Open Forum on RAE 2026
Assessment Criteria

UGC 大學教育資助委員會
University Grants Committee

RAE 2026 HK

研究評審工作
Research Assessment
Exercise 2026 HONG KONG
大 學 教 育 資 助 委 員 會
UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMITTEE

Brief Overview of RAE 2026

Professor James TANG
Secretary-General, University Grants Committee

RAE Objectives

➢ Assessing universities' research performance using international standard

➢ **Promote world-class research and drive excellence**

➢ Provide **guidance** for universities' **developments** in respect of pursuing research excellence

➢ Inform allocation of part of UGC Recurrent Grant

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Assessment Elements

65%
RESEARCH OUTPUT
研究成果

⬇ from 70% in RAE 2020

20%
RESEARCH IMPACT
研究影響

⬆ from 15% in RAE 2020

15%
RESEARCH ENVIRONMENT
研究環境

Same as RAE 2020

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Assessment Period

- **Census date:** 30 September 2025
- **Assessment period:** six years of Research Outputs, Impact and Environment
  - 1 October 2019 to 30 September 2025
  - *for impact, underpinning research carried out from 1 January 2006 to 30 September 2025*

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Assessment Panels

1 3 R A E P A N E L S

41 units of assessment (UoAs)

- ➤ total panel size around 400 — ⬆ 10%

- ➤ **local participation** — ⬆ to 35%

- ➤ international members — about 65%

- ➤ Convenors/Deputy Convenors — 50% Male & 50% Female

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Assessment Panels - Composition

- **Academic Members** (local and non-local scholars or experts);
- **Lay Members** (local research end-users or members of professional bodies / learnt societies);
- At least one "Inter-disciplinary champion";
- If necessary, supplemented by engaging:
  - External Reviewers;
  - Impact Assessors.

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Staff Eligibility

Eligible Staff

- Academics from **Professor** to **Assistant Lecturer**
- Full-time paid appointment, wholly funded by the university proper, at least **36-month continuously covering the census date 30.9.2025**
- Employment starts **no later than 1.9.2023**

Non-eligible Staff

- Can be included in the IM and EN elements

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Research Outputs (ROs)
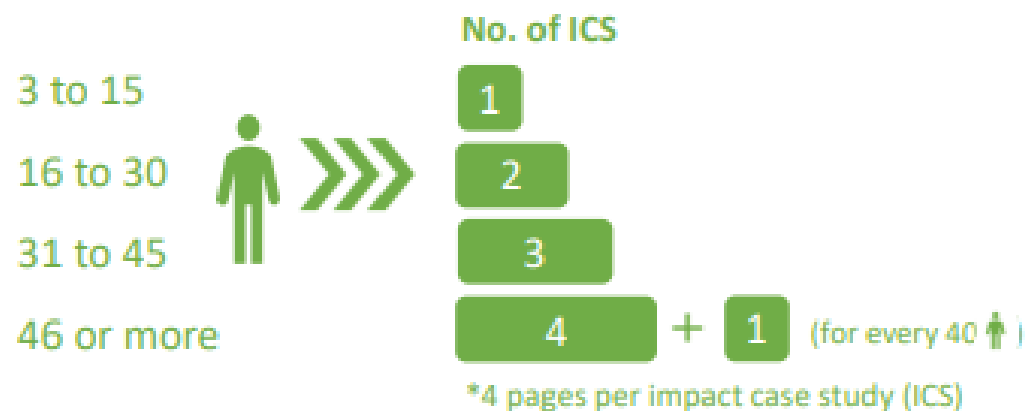
Each eligible staff

*except new researchers / those with special exemption for submitting less than 4 ROs

