

Operationalising the REF Criteria for Practice Research Outputs					
Rating	REF - definition	Characteristics of Submission	Originality: The extent to which the output makes an important and innovative contribution to understanding and knowledge in the field.	Significance: The extent to which the work has influenced, or has the capacity to influence, knowledge and scholarly thought, or the development and understanding of policy and/or practice.	Rigour: The extent to which the work demonstrates intellectual coherence and integrity, and adopts robust and appropriate concepts, analyses, sources, theories and/or methodologies.
4*	World-leading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a primary or essential point of reference</li> <li>• of profound influence</li> <li>• instrumental in developing new thinking, practices, paradigms, policies or audiences</li> <li>• a major expansion of the range and the depth of research and its application</li> <li>• outstandingly novel, innovative and/or creative</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Proposes a new concept/method/form/ approach</li> <li>2. Builds on or develops an existing concept/method/form/ approach</li> <li>3. (New) systematic review/evaluation of a concept/method/form/ approach</li> <li>4. Outstandingly novel, innovative and/or creative</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Leads in the development of new forms, methods or approaches</li> <li>2. Forces thoroughgoing critical reflection on existing frameworks</li> <li>3. Leads to major expansion and re-design of practice</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Research contribution and analysis are thoroughly and thoughtfully presented</li> <li>2. Research process and methodology are thoroughly recorded and articulated</li> <li>3. Creative and critical lineage is evident and thoroughly engaged with</li> </ol>
3*	Internationally excellent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• an important point of reference</li> <li>• of considerable influence</li> <li>• a catalyst for, or important contribution to, new thinking, practices, paradigms, policies or audiences</li> <li>• a significant expansion of the range and the depth of research and its application</li> <li>• significantly novel or innovative or creative.</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Calls for a new concept/method/form/ approach</li> <li>2. Elaborates (fine tunes) or offers some critique to a concept/method/form/ approach</li> <li>3. Significantly novel, innovative or creative</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Contributes to development of existing or nascent concepts/methods/forms/ approaches</li> <li>2. Significantly contributes to critical debate on a specific type or strand of creative practice</li> <li>3. Leads to significant expansion and re-design of practice</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Research contribution and analysis are clearly presented</li> <li>2. Research process and methodology are clearly recorded and articulated</li> <li>3. Clear engagement with creative and critical lineage</li> </ol>

2*	Recognised internationally	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a recognised point of reference</li> <li>• of some influence</li> <li>• an incremental and cumulative advance on thinking, practices, paradigms, policies or audiences</li> <li>• a useful contribution to the range or depth of research and its application.</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Tests a method/approach or new form</li> <li>2. Offers additional data or testimony for/to existing perspectives</li> <li>3. Somewhat novel, innovative or creative</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Confirms and advances thinking on existing or nascent concepts/methods/forms/approaches</li> <li>2. Contributes to critical debate on specific type or strand of creative practice</li> <li>3. Of some influence to the field of practice</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Research contribution and analysis are identified</li> <li>2. Research process and methodology are identified</li> <li>3. Evidence of creative and critical lineage</li> </ol>
1*	Recognised nationally	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• an identifiable contribution to understanding without advancing existing</li> <li>• paradigms of enquiry or practice</li> <li>• of minor influence.</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Follows well-defined, and routine, uses of concept/method/form/approach</li> <li>2. Connections to key debates are implied rather than explicit</li> <li>3. Using existing thinking or creative practice</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Confirms and reiterates thinking on existing or nascent concepts/methods/forms/approaches</li> <li>2. Based on existing critical debates on specific types or strands of creative practice</li> <li>3. Of limited influence to field of practice</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Research contribution and analysis are identified in a limited manner</li> <li>2. Articulation of research process and methodology is limited</li> <li>3. Limited evidence of creative and critical lineage</li> </ol>
U	Below standard for national recognition/not research	Unlikely to be of influence	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Artistic practice without research dimensions identified</li> <li>2. Prepared for media/public consumption</li> </ol>		-