**Research Statement Template**

**Cover note**

Each unit is requested to provide a research statement; the statement should not exceed 5,000 words. This research statement is a core document in that it will provide the panels (and the remote reviewers) with the detailed context and background within which they can either situate their reading of individual submissions and to which they can refer or use when determining final reports and scores during the site visit.

The template asks for two kinds of information:

1. Contextual and background information and
2. Information relating to Research Activity Indicators 4-6

Please bear in mind that detailed information pertaining to the following will be available electronically to the review panels for the period under review:

* Overall Staff levels, including administrative, research and teaching staff and including retirements, resignations and new appointments;
* Grant capture, including details of funding agencies and overall amounts; and
* Graduate supervisions at both Masters and PhD levels, together with completion rates.

Panel Chairs will also have received information regarding the overall Strategic Research Plan of the University and the Strategic Research Plan in each of the four Colleges, together with information on graduate education and on the overall research landscape both nationally and internationally. Much of this information will be provided to them at the Chairs’ briefing meetings when they will meet with the RQR Steering Committee and with the individual Colleges.

Appendices may be provided for each of RAIs 4-6. Each appendix should not exceed 20 pages in length. For example:

RAI 4: Examples of conferences, seminars etc. may be appended;

RAI 5: Publications of PhD students who have published independently as part of their research PhD;

RAI 6: Additional data on research income.

**Template**

1. Contextual information
2. Research strategy at discipline level (provide electronic link where appropriate)
3. Background of the unit during review period, including changes such as restructuring
4. Staff composition in general terms, including teaching loads and staff-student ratios
5. Research infrastructure including physical and human capital, e.g. equipment, space and research teams
6. Cross-refer to research activities of staff members which involve contributions to Research Centres or Institutes within the University.

*(NB: In section A you should refer to the central information that will be provided to support your statement as appropriate).*

1. Relevant Research Developments since the 2008 Research Quality Review exercise
2. A critical assessment of progress made since the last RQR, including a response to any recommendations made with respect to research activity.
3. Research activity indicators 4-6

Highlight the overall performance of the unit with respect to:

1. RAI 4: Research related activities:

RAI 4 allows for information about the research context to be provided in narrative form in addition to individual IRIS profiles. Units are asked to present activity within and beyond the Unit by individual or groups of researchers in the Unit. This includes, for example:

- seminar series

- research-focused public engagement exercises

- specialist training provision

- collaboration (inter and intra-institutional)

- research mentoring

- outreach activities

- support for scholarly institutions

- evidence of research-led teaching at all levels

- external engagement including enterprise collaboration

- trans-disciplinary interaction where appropriate

- evidence of impact\*.

*NB: \*Impacts* may include:

* Leading to commercial exploitation by the University or exploitation by others;
* Leading to changes in public awareness, attitudes, understanding or behaviour arising from public engagement with the research;
* Resulting from professional advice or expert testimony.

1. RAI 5: Postgraduate research education:

In addition to the central information on postgraduate research provided, units should also provide contextual information and comment under each of these headings:

- Numbers of postgraduate students

- Completion times and rates and the process used within the unit to ensure that these are satisfactory

- Numbers of funded postgraduates

- Review processes

- Supervision arrangements

- Facilities

- Uptake on postgraduate training opportunities

- Research mentoring and professional development of postgraduates

- Involvement of postgraduates in research activity and research culture

- Postgraduate-led research activity

- Independent research publications by postgraduates.

3. RAI 6: Research income:

In addition to the central information provided on research income, the unit will want to provide contextual information in the light of the following:

* How research funding supports the research strategy of the discipline
* Major research outcomes of funded projects
* Measures taken to ensure sustainability of research funding
* How research funding has supported interdisciplinary clustering and partnerships, internally and externally
* The research income data considered will be provided to the Unit from central sources and will reflect income from research related consultancy, studentships and mainstream national and EU sources of research income
* In the case of collaborative grants involving several institutions, only the income awarded to UCC should be considered, but the role as co-ordinator etc., might be reflected in RAI 4
* Where researchers are assessed within an academic unit and a RICU, research income will be listed and indicated as such under both
* How research funding has contributed to the strategic development of RICUs.