![Scottish Funding Council / Comhairle Maoineachaidh na h-Alba]

Research Assurance and Accountability report for the Research Excellence Grant and Research Postgraduate Grant – AY 2024-25

This form is for reference only. Please fill in your application online.

The Research Assurance and Accountability return replaces the Outcome Agreements in relation to the SFC's Research Excellence Grant (REG) and Research Postgraduate Grant (RPG). The return is for academic year 2024-25.

For further information, guidance, and a copy of the form for reference, please visit the Research Assurance and Accountability Guidance 2024-25.

The deadline for submission is by **31 October 2024, 5:00 pm UK time**.
If you have any questions or issues to report, please email on researchfunding@sfc.ac.uk

You can find a copy of the privacy notice on SFC Research and innovation Privacy notice section.

About the Institution

Name of the submitting institution*
Please type your answer in the box.

Please confirm that this return has been signed off by the Principal or Head of institution on behalf of the Governing Body.*
• Confirmed

Contact details

Please input the contact details of two persons whom we should contact with queries.

Contact 1

Name*
Please type your answer in the box.

Job title*

Please type your answer in the box.

Email address*

Please type your answer in the box.

Contact 2

Name*

Please type your answer in the box.

Job title*

Please type your answer in the box.

Email address*

Please type your answer in the box.

Research Excellence Grant (REG)

Governance and assurance

In this section we are looking for high-level information on how institutions approve how REG is used and provide themselves with assurance that funding is being spent appropriately.

What are the governance arrangements in place to approve the use of the Research Excellence Grant (REG) within your institution? (Max 300 words)*

This should include details of (a) where responsibility lies for internal distribution of your institution's REG allocation; (b) how decisions are taken; and (c) the assurance mechanisms in place to ensure appropriate use of REG funding.

Please type your answer in the box.

Uses and value of REG

Here we are looking for information on how REG is allocated within institutions, what (at a high level) the allocation achieves, and how it underpins central institutional functions and strategic initiatives as a long-term source of funding. Our focus is on what REG does for you; we are not requesting any form of financial reporting on use of the allocation.

How, in broad terms, do you distribute REG internally?*
Please select one. If you select 'Other', please describe briefly in the next question.

- Allocate fully to schools based on REF results
- Allocate mainly (i.e. the largest defined category) to schools (based on REF) but take or receive an allocation for central activity (e.g. cross-institution strategic initiatives and central services)
- Hold mainly centrally and use for strategic initiatives and/or for central services
- Other

If other, please provide details:* (Max 50 words)

Please type your answer in the box.

What types of activity does REG support within your institution?*

Please choose the three areas that REG funding mainly supports within your institution. We are aware that decisions may be made at a local level where REG is allocated to Schools; please give an estimation/general answer at an aggregate level. Please also use the 'Other' text box if you wish to provide further contextual information.

- Enabling staff employment
- Maintaining and/or renewing infrastructure
- Supporting postgraduate research students
- Underpinning direct research costs
- Pump-priming and capacity building
- Providing funding (including match-funding) for strategic initiatives
- Supporting centralised research services and/or professional support services
- Research culture/environment
- Other

Please use the text box if you wish to provide further contextual information. (Max 300 words)

Please type your answer in the box.

If a portion of REG is used to achieve overall cross-institution strategic objectives, describe your approach to using this portion of REG and the rationale or context behind this. (Max 300 words)

Please type your answer in the box.

Research Excellence Grant (REG)

Supporting long-term activity

We will use answers to this question (and the REG case studies requested later) to develop our evidence base on the importance of REG as a stable and continuous funding source for research in Scotland. Here we are looking for examples of REG being used for long-term/multi-year investments, whereas the case studies on page 6 are looking for examples of where a long-term investment has resulted in impact/returns.

> **Please highlight any ways in which REG supports long-term/multiyear activity, either centrally or at school level. (Max 300 words) ***
>
> This may include activities referenced in the previous 'Uses and value of REG' section which will be developed by drawing on future REG allocations and/or other funding sources.

Please type your answer in the box.

Research environment and culture(s)

In this section we are looking for information on institutions' plans to develop and support positive research environments and research cultures, and the role played by REG in their development.

> **How is your institution creating an excellent research environment and positive research culture(s)? Please provide a high-level description of your institution's aims and plans for this AY, indicating priorities, key highlights and how REG supports this development.***
>
> We envisage that this will include, but not be limited to, areas such as: promoting open research; valuing a broad range of research outputs, including civic and public engagement; promoting reproducibility; and supporting and empowering research-enabling staff. (Please provide max 300 words on overall strategy and up to 250 words on a specific example).

