University of Bath Internal Preparations and Dates for your diary

- Overview of preparations to date
- Current REF 2029 deadlines
- Current REF Audit (24/25) information and timetable
- Preparing to submit – 2025 – 2027
- Finalising our submission – 2027 – 2028

University of Bath Preparations to date

- Since, 2022 we have been undertaking some internal preparations for REF to understand our current position and build on lessons learnt from previous exercises. This has included a review of our research culture, our current research portfolio and its potential for impact. These have been taking place on an annual basis, launching in the Autumn, completing in the spring and reporting to UEB in the summer.

- These exercise (called REF audits) were to help us to have a good understanding of where we are, so that we can allocate resources and support, address any risks, issues and challenges brought in through the changes to REF 2029. More about the changes to REF 2029.

- The following sets out a high-level overview of the preparations and support going forward with key dates to be aware of in the next few slides.

External REF29 Timetable

Note: Publication of Guidance has been paused until Dec 2025 but this does not currently affect submission date

Full timetable available here:
https://2029.ref.ac.uk/about/timetable/

2023	Initial Decisions
Spring 2024	Consultation exercises and Further decisions
Winter 2024/25	Open Access Policy published ; Volume Measure and Code of Practice guidance published
Summer 2025	CKU Guidance published
Winter 2025	PCE Guidance published Engagement and Impact Guidance published
2026	Submit Code of Practice Publish full final guidance
Spring 2027	Submission intentions survey deadline
Autumn 2026	Staff HESA returns determining staff volume for REF 2029
Autumn 2027	
Nov 2028	Submission deadline
Dec 2029	Results published

University of Bath Preparations to date

- Established REF Steering Group (formally Review Group) who reports to Research and Knowledge Exchange Committee (RKEC)
- Developed ambitious targets for each UoA through benchmarking to improve performance
- Responded to consultations
- Taking part in People, Culture and Environment workshops and pilots
- REF audit exercises 2022/23 and 2023/24
  - Assess where we are now
  - Identify priority areas for support
  - Focused on Outputs and Impact Case Studies
  - Faculty/School led approach
- Secured additional funding to support impact development and delivery
- Secured additional funding to support a calibration exercise of output reviews

REF 2029
Research Excellence Framework

25/26 Audit Timetable

October 2025	Start Audit Process – Launched in October 2025
November 2025	*Consult on Code of Practice*
March 2026	Submit deliverables (output review scores, draft impact cases, PCE questionnaire) at UoA and Faculty/School Level
April 2026	Faculty/School Submit deliverables to RIS and VCs office
May 2026	REF SSG - Internal Panel Reviews
July 2026	Feedback to Faculties/School and UoAs
July 2026	Report to UEB
Autumn 2026	Long term plan announced to 2028

Full timetable available here: https://2029.ref.ac.uk/about/timetable/

25/26 Audit Deliverables

If in doubt speak to your UoA Lead or email ref@bath.ac.uk

Contribution to knowledge and understanding	Faculty/School and UoA lead Peer Review of Eligible Research Outputs against REF2021* criteria and grading **Action:** Please ensure your outputs are on PURE!
Engagement and Impact	Drafting of REF Impact Case Studies **Action:** Keep an eye out of updates and events – ICS writing retreats planned for November and February
People, Culture and Environment	Self assessment of position against Research Culture Priority areas **Action:** Keep an eye out for updates and events.
Code of Practice and EIA	Code of Practice Development and Consultation **Action:** Read the code of practice and provide feedback

2026/2027 Timetable – Preparing to submit

- **September** - Launch of REF2029 Preparations (REF Audit) exercise. This will involve:
  - Contribution to knowledge and Understanding (CKU) – Ongoing peer review of eligible research outputs and drafting of CKU statements
  - People, Culture and Environment (PCE) - Drafting of PCE statements at Unit of Assessment (UoA) and Institutional Level
  - Engagement and Impact (E&I) – Drafting of Impact Case Studies and drafting of UoA E&I evidence statements
- **December** - Establishment of internal UoA assessment panels
- **April** – Internal submission of REF Audit deliverables
- **May** - Review of REF Audit submissions by UoA panels
- **June** - Report to REF strategy Steering group and to UEB on our position and preparedness

To support these activities, we will be running writing retreats, workshops and can provide 1:1 support. If you would like to find out more, please contact ref@bath.ac.uk or look out for the events on our RIS webpages.

