

Dataset 6: Selected REF Case Studies

ABSTRACT

This dataset presents a curated selection of 100 impact case studies from the Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2021, a comprehensive assessment initiative in the UK evaluating research quality and societal impact across higher education institutions. Sourced from an original pool of 6,361 case studies, this subset includes cases from four disciplinary panels: Medical and Health Sciences (Panel A), Physical Sciences and Engineering (Panel B), Social Sciences (Panel C), and Arts and Humanities (Panel D), ensuring a balanced representation with 25, 16, 34, and 25 cases from each panel, respectively.

Each entry includes detailed information on institutional identifiers, units of assessment, and specific impact types. The dataset provides a quantitative overview, cataloguing the number of referenced publications, with projects citing between 2 and 9 publications (most commonly six), yielding 560 references. This collection facilitates analysis of narrative impact descriptions and demonstrates the broad scope and diversity of UK research impacts across varied fields. Additionally, all accessible references, encompassing research articles, books, and audiovisual media, have been standardised to PDF format for consistent examination.

This subset serves as a resource for evaluating UK research's societal and economic contributions. It emphasises cross-disciplinary impact and provides insights into the academic and non-academic influence of UK higher education research.

CASE STUDIES

Table D6-1: Selected REF Case Studies

Institution UKPRN code	Institution Name	Main Panel	Unit of Assessment Number	Unit of Assessment Name	Title	Summary Impact Type	Number References	Downloaded Studies / PDF	Difference	Missing Data
10000824	Bournemouth University	A	4	Psychology, Psychiatry and Neuroscience	Journey into SPACE: evidence-based design of an app to reduce digital addiction	Societal	6	6	0	
10000961	Brunel University London	C	16	Economics and Econometrics	Using Macprudential Policies to reduce the risk of financial crises	Economic	6	6	0	
10001143	Canterbury Christ Church University	A	4	Psychology, Psychiatry and Neuroscience	Utilising the human-canine relationship to support vulnerable people in the criminal justice system	Legal	6	6	0	

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10001282	University of Northumbria at Newcastle	C	17	Business and Management Studies	Embedding responsible practices into business by taking inspiration from the Quakers	Societal	5	5	0	
10001726	Coventry University	A	3	Allied Health Professions, Dentistry, Nursing and Pharmacy	Hope 4 The Community CIC: Improving the Lives of People Living with Long-Term Health Conditions by providing Self-Management Tools	Societal	6	6	0	
10001883	De Montfort University	C	13	Architecture, Built Environment and Planning	Localisation of Electricity Generation and Use	Technological	6	6	0	
10002718	Goldsmiths' College	C	23	Education	Critical Connections pedagogical model based on multilingualism and digital storytelling boosts language learning and digital skills	Societal	6	6	0	
10002718	Goldsmiths' College	D	34	Communication, Cultural and Media Studies, Library and Information Management	Helping to Sustain the UK's Independent Film Industry Through an Improved Risk Management Strategy	Economic	4	4	0	
10003614	University of Winchester	D	33	Music, Drama, Dance, Performing Arts, Film and Screen Studies	Changing practice and improving wellbeing through immersive vocal art	Societal	2	2	0	
10003645	King's College London	A	4	Psychology, Psychiatry and Neuroscience	Safewards: Increasing safety on psychiatric inpatient wards	Societal	5	5	0	
10003863	Leeds Trinity University	D	33	Music, Drama, Dance, Performing Arts, Film and Screen Studies	Contemporary documentary practices: historical perspective and interdisciplinary approaches – the International Research Centre for Interactive Storytelling (IRIS)	Cultural	6	6	0	
10003957	Liverpool John Moores University	C	17	Business and Management Studies	ICS1: Improving patient outcomes through better project management of clinical trials	Technological	5	5	0	
10004063	The London School of Economics and Political Science	C	17	Business and Management Studies	Ensuring the fair treatment of Open Banking customers	Economic	6	6	0	
10004351	Middlesex University	D	33	Music, Drama, Dance, Performing Arts, Film and Screen Studies	Advancing Movement Practices in Doctoral and Professional Contexts	Societal	5	5	0	
10004351	Middlesex University	B	11	Computer Science and Informatics	Digital Twin Specification, Design and Application	Technological	7	7	0	
10004797	Nottingham Trent University	D	27	English Language and Literature	Being in Touch: Inspiring Cultural Engagement through Creative-Critical Writing	Cultural	6	6	0	
10004797	Nottingham Trent University	C	20	Social Work and Social Policy	Shaping crime prevention policy and strategy to sustain the crime drop and reduce domestic burglary	Legal	6	6	0	
10004930	Oxford Brookes University	C	13	Architecture, Built Environment and Planning	Building local socio-economic impacts into the assessment of major energy projects	Societal	7	7	0	
10005337	Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh	A	2	Public Health, Health Services and Primary Care	Strengthening global and national policies on performance-based and innovative health financing in low-income and fragile settings	Societal	6	6	0	
10005553	Royal Holloway and Bedford New College	D	34	Communication, Cultural and Media Studies, Library and Information Management	Transforming the Accessibility and Discoverability of Millions of Archival Television Programmes	Cultural	6	6	0	
10006840	The University of Birmingham	A	2	Public Health, Health Services and Primary Care	Improving quality of life for patients with Parkinson's disease	Health	6	6	0	
10006840	The University of Birmingham	A	1	Clinical Medicine	Improving treatment for women suffering from Endometrial Hyperplasia	Health	6	6	0	

