

FAQs: Impact Assessment Case Study Process 2026

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1. Initiative Scope

Regarding Section 3.2 of the Impact Assessment Case Study 2026 template, should institutions focus solely on delivery of the initiative to date, or should they also outline how funding, if awarded, would be used to further develop or scale the initiative?

Section 3.2 (implementation) is intended to outline the implementation of the initiative and provide an assessment of effectiveness, with reference to delivery to date.

Advice on case study preparation is set out in the [Impact Assessment Case Study process 2025–2028: Information Pack](#), in particular Section 4, Page 14, in relation to writing the case study:

Case studies should describe and evidence outcomes and impacts achieved to date, including the articulation of any learnings and any sharing of good practice... Case studies are scored on the demonstrated impact of an initiative, not on the articulation of its future aims or potential.

2. Resubmission of an initiative

Can a HEI submit an initiative that was the focus of a case study that was previously awarded Performance Funding?

Under the Impact Assessment Case Study process 2023–2028, a case study may feature an initiative that was the focus of a case study previously awarded Performance Funding where there has been substantive evolution of the initiative over a time period spanning more than one System Performance Framework cycle.

With this in mind, the case study would need to demonstrate outcomes and impacts that are clearly differentiable from those submitted previously.

Institutions considering such a submission must contact the HEA to discuss this eligibility requirement.

Guidance on resubmissions is provided in [the Impact Assessment Case Study process 2025–2028: Information Pack](#), Section 2, p6.

3. Selecting a Case Study

What kinds of initiatives are suitable for submission in an Impact Assessment Case Study?

Information on initiatives featured in successful case studies is published on the HEA website as '[Institutional Stories of Impact](#)'. Each story provides an overview of the initiative, including evidence of the impact achieved.

Further advice on identifying initiatives for Impact Assessment Case Studies is provided in the [Impact Assessment Case Study process 2025–2028: Information Pack](#), Section 4, pp. 12-13.

Our HEI secured Performance Funding in 20XX. The institution directed the funding to a new initiative, Project X. As Project X was not the focus of the original Impact Assessment Case Study submitted, can it be submitted as an Impact Assessment Case Study for this round of Performance Funding?

The [Impact Assessment Case Study process 2025–2028: Information Pack](#) sets down eligibility and IACS conditions, which includes information on resubmission of an IACS for funding (Section 4, p. 6).

As Project X was not the focus of the earlier IACS, it may form part of a future IACS submission.

The IACS Information Pack provides further information on the selection of initiatives for IACS. This includes guidance on demonstration of impact over the medium and long term ([Impact Assessment Case Study process 2025–2028: Information Pack](#), Section 4, pp. 12-13). The following guidance may be of interest in choosing a suitable case study:

Is the initiative sufficiently advanced?

- *In order to demonstrate impact over the medium to long term, initiatives that commenced three or more years ago are most suitable for selection. Institutions should avoid focusing on initiatives that are at too early a stage in their development.*

Is there sufficient data available to demonstrate the effectiveness and impact of the initiative?

- *Verifiable evidence will be needed to demonstrate the effectiveness and impact of the initiative.*
- *Initiative aims, targets, and outcomes should be supported by quantitative and qualitative data, referenced baselines, or benchmarking, to demonstrate progress and evaluate success.*
- *If there is insufficient data and evidence available to substantiate statements about the initiative's strengths and benefits, the initiative may not be ready for submission as a case study.*