RO   RO
RO   RO
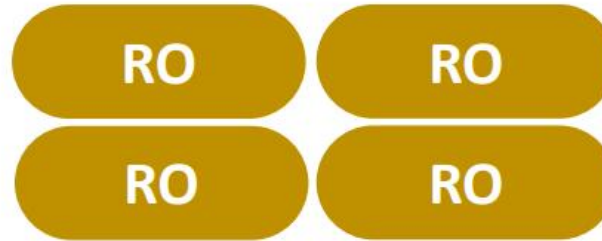
First full-time academic appointment in HK or elsewhere	No. to submit
1 August 2021 – 31 July 2022 inclusive	3 or 4
1 August 2022 – 31 July 2023 inclusive	2 to 4
On or after 1 August 2023	1 to 4

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Research Impact (IM)

No. of ICS

3 to 15 — 1

16 to 30 — 2

31 to 45 — 3

46 or more — 4 + 1 (for every 40 👤)

*4 pages per impact case study (ICS)

Submission on a UoA basis

- impact case study(ies)(ICS) – examples of impacts underpinned by research undertaken at, or significantly supported by, the submitting university

Research Environment (EN)

University-level

EN overview statement

	No. of pages
3 to 300	6
301 to 600	7
601 to 800	8
801 or more	9

Replacing the former Research Strategy Statement and Impact Overview Statement

UoA-level

EN overview statement

	No. of pages	
3 to 15	6	→ Template at Appendix 3(b)
16 to 30	8	
31 to 45	10	
46 or more	13	
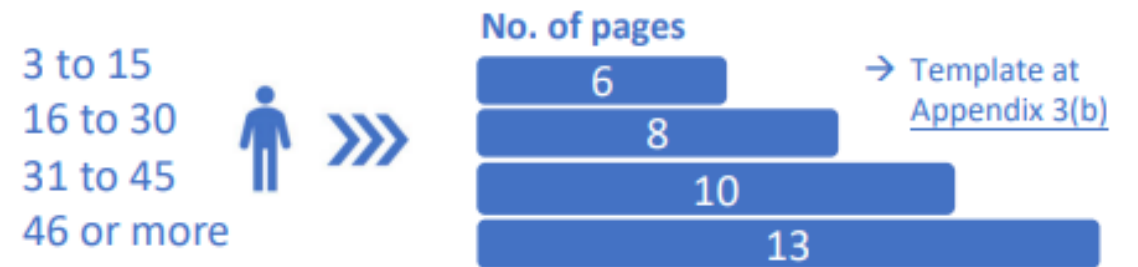
Other highlights in RAE 2026

Research Impact (IM)

➢ **Continued impact case studies (GN#7.5)**
- the body of underpinning research is the same as in the RAE 2020 case study;
- broad overlap in the impact types and beneficiaries of what was submitted in RAE 2020 is shown, **but now going distinctly beyond that, and possibly also expanding the range of impact types and/or beneficiaries**.

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Qualitative definitions of the 5-point scale in Guidance Notes

	Research Output (RO)	Research Impact (IM)	Research Environment (EN)
4*	World leading	Outstanding impact	World leading
3*	Internationally excellent	Considerable impact	Internationally excellent
2*	International standing	Some impact	Internationally recognised
1*	Limited originality, significance & rigour	Limited impact	Limited
u/c	Not reaching 1*	No reach or no significance	Not reaching 1*

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Assessment Results

To public & universities

➢ **overall quality profiles** and **sub-profiles** of individual elements of assessment by UoA and by panel at university level and sector-wide level;

➢ **sector-wide comments** by panels; and

➢ **RO data** (except those additional statements), **IM and EN submissions** by UoA and by university.

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Assessment Results

To universities ONLY under confidential cover

- RO results at research area level
- Panel comments for individual university

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Roadmap

Sep 2024	Announcement of GPG and PSG
⬇	
31 Jul 2025	**Universities' submission of exemption request**
⬇	
30 Sep 2025	Census date
⬇	
15 Dec 2025	**Submissions by universities**

Jan-Mar 2026	Trial assessment
⬇	
Mar-Jul 2026	Formal Assessment – individual assessment
⬇	
Aug-Sep 2026	Panel meetings
⬇	
Nov 2026	Panel feedback reports
⬇	
Jan 2027	Results announcement

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Thank You