

Appendix 1

Research Quality Rating Guidelines

Quality Rating Guidelines – Publications and Outlets			
Quality of Research Output		Quality of Research Outlet	
5	An output of exceptional quality. There is evidence of the exceptional quality through recognition conferred by peers of the highest disciplinary standing. The work makes an exceptional contribution to new knowledge or new understandings at well-above world standard, which, in non-traditional research areas, may be evidenced by professional recognition and/or take-up.	5	An exceptional academic or commercial press or journal recognised as amongst the very best in the world. An outlet of exceptional or pre-eminent international standing demonstrating research that is at the leading edge and shaping the discipline.
4	An output of major quality. There is evidence of the major quality through recognition conferred by peers of very high standing. The work makes a major contribution to new knowledge or new understandings at above world standard, which, in non-traditional research areas, may be evidenced by professional recognition and/or take-up.	4	A major academic or commercial press or journal recognised as a leading publisher or journal in the discipline - perhaps with a specialised focus on the publication of work in a particular discipline or set of disciplines. An outlet of major cultural significance that relies on formal quality assurance or review, processes conferred by representatives of international organisations and institutions.
3	An output of high quality. There is evidence of the high quality through recognition by peers of very high standing. The work makes a high-quality contribution to new knowledge or new understandings at world standard, which, in non-traditional research areas, may be evidenced by professional recognition and/or take-up.	3	A strong academic or commercial press recognised nationally, and usually internationally, as publishing work of a high standard. An outlet of high quality that regularly delivers output at world standard.
1-2	Research that is below the standard described in 3 above.	1-2	Below the standard described in 3 above.

Quality Rating Guidelines – Researchers	
Quality Rating	Description
5	An exceptional researcher rated at well above world standard within their discipline/s.
4	A research rated at above world standard within their discipline/s.
3	A research rated at world standard within their discipline/s.
1-2	A researcher rated at below world standard in their discipline/s at the present time.