

Engagement and Impact

Making sense of how research creates public value

About the course

This half-day workshop helps researchers and colleagues contributing to REF engagement and impact case studies to step back from drafting and focus on the thinking that underpins strong case studies.

If you are already doing meaningful engagement and impact work but want greater clarity, confidence and coherence in how you explain it, this workshop is for you.

“How does our research lead to change, and how do we explain that clearly and credibly?”

Using the NCCPE Engagement & Impact Toolkit, you'll work through a series of structured prompts and exercises that help you:

- Clarify what your research actually contributed and why it mattered
- Understand how engagement enabled change, rather than simply listing activities
- Strengthen the logic and flow of your impact narrative
- Make proportionate, responsible and credible claims that panels can follow and judge with confidence

What the course covers

- Understanding research contribution
- Engagement as a mechanism for change across the research cycle
- Exploring the settings and systems in which research creates change
- Considering risks and responsibilities in engagement and impact practice
- Strengthening the credibility and logic of impact narratives
- Identifying and using appropriate evidence to support impact claims
- Applying the framework to your own research, ideas or draft materials

Who should attend

- Academics and researchers at all career stages
- Early Career Researchers and PhD students
- Researchers developing engagement and impact activities
- Colleagues preparing or contributing to REF engagement and impact case studies
- Research teams interested in strengthening the public value of their work

How it works

You are encouraged to bring an engagement and impact case study idea or draft in progress and work through how REF 2029 expectations apply in practice.

By the end of the 3 hour online workshop, you will leave with:

- A clearer sense of the kind of engagement and impact story you are telling
- Structured notes you can use directly for drafting or revision
- Greater confidence in how REF panels make judgements
- The NCCPE REF Engagement and Impact Toolkit including workbook, prompts and guidance

Course Dates

Tuesday 24 November
2026 9.30-13.30

Thursday 25 February
2027 13.30-4.30

Tuesday 11 May 2027
9.30-13.30