1. 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 Macroprudential 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 |  |
| 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 | Strenghtening 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 |  |
| 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 |  |
| 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 |  |
| 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 and Information Management | 2. Emerging Media, Learning and Organisational Practice - driving change in tourism and education in Northern Ireland | Societal | 4 | 4 | 0 |  |
| 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 |  |