What is research impact?

“Research impact is the demonstrable contribution that excellent research makes to society and economy. Economic and societal impacts are the advancement of academic knowledge within the higher education sector, and include changes in the economy, society, culture, public policy and services and health of the population as a result of research and its applications. The impact may be identified by increased awareness and understanding of issues, changes in policy or practice and cultural changes. In summary, research impact is the difference research makes to society and the economy.”

NGI.C.E is the acronym for the four categories of the mapping tool.

1. Customary: research that is continuous and is not particularly enjoyment or recognition.
2. Selective Investment: research that is supported to find partners for contract and collaborative work and engagement with communities to support research impact activity.
3. Improving: research that is supported to increase the impact of other categories.
4. Embedded: research that is adequately supported and integrated into everyday business and research activity. Impact is fully supported across the university.

Mayhem ensues!

For the first time submissions to the UK's national research benchmarking exercise the Research Excellence Framework (REF) were based on research impact. This was not a well-received proposal at this initial stage, and to outline what they will do to ensure that they not only disseminate the findings but engage with potential users of research.

A PiT study

Evaluation of the NICE Tool: ESTEM Research Support Network University.

The PiT study began in July 2013. Research was undertaken at the University of Oxford, University of York, University of Bristol and University of Sheffield. Each university provided a researcher to be trained in the use of the NICE Tool and to develop and implement an improvement strategy.

The process

1. Seeking input from the research management community.
2. The university’s vision.
3. What is research impact?
4. The N.I.C.E. Tool.
5. Embarking on the journey.
6. A PiT study.
7. On our way to the margaritas.
8. Conclusion.

Enjoying our margaritas after the strategy was signed off.