Full timetable available is available from the Research Excellence and Impact Team ref@bath.ac.uk

2027/2028 Timetable – Finalising our Submission

- **September 2027 -** Launch of REF2029 Final Preparations (REF Final) exercise. This will involve:
  - Contribution to knowledge and Understanding (CKU) – Ongoing peer review of eligible research outputs, selection of research outputs and finalising of UoA CKU evidence statements
  - People, Culture and Environment (PCE) – Finalising PCE Evidence statements at UoA and Institutional Level
  - Engagement and Impact (E&I) – Finalising Impact Case Studies and Finalising E&I Evidence statements
- **April 2028** – Internal submission of REF Final Institutional submission
- **May 2028** - Review of REF Final submissions by UoA panels
- **June 2028** - Report to REF strategy Steering group and recommendation made to UEB
- **September 2028** - Recommendation made to Senate
- **November 2028** (tbc) – VC and Pro-VC (Research and Enterprise) makes Institutional submission

Full timetable available is available from the Research Excellence and Impact Team ref@bath.ac.uk

Timetable – Other related activities to be aware of

Alongside this we are also undertaking key pieces of work to support our submission, including:

- **September 2025** - Identification of Unit of Assessment (UoA) Leads for CKU, PCE and E&I
- **October 2026 and October 2027** – Making the HESA staff return that will inform REF volume measure
- **March 2025 to February 2026** - Developing our Code of Practice and other related policies – to find out more about this and to take part in associated consultations visit our code of conduct pages or contact ref@bath.ac.uk

For more information, including a more detailed timeline of all activities please contact the Research Excellence and Impact Team on ref@bath.ac.uk

Useful Additional Resources and Reading

- Initial Decision Document – Outlines the initial Design of REF2029 - https://repository.jisc.ac.uk/9148/1/research-excellence-framework-2028-initial-decisions-report.pdf

- REF2029 website – a great way to keep up with the news and updates following consultation on the initial decisions - https://www.ref.ac.uk/

- REF2014 and REF2021 information is also available – for example https://2021.ref.ac.uk/ which includes guidance, results and Impact Case Study Databases of those submitted (and made public)

- You can also signup to the REF news alert to your email

Internal Contacts

- Contact Research Excellence and Impact Team within Research and Impact Services for any question relating to REF – ref@bath.ac.uk

- Or talk to your Faculty / School Associate Director of Research who is overseeing preparations for your Faculty / School

- Or your Unit of Assessment Lead (UoA) who is overseeing preparations for the UoA – see next slide to find our who they are

- If about **Contribution to Knowledge and Understanding** – contact your ADR or Faculty Research Manager or Head of Research Office

- If about **Impact case studies** contact your Impact Director or the Research Impact Team in RIS on research-impact@bath.ac.uk

- If about **People Culture and Environment** then please contact your UoA lead or contact the research culture team on research-culture@bath.ac.uk

UoA Leads (October 2025)

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

- Psychology, UoA - Gregory Maio
- Economics and Econometrics, UoA 16 - Robertas Zubrickas
- Politics and International Studies, UoA 19 - Sophia Hatzisavvidou
- Social work and social policy, UoA 20 - Kate Woodthorpe
- Education, UoA 23 - Lizzi Milligan, Jim Hordern
- Sport and Exercise Science, UoA24 - Martyn Standage

School of Management

- Business and Management, UoA 17 - Fotios Petropoulos

Faculty of Science

- Allied Health Professionals, UoA 3 - tbc
- Computer Science and Informatics, UoA 11 - Thomas Powell
- Biological Sciences, UoA 5 - tbc
- Chemistry, UoA 8 - Petra Cameron
- Physics, UoA 9 - Daniel Wolverson
- Mathematical Sciences, UoA 10 - Kirill Cherednichenko

Faculty of Engineering

- Engineering, UoA12 – Chris Bowen
- Architecture, UoA13 – Anthony Darby