

Impact template (REF3a)

<p>Institution: University of Westminster</p>
<p>Unit of Assessment: UoA19; Business and Management Studies</p>
<p>a. Context</p> <p>University of Westminster Business School is a professionally focused and research engaged school and therefore impact in the broadest sense has always formed a key part of our research strategy culture and outlook.</p>
<p>b. Approach to impact</p> <p>WBS is a professionally-focused and research engaged school therefore Impact in the broadest sense has always formed a key part of our research strategy, culture and outlook. In 2009 following the RAE, WBS undertook a formal review of research support and direction, making a number of changes in approach, using a panel of academics from other universities headed by the Dean of a different school within the University of Westminster. Our aim was to achieve a greater proportion of our work at least at the level of internationally recognised outputs, and ensuring that we consciously strived to develop the follow-through needed to ensure impact.</p> <p>Following their recommendations, effort was initially directed mainly into the Centre for Employment Research (CER), the Centre for Finance and Financial Services (CFFS) and Centre for the Production of the Built Environment (ProBE). The success of these centres, in terms of income generation, impact and underpinning research excellence, as evidenced in the research environment statement, and in the WBS impact case studies, gives WBS a secure underpinning structure of research activity which leads on the necessary reach and significance for research, while maintaining excellent academic standards, with 3* and 4* outputs and income generation activity.</p>
<p>c. Strategy and plans</p> <p>WBS are well-placed to move towards a research environment where impact is increasing in importance. However, our strategy highlights the need to further consolidate and grow our successful research centres while developing a culture of impactful research more broadly. This development is led by Professor Shona Bettany, the school research director, who has recently completed an ESRC funded project examining impact activities in business schools in the UK. This has allowed an informed dissemination of good practice to begin within the school. This has already begun, also with the establishment of opportunities to share best practice from research centres through the annual research showcase. The annual school research conference will lead on impact in January 2014, and impact related activity will, from 2014 in preparation for the next REF, be included as a key performance indicator in allocation of research support.</p>
<p>d. Relationship to case studies</p> <p>The relationship to the case studies is wrought primarily through the central strategy of our three research centres. Professor Linda Clark's impact case study derives from her work as embedded within the PROBE research centre, Professor Orla Gough's impact case study derives from her work, located with the CFFS research centre, and Professor Peter Urwin's impact case study derives from his work located within the CERS research centre.</p>