Please type your answer in the box.

Concordats

We expect that institutions receiving SFC funding meet the requirements of the Research Integrity Concordat and principles of the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers.

> **Please provide a link to your institution 's most recent annual statement on research integrity on your institution's website.***

Please type your answer in the box.

Is your institution a signatory to the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers? *

- Yes
- No

Please provide a link to your institution's latest annual report.*

Please type your answer in the box.

Please provide a short overview of how the principles of the Concordat are being addressed. (Max 300 words) *

Please type your answer in the box.

Research Excellence Grant (REG) case studies

Please submit a minimum of two case studies on the use of REG at your institution.

For guidance on case studies, please visit the case study guidance on [Research Assurance and Accountability Guidance 2024-25 webpage](#).

Case study 1

Case study 1: Title*

Please type your answer in the box.

Narrative (Max 500 words)*

Please type your answer in the box.

Any weblinks associated with this case study?

Please type your answer in the box.

Please provide 2 - 4 keywords for description of this case study. *

Keywords are to help us to built a database of the case studies. Examples of keyword: net-zero, infrastructure, community development

Please type your answer in the box.

SFC may wish to use case studies for a variety of purposes and audiences. We would contact you directly before using case studies in a formal publication however information may be summarised and shared more informally.

Should any information in this case study be treated as confidential?*

Confidential information will be used for internal purposes only and not shared more widely.

- Yes
- No

Case study 2

Case study 2: Title*

Please type your answer in the box.

Narrative (Max 500 words)*

Please type your answer in the box.

Any weblinks associated with this case study?

Please type your answer in the box.

Please provide 2 - 4 keywords for description of this case study. *

Keywords are to help us to built a database of the case studies. Examples of keyword: net-zero, infrastructure, community development

Please type your answer in the box.

SFC may wish to use case studies for a variety of purposes and audiences. We would contact you directly before using case studies in a formal publication however information may be summarised and shared more informally.

Should any information in this case study be treated as confidential?*

Confidential information will be used for internal purposes only and not shared more widely.
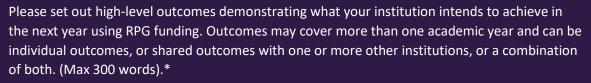
- Yes
- No

Do you wish to submit more case studies?	
• Yes	• No

Up to 20 case studies can be uploaded on the form using the same questions as above.

Research Postgraduate Grant (RPG)

For guidance to complete this section, please see Annex B of the [guidance document](#).

Please set out high-level outcomes demonstrating what your institution intends to achieve in the next year using RPG funding. Outcomes may cover more than one academic year and can be individual outcomes, or shared outcomes with one or more other institutions, or a combination of both. (Max 300 words).*

Institutions should set a minimum of two high-level outcomes. Institutions receiving £500k RPG or more are encouraged to set a larger number of outcomes. We appreciate that some uses of funding would need to be for business-as-usual costs, and the outcomes may reflect this.

Please type your answer in the box.

Research Postgraduate Grant (RPG) Case Study

Please submit at least one case study demonstrating the use of RPG funding in your institution.

Case study 1

Case study 1: Title*
Please type your answer in the box.

Narrative (Max 500 words)*
Please type your answer in the box.

Any weblinks associated with this case study?
Please type your answer in the box.

Please provide 2 - 4 keywords for description of this case study. *
Keywords are to help us to built a database of the case studies. Examples of keyword: net-zero, infrastructure, community-development
Please type your answer in the box.

SFC may wish to use case studies for a variety of purposes and audiences. We would contact you directly before using case studies in a formal publication however information may be summarised and shared more informally.

Should any information in this case study be treated as confidential?*

Confidential information will be used for internal purposes only and not shared more widely.

- Yes
- No

Do you wish to submit more case studies?

- Yes
- No

Up to 10 case studies can be uploaded on the form using the same questions as above.

Self-evaluation of research outcomes for AY 2023-24

In this section, please return self-evaluation of commitments made in their 2023-24 Outcome Agreements. This is to complete the final cycle of the previous Outcome Agreement process (2023-24).

Please provide a self-evaluation, of no more than 600 words, against the research outcomes made in your 2023-24 OA. *

Please type your answer in the box.

Last page

You are now on the last page of the reporting form. You can make changes to your response by using the 1 Previous button or return to it by clicking on 1 Finish Later.

On clicking the 'submit' button, your institution's Research Assurance and Accountability report for the Research Excellence Grant and Research Postgraduate Grant for AY 2024-25 will be submitted to SFC.