Scoring Scale

12pt Scale	* Grade	Description
12	4+	• Agenda-setting, new paradigm, great novelty
11	4	• Important message/contribution to knowledge and influence on field or users
10	4-	• Great rigour, clearly articulated, compelling evidence, complete
9	3+	• Important ideas of lasting influence
8	3	• Significant contribution to knowledge and influence on field or users
7	3-	• Rigorous, but not to the highest standards
6	2+	• Conforms with existing ideas, applies known techniques to a solved problem
5	2	• Incremental contribution to knowledge, limited in scope, some influence
4	2-	• Limited rigour, some problems with articulation or evidence
3	1+	• No significantly new ideas
2	1	• Some contribution to knowledge, minor influence on field or users
1	1-	• Significant problems with articulation or evidence
0	0	Unclassified

Originality: extent to which the output introduces a new way of thinking or is transformative or distinctive compared to previous work.

Significance: extent to which the work has or is likely to exert an influence on an academic field or practical applications.

Rigour: extent to which purpose is clearly articulated, appropriate methodology adopted, and compelling evidence presented.

Definition of Research

A process of investigation leading to new insights, effectively shared.

Includes: work of direct relevance to the needs of commerce, industry, and to the public and voluntary sectors; scholarship; the invention and generation of ideas, images, performances, artefacts including design, where these lead to new or substantially improved insights; and the use of existing knowledge in experimental development to produce new or substantially improved materials, devices, products and processes, including design and construction.

Excludes: routine testing and routine analysis of materials, components and processes, such as for the maintenance of national standards, as distinct from the development of new analytical techniques; the development of teaching materials that do not embody original research.