



Overview of changes to the *Guidelines for the Quality Evaluation 2026 assessment process*

This document provides a high-level overview of changes in the consultation draft of *Guidelines for the Quality Evaluation 2026 assessment process* (Assessment Guidelines). Its purpose is to assist stakeholders in reading and providing feedback on the consultation draft. It should be read in conjunction with the Summary of TEC In-Principle decisions.

- › You can access the consultation draft of the Assessment Guidelines on the [TEC website](#).
- › The following table highlights where the Assessment Guidelines have changed compared to the 2018 Assessment Guidelines. Changes are based on the sector feedback process led by the Sector Reference Group.
- › Consultation on the draft Assessment Guidelines is open from 11 August to 22 September. Final Guidelines will be published in November 2023.

Overview of changes to the Assessment Guidelines

Section	Pages	Level of change
How to use these guidelines	5-6	Minor changes only.
An overview	7-11	Minor changes only, such as updates to the timeline.
What is research?	12-14	Updated definitions of research, excellence, and impact and revised Quality Category descriptors.
What is an Evidence portfolio?	15-17	Major changes to the design of EPs.
What is the Quality Evaluation assessment?	18-21	Minor changes only reflecting new EP design, e.g. changes to the Platform of Research – Contextual Summary.

Section	Pages	Level of change
What is the role of peer review panels?	22-26	Minor changes only reflecting introduction of Co-Chairing and changes to the names and configuration of some panels.
How do conflicts of interest and confidentiality work?	27-33	Minor changes only to reflect the introduction of Co-Moderators and Co-Chairs.
How does the scoring system work?	34-39	Minor changes only to reflect new EP design and new Quality Category descriptors.
What are the stages of the assessment process?	40-47	Minor changes only to the Panel meeting assessment and scoring section (pp. 44-47) to reflect the Achievement Relative to Opportunity framework and clarification of language around holistic assessment.
Assessing Examples of Research Excellence	48-57	Updated principles, component descriptors, and tie-point descriptors to reflect new EP design and revised definitions of research, excellence, and impact.
Assessing Contributions to the Research Environment	58-63	Updated principles, component descriptors, and tie-point descriptors to reflect new EP design and revised definitions of research, excellence, and impact.
What is the moderation process?	64-70	Minor changes only reflecting shift to Co-Moderators, EP design changes, and introduction of Achievement Relative to Opportunity framework.
Glossary	71-74	Minor changes only. This has been updated to reflect changes to EP design and other relevant changes.



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