

# A black background with red text  Description automatically generated

# Senior Fellowship Applicant Guidance

**via**

**Queen’s Merit Award**

[1. Introduction 4](#_Toc140829927)

[1.1 Higher Education and eligibility for Senior Fellowship 5](#_Toc140829928)

[2. The Professional Standards Framework 2023 (PSF 2023) 6](#_Toc140829929)

[Figure 1: Professional Standards Framework (PSF) 2023 6](#_Toc140829930)

[+ Descriptor 3 (D3) aligns to Senior Fellow 7](#_Toc140829931)

[Figure 2: PSF 2023 Dimensions of the Framework 8](#_Toc140829932)

[3. Developing your application 9](#_Toc140829933)

[Step 1 9](https://qubstudentcloud-my.sharepoint.com/personal/3050516_ads_qub_ac_uk/Documents/QMA/Re_Accreditation_Aug_23/Appendices_Final/E2%20SFHEA%20Applicant%20Guidance%20PFS23.docx#_Toc140829934)

[Guide to the PSF 2023 Dimensions – Senior Fellowship (D3) 10](#_Toc140829935)

[Senior Fellowship applicant guidance 10](#_Toc140829936)

[Senior Fellowship Draft Application Template 10](#_Toc140829937)

[Step 3 11](#_Toc140829938)

[4. Your Account of Professional Practice 12](#_Toc140829939)

[Figure 4: Senior Fellow impact on HE learning through leading or influencing others’ teaching and/or support for learning practices 13](#_Toc140829940)

[4.1 Your Account of Professional Practice is a personal account. 13](#_Toc140829941)

[4.2 Context Statement and Aligning your Practice with Strategy 2030 14](#_Toc140829942)

[4.3 The Reflective Narrative and Case Studies 15](#_Toc140829943)

[4.4 Reflect on your practice 15](#_Toc140829944)

[4.5 Reference list 16](#_Toc140829945)

[5. Evidencing Descriptor 3 18](#_Toc140829946)

[5.1 Evidencing D3.1 18](#_Toc140829947)

[Mentoring 19](#_Toc140829948)

[Supervision Responsibilities 20](https://qubstudentcloud-my.sharepoint.com/personal/3050516_ads_qub_ac_uk/Documents/QMA/Re_Accreditation_Aug_23/Appendices_Final/E2%20SFHEA%20Applicant%20Guidance%20PFS23.docx#_Toc140829949)

[5.2 Evidencing D3.2 21](#_Toc140829950)

[You should continue to use the ‘Guide to the PSF 2023 Dimensions – Senior Fellowship 21](#_Toc140829951)

[5.3 Evidencing D3.3 22](#_Toc140829952)

[New approaches to teaching and/or support for learning 23](#_Toc140829953)

[Project work on enhancing support for students 23](#_Toc140829954)

[External Examining/ External Review of programmes 23](#_Toc140829955)

[6. Writing your application 24](#_Toc140829956)

[6.1. Planning 24](#_Toc140829957)

[Figure 5 – example of a planning grid 25](#_Toc140829958)

[6.2 Writing your Reflective Narrative 25](#_Toc140829959)

[6.3 Writing your Case Studies 28](#_Toc140829960)

[Case Study example 1 – leading an intervention to boost student resilience 29](#_Toc140829961)

[Case Study example 2 – leading curriculum design 29](#_Toc140829962)

[7. Supporting Statements 30](#_Toc140829963)

[7.1 Guidance for referees 31](#_Toc140829964)

[8. Submitting your Senior Fellowship application via the QMA 32](#_Toc140829965)

8.1 [Application submission process ………………………………………………………...32](#_Toc140829966)

9. How will your application be reviewed? ………………………………………………………32

9.1 How do the reviewers reach their judgements ………………..……………………...33

[9.2 How long will the review process take?...................................................................3](#_Toc140829967)3

[9.3 Review process and possible outcomes……………………………………………….34](#_Toc140829968)

9.4 Outcome of first review ……………………………………………………………….34

9.5 Outcome of second review (resubmission) ……………………………………...…....34

10. What if I have other questions? …………………………………………………..………….35

# Introduction

These guidance notes are for individuals wishing to make a **application through the QMA for Senior Fellowship using the Professional Standards Framework (PSF 2023**

This document explains the requirements for Senior Fellowship (Descriptor 3) and provides guidance to support you to develop your application.

Senior Fellowship (Descriptor 3) is the appropriate category of fellowship to professionally recognise individuals from a wide variety of different contexts whose **comprehensive understanding and effective practice provides** **a basis from which they lead or influence those who teach and/or support high-quality learning**.

By applying to become a Senior Fellow you will have the opportunity to:

+ demonstrate your commitment to teaching, learning, and the student experience, through engagement in a practical process that encourages research, reflection and professional development.

+ gain professional recognition for your higher education teaching and/or support for learning practice that is increasingly recognised by international institutions.

+ benchmark your practice against professional standards and sector expectations

+ identify and celebrate your strengths and achievements through reflecting on your experience.

Senior Fellows lead and influence teaching and learning practice in many different settings. Working with and through ‘others’ (e.g. colleagues, peers, mentees, etc.) they operate to support, guide and initiate change or lead / influence enhancement of practice in a wide range of global contexts. Their contribution is effective, benefitting students and their learning experiences in a variety of ways.

Senior Fellowship is **not role dependent** and there are many different contexts in which you might be leading and/or influencing the practice of others. You will need to explore whether you have sufficient evidence to meet the requirements of Descriptor 3.

We recommend that prior to starting your application you use Advance HE free [**online Fellowship Category Tool (FCT)**.](https://www.advance-he.ac.uk/form/fellowship-decision-tool-2023) Answering the online questions about your higher education teaching and/or support for learning practice should:

+ help you to check that Senior Fellowship is the best match for your current practice

+ prompt your thinking about different aspects of your practice as you plan your application.

## 1.1 Higher Education and eligibility for Senior Fellowship

The PSF 2023 sets out the **professional standards for** **higher education (HE)**. Allthe experience and evidence included in an application for Senior Fellowship **must** relate to teaching and/or support for learning practice related to **higher education** provision, such as:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| + | level 4 or above within the [**Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)**](https://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code/qualifications-and-credit-frameworks) in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, or [**equivalent;**](https://www.advance-he.ac.uk/knowledge-hub/eligibility-advance-he-fellowship) |
| + | level 7 or above within the [**Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF)**](https://scqf.org.uk/) in Scotland on the Framework for Qualifications of Higher Education Institutions (FQHEIS) or [**equivalent;**](https://www.advance-he.ac.uk/knowledge-hub/eligibility-advance-he-fellowship) |
| +++++++ | level 5 or above of the [**European Qualifications Framework;**](https://europa.eu/europass/en/europass-tools/european-qualifications-framework)first cycle or above of th[e **Qualifications Framework in the European Higher Education Area**](http://www.ehea.info/page-qualification-frameworks) (QF-EHEA);level 5 or above of the [**Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF)** o](https://www.aqf.edu.au/)r [**equivalent;**](https://www.advance-he.ac.uk/knowledge-hub/eligibility-advance-he-fellowship)level 5 or above of the [**New Zealand Qualification Framework** **(**](https://www.nzqa.govt.nz/assets/Studying-in-NZ/New-Zealand-Qualification-Framework/requirements-nzqf.pdf)**NZQF)** or [**equivalent;**](https://www.advance-he.ac.uk/knowledge-hub/eligibility-advance-he-fellowship) other equivalent higher education frameworