Measuring and evidencing impact

**Want to move beyond basic feedback forms? Unsure how to evidence impact for REF?**

This workshop introduces a range of evaluation approaches and supports participants to develop an evaluation plan aligned with REF expectations. Through case studies, participants will explore both creative and robust ways of capturing and evidencing impact.



Participants will be introduced to the 5 Levels of Evaluation framework and apply it to a case study, exploring a variety of qualitative and quantitative methods, from reflective exercises and quick pulse checks through to more in-depth impact tracing.

Through a blend of peer learning, case studies and guided reflection, participants will leave with a clear example of an evaluation plan, along with a draft plan they can adapt and apply to their own work.

Sound good? [drop us a line here to start the conversation!](#)

**Who's it for:** Researchers needing to demonstrate the impact of a project

**RDF Descriptors:** 1.2 Strategic 1.3 Organised 3.2 Project management 4.3 Knowledge exchange and public engagement 5.1 Research culture

### Workshop format:

- Online live workshop (plus recording for 1 year)
- 3 hours
- up to 30 attendees

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## From evidence to stories: Crafting compelling REF impact narratives

Got the impact but struggling to tell the story? Not sure how to translate work into a REF-ready case study?

This workshop focuses on developing clear, compelling impact stories. Participants will explore what makes a strong REF impact story, how to structure and present evidence effectively, and how to articulate the impact their work is creating.



The session also introduces creative approaches to strengthen storytelling, using a practical four-part framework to help bring stories to life!

Sound good? [drop us a line here to start the conversation!](#)

**Who's it for:** Researchers, impact leads, REF coordinators

**RDF Descriptors:** 1.4 Curious 1.6 Adaptable 2.6 Creativity and innovation 4.1 Communication 4.3 Knowledge exchange and public engagement

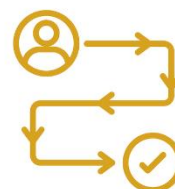
### Workshop format:

- Online live workshop (plus recording for 1 year)
- 3 hours
- up to 30 attendees

## Masterclass: Getting REF Ready- Planning, evaluation and stories

Want to bring your impact journey together, from strategic planning to creative evaluation to bringing your story to life?

This extended masterclass takes participants through the full impact lifecycle Using a combination of case studies and their own work, participants will explore how to design impact plans, develop meaningful evaluation approaches, and translate this into clear and engaging impact stories that bring their projects to life.



Through peer learning, case studies and guided self-reflection, participants will leave with examples of impact plans, evaluation frameworks and narrative approaches, alongside draft versions of their own impact plan, evaluation plan and impact story.

Sound good? [drop us a line here to start the conversation!](#)

**Who's it for:** Researchers developing or refining impact plans, evaluation and narratives

**RDF Descriptors:** 1.2 Strategic 2.6 Creativity and innovation 3.2 Project management 4.1 Communication 4.3 Knowledge exchange and public engagement

**Workshop format:**

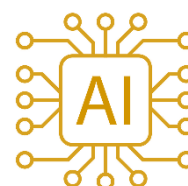
- Online or in-person workshop
- 6 hours
- up to 30 attendees

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## Using AI in REF: Enhancing impact, evaluation and storytelling

Curious about how AI can support your REF preparation? Wondering how to use it effectively without losing your own voice or critical perspective?

This interactive workshop explores how AI tools can be used to support different stages of the REF journey, from generating ideas and structuring



impact plans, to supporting evaluation design and strengthening narrative writing.

Participants will experiment with practical use cases, including using AI to refine impact pathways, develop evaluation questions, and enhance the clarity and flow of impact case studies. The session will also consider ethical use, limitations, and how to critically engage with AI outputs in a research context.

Sound good? [drop us a line here to start the conversation!](#)

**Who's it for:** Researchers, professional services staff, and anyone involved in REF preparation, impact or evaluation

**RDF Descriptors:** 1.2 Strategic 2.4 Digital and technological capabilities 2.6 Creativity and innovation 4.1 Communication 4.3 Knowledge exchange and public engagement

### Workshop format

- Online live workshop (plus recording for 1 year)
- 3 hours
- up to 30 attendees

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## RRReady steady REF: Getting your Researchers REF Ready Programme

A comprehensive programme designed to support researchers, teams and institutions to build confidence, capability and coherence in REF impact and evaluation.

### What's included:

#### Core workshops (choose 4–6 depending on needs):

- REF, impact, research culture, and public engagement essentials
- Planning impact
- Designing for engagement and knowledge exchange
- Evaluation and evidencing impact
- Crafting REF narratives

- Using AI on your REF journey
- Bringing it all together

### 1:1 consultancy sessions

- Tailored support for researchers developing impact case studies
- Feedback on evaluation plans and impact narratives
- Strategic guidance for REF preparation

### Optional team sessions

- Working with research culture teams
- Supporting KE and impact teams
- Department or faculty-level impact and evaluation strategy conversations

### Programme format:

Series of live online or in-person workshops (for full-day workshops only)

Delivered over 3–6 months

Includes recordings and resources

1:1 sessions (e.g. 1 hour per participant or selected cohort)

### Tailoring options:

This programme can be tailored to:

- REF preparation and strategy
- Research culture development
- Impact and public engagement
- Knowledge exchange teams
- Co-designing institutional REF evaluation strategies

**RDF Descriptors:** [1.2 Strategic](#) [2.6 Creativity and innovation](#) [3.2 Project management](#) [4.1](#)

[Communication](#) [4.3 Knowledge exchange and public engagement](#)

**Pricing:** Available on request depending on scale, number of workshops, and consultancy requirements.

## Team away days, strategy and bespoke support

Looking to take a step back and think strategically about impact, evaluation or REF readiness as a team?

We offer tailored away days, workshops and consultancy support designed to help you build confidence, clarity and a shared approach across your team or department. Whether you are at an early stage or refining existing work, we can support you to move forward in a way that feels practical, collaborative and grounded in your context.

Together, we can:

- Co-design impact plans and logic model frameworks tailored to your research or institutional priorities
- Develop bespoke evaluation toolkits, templates and resources to support consistent and meaningful practice
- Explore REF-ready approaches to impact, evaluation and evidence gathering
- Create space for team discussion, reflection and shared learning

These sessions can be delivered as interactive co-production workshops, or as a more in-depth consultancy project depending on your needs.

Prices start from £1500 + VAT.

If you would like to explore what this could look like for your team, [drop us a line here to start the conversation!](#)