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10006842	The University of Liverpool	C	15	Archaeology	Heritage of the first farmers	Cultural	6	6	0	
10006842	The University of Liverpool	B	10	Mathematical Sciences	Mathematical modelling of an aneurysm sealing system triggers patient safety policy that withdraws surgical practice from the NHS	Health	2	2	0	
10007140	Birmingham City University	C	13	Architecture, Built Environment and Planning	Financial and efficiency improvements from socio-technical digitalisation of costing and procurement in the built environment	Economic	6	6	0	
10007143	University of Durham	D	30	Philosophy	Evaluating effectiveness	Societal	5	5	0	
10007144	University of East London	C	23	Education	Seeing beyond the wheelchair: Pioneering education and higher aspiration promotion for boys and men with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy	Societal	4	4	0	
10007147	University of Hertfordshire	D	28	History	The Coffee Historian: achieving impact through industry collaboration, education and public engagement	Societal	6	6	0	
10007148	The University of Huddersfield	D	27	English Language and Literature	Discovering Ted Hughes's Yorkshire	Cultural	6	5	1	1 Study not available
10007150	The University of Kent	C	22	Anthropology and Development Studies	Empowering Indigenous Self-Representation for the Emberá People of Panama	Cultural	6	6	0	
10007150	The University of Kent	C	19	Politics and International Studies	Enhancing Understanding of the Foreign and Security Policy Implications of Brexit for Government and the Wider Policy Community	Political	6	6	0	
10007150	The University of Kent	B	9	Physics	Worldwide Improvements in Policing due to Increased Sales of Facial Composite Software	Legal	5	5	0	
10007151	University of Lincoln	C	24	Sport and Exercise Sciences, Leisure and Tourism	Improving the Physical Wellbeing of the Police Force	Societal	5	5	0	
10007152	University of Bedfordshire	C	23	Education	Raising Maori students' achievement in secondary schools in Aotearoa New Zealand	Societal	6	6	0	
10007154	University of Nottingham, The	A	5	Biological Sciences	Improving patient outcomes and treatment guidelines through the study of Hepatitis C	Health	6	6	0	
10007154	University of Nottingham, The	B	11	Computer Science and Informatics	Improving Homecare Quality in the UK Through Optimised Workforce Planning	Technological	5	5	0	
10007154	University of Nottingham, The	A	1	Clinical Medicine	Transforming vaccine policy for pneumococcal disease leading to significant cost savings in the National Health Service	Health	6	6	0	
10007155	University of Portsmouth	D	32	Art and Design: History, Practice and Theory	UoP32Househistories: A House Through Time: Shaping a flagship TV series to achieve critical and financial success and inspiring the public to engage with house history	Cultural	5	5	0	
10007158	University of Southampton	B	10	Mathematical Sciences	Optimising baggage operations at London Heathrow Airport to achieve cost savings for the aviation industry	Technological	4	4	0	
10007158	University of Southampton	A	4	Psychology, Psychiatry and Neuroscience	POWeR – cost effective online support for weight management	Health	6	6	0	
10007159	University of Sunderland	C	24	Sport and Exercise Sciences, Leisure and Tourism	The global impact of Sunderland's football research on scouting, training and player preparation in elite football	Societal	7	7	0	
10007160	The University of Surrey	C	17	Business and Management Studies	Adding value to convenience retailing through improved pricing, a new store concept and capacity building	Technological	4	3	1	
10007161	Teesside University	C	20	Social Work and Social Policy	Transforming evidence-based practice in public health through co-production and evaluation	Societal	6	6	0	
10007163	The University of Warwick	C	16	Economics and Econometrics	Well-being and Public Policy	Societal	6	6	0	

