

SPRE Narrative Development: Explaining Strategy, Choice and Coherence

About the course

This two-part workshop supports institutions to develop a clear and compelling Strategy, People and Research Environment (SPRE) narrative for REF 2029. Designed for teams involved in REF preparation, it helps participants move beyond describing structures and activities to explaining how their research environment enables research excellence, engagement and impact, why strategic choices have been made, and how effectiveness and improvement can be evidenced over time.

If you are involved in developing your institution's SPRE narrative and want greater confidence in explaining how strategy, culture, engagement and impact are organised, enabled and improved over time, this workshop is for you.

"How do we clearly explain the choices we've made about how research, engagement and impact are organised, and what difference those choices make?"

What the course covers

- REF 2029 SPRE expectations and assessment criteria
- Strategy, choice and coherence in the research environment
- Developing institutional narratives and strategic storylines
- Identifying priority themes and areas of focus
- Building claims supported by evidence and outcomes
- Understanding effectiveness, learning and improvement
- Identifying strengths, gaps and evidence priorities
- Structuring content against the SPRE framework

Who should attend

- REF steering group members including UoA leads
- Senior research leaders
- Research strategy teams
- Research culture leaders
- Professional services colleagues involved in REF preparation

Institutions are encouraged to bring together colleagues from across these areas to develop a shared understanding of their emerging SPRE narrative.

How it works

Delivered as two facilitated online workshops (2 hours each), with reflection and development time between sessions, this course uses structured discussion, practical exercises and collaborative reflection to help participants:

- Clarify why research, engagement and impact are organised in the way they are
- Understand how strategy, culture, engagement and impact connect
- Demonstrate learning, adaptation and improvement since REF 2021
- Develop a narrative grounded in institutional practice and experience
- Translate emerging themes into clear, evidence-informed claims for SPRE

Participants work together to explore strengths, identify priorities, test narrative approaches and build confidence in developing a coherent REF 2029 submission

How to book

Contact us to discuss your requirements and schedule your workshops

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