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10007164	University of the West of England, Bristol	C	13	Architecture, Built Environment and Planning	Improving the quality of green infrastructure in towns and cities in the UK	Environmental	7	7	0	
10007165	The University of Westminster	C	19	Politics and International Studies	Redressing the state of the stateless: seeking political recognition for Tibet and Kashmir	Societal	6	6	0	
10007167	University of York	A	2	Public Health, Health Services and Primary Care	Evidence-based enteral feeding practices for very preterm or very low birth weight infants	Health	6	6	0	
10007167	University of York	B	7	Earth Systems and Environmental Sciences	Improving Environmental Conservation in East Africa and Beyond	Environmental	6	5	1	one is confidential
10007167	University of York	B	9	Physics	Predicting the properties of materials with first-principles electronic structure software (CASTEP)	Technological	6	6	0	
10007167	University of York	B	10	Mathematical Sciences	Statistical pattern recognition applied to protein crystallisation images in the pharmaceutical industry	Technological	6	6	0	
10007713	York St John University	C	21	Sociology	'Moving beyond one-size-fits-all:' Improving Widening Participation through Realist Evaluation methodologies in Northern England	Societal	5	5	0	
10007713	York St John University	D	26	Modern Languages and Linguistics	Challenging monolithic conceptualisations of English for learning, teaching and assessment: the Changing Englishes online course	Societal	6	6	0	
10007760	Birkbeck College	D	32	Art and Design: History, Practice and Theory	Robert Paul and the Origins of British Cinema	Cultural	5	1	4	DVD, Animatographs and exhibition
10007767	University of Keele	A	2	Public Health, Health Services and Primary Care	The Care and Management of Gout in Primary Care	Health	6	6	0	
10007768	The University of Lancaster	C	21	Sociology	From Victims to Actors: shifting the policy paradigm to value children's contribution in disaster risk management	Societal	6	6	0	
10007772	Edinburgh Napier University	B	7	Earth Systems and Environmental Sciences	Improved Crab Fisheries Management Benefits Coastal Livelihoods in Brazil	Environmental	4	4	0	
10007772	Edinburgh Napier University	C	17	Business and Management Studies	Influencing organisational strategy to support responsible business practice	Societal	6	6	0	
10007774	University of Oxford	B	10	Mathematical Sciences	Billmonitor: predicting the best mobile phone contract for businesses and individual users	Technological	2	2	0	
10007774	University of Oxford	D	26	Modern Languages and Linguistics	Mediating Modern German: reaching new and diverse audiences through translation, engagement, and performance	Cultural	6	6	0	
10007774	University of Oxford	B	8	Chemistry	OMass Therapeutics: New technology for drug discovery with economic benefit to the UK	Technological	6	6	0	
10007775	Queen Mary University of London	D	28	History	Living With Feeling: Transforming Understandings of Emotional Health	Societal	7	7	0	
10007776	Roehampton University	C	21	Sociology	Litigation as tool to support Social Change? Indigenous Peoples, Human Rights and Legal Empowerment	Societal	6	6	0	
10007784	University College London	A	3	Allied Health Professions, Dentistry, Nursing and Pharmacy	Accelerating the development of medicines for children through an open access excipient database	Technological	4	4	0	
10007784	University College London	D	30	Philosophy	Pluralistic evidence for successful policymaking about reactive systems	Societal	6	6	0	
10007784	University College London	C	15	Archaeology	Reshaping professional heritage practice and changing understanding of heritage in the UK and internationally	Cultural	6	6	0	
10007784	University College London	C	18	Law	Shaping the legal framework for Brexit	Legal	4	4	0	
10007786	University of Bristol	B	9	Physics	Bristol's materials research is keeping the UK's fleet of nuclear power stations safe and operating	Technological	6	6	0	

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10007786	University of Bristol	A	1	Clinical Medicine	Radical advance in treating age-related macular degeneration leading to global impact in prevention of blindness	Health	6	6	0	
10007786	University of Bristol	A	2	Public Health, Health Services and Primary Care	Rolling programme of research, centred on the National Joint Registry, to improve the outcomes of hip and knee replacements worldwide	Health	6	6	0	
10007788	University of Cambridge	A	2	Public Health, Health Services and Primary Care	Reducing breast and ovarian cancer occurrences in women at high risk	Health	9	9	0	
10007789	The University of East Anglia	C	23	Education	The Haydn Scale: Changing policy and practice for improving pupil behaviour in schools	Societal	6	6	0	
10007790	University of Edinburgh	A	1	Clinical Medicine	A: Definitive demonstration of the adverse cardiovascular effects of air pollution leads to policy change at the local, national and international level	Health	6	6	0	
10007790	University of Edinburgh	C	18	Law	Case Study 3: Navigating Inclusion in International Peace Processes	Societal	6	6	0	
10007790	University of Edinburgh	C	22	Anthropology and Development Studies	Documenting and Protecting Survivors of Torture and Ill-Treatment Living in Poor Communities	Societal	6	6	0	
10007790	University of Edinburgh	A	6	Agriculture, Food and Veterinary Sciences	E: Transforming genomic selection in commercial breeding programmes for pigs, dairy goats and poultry	Technological	6	6	0	
10007790	University of Edinburgh	B	9	Physics	Employing polymer physics to improve gluten-free bread structure	Technological	3	3	0	
10007790	University of Edinburgh	D	32	Art and Design: History, Practice and Theory	Peripheral Impressionisms: challenging perceptions of Impressionism	Cultural	7	7	0	
10007794	University of Glasgow	D	27	English Language and Literature	Raising the profile of Scottish Literature through writing and consultancy	Cultural	6	6	0	
10007794	University of Glasgow	A	1	Clinical Medicine	Secukinumab becomes the first interleukin-17A inhibitor approved for psoriatic arthritis	Health	8	8	0	
10007795	The University of Leeds	D	31	Theology and Religious Studies	Establishing the Facts, Developing Professionalisation and Enabling Transparent 'Pilgrim-centred' Communication in the UK Hajj Sector	Societal	5	5	0	
10007796	The University of Leicester	C	19	Politics and International Studies	A Bridge for Spies: Overcoming the practitioner-academic gap in intelligence and security	Societal	5	5	0	
10007798	The University of Manchester	C	18	Law	Influencing Labour Standards and Stakeholder Action Through International, European and National Law and Policy	Societal	6	6	0	
10007800	University of the West of Scotland	D	34	Communication, Cultural and Media Studies, Library and Information Management	Creating Value and Transforming Lives through Arts and Creative Media Practice	Cultural	6	6	0	
10007801	University of Plymouth	B	12	Engineering	A Transformation in Creep Condition Monitoring for High Temperature, High Pressure Components	Technological	6	6	0	
10007803	University of St Andrews	D	27	English Language and Literature	The creation (and re-creation) of contemporary female heroines at the centre of new plays for the theatre.	Cultural	5	5	0	
10007805	University of Strathclyde	A	3	Allied Health Professions, Dentistry, Nursing and Pharmacy	Changes to cervical screening policies following the roll out of human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination	Health	6	6	0	
10007806	University of Sussex	B	10	Mathematical Sciences	Combating crop losses and improving global food supplies through mathematical modelling of "gene silencing"	Environmental	6	6	0	
10007807	University of Ulster	D	34	Communication, Cultural and Media Studies, Library	2. Emerging Media, Learning and Organisational Practice - driving change in tourism and education in Northern Ireland	Societal	4	4	0	

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				and Information Management						
10007814	Cardiff University / Prifysgol Caerdydd	A	1	Clinical Medicine	Global adoption of the Dermatology Life Quality Index into clinical practice	Health	6	6	0	
10007823	Edge Hill University	A	3	Allied Health Professions, Dentistry, Nursing and Pharmacy	Improving the healthcare experiences of children and young people.	Societal	6	6	0	
10007823	Edge Hill University	A	3	Allied Health Professions, Dentistry, Nursing and Pharmacy	The value of the Carers' Alert Thermometer (CAT) in identifying family carers' needs and supporting them in their caring role.	Societal	6	6	0	
10007832	Newman University	A	4	Psychology, Psychiatry and Neuroscience	God-complexity and the multiple God-aspects Framework	Societal	2	2	0	
10007849	Abertay University	D	32	Art and Design: History, Practice and Theory	Abertay Game Lab: play, performance, and public engagement with games	Cultural	6	6	0	
10007850	The University of Bath	A	4	Psychology, Psychiatry and Neuroscience	Improving Care for Patients with Chronic and Distressing Tinnitus through Mindfulness Based Interventions	Health	5	5	0	
10007851	University of Derby	C	23	Education	Developing and Embedding Effective Careers Guidance for Young People in England.	Societal	6	6	0	
10007852	University of Dundee	D	32	Art and Design: History, Practice and Theory	Design meets disability: changing the relationship between disability and design in business, culture, practice and education	Societal	6	6	0	
10007852	University of Dundee	D	32	Art and Design: History, Practice and Theory	Digital Archiving for Curation and Dissemination	Cultural	5	5	0	
10007854	Cardiff Metropolitan University / Prifysgol Metropolitan Caerdydd	C	24	Sport and Exercise Sciences, Leisure and Tourism	Prevention and management of head injuries in cricket and rugby union	Societal	6	6	0	
10007856	Aberystwyth University / Prifysgol Aberystwyth	D	26	Modern Languages and Linguistics	The Kindertransport 1938/1939 to the UK: History Informing the Future	Societal	6	6	0	
10007857	Bangor University / Prifysgol Bangor	B	7	Earth Systems and Environmental Sciences	An evidence-based approach reduces the local costs of biodiversity conservation in low- and middle-income countries.	Environmental	6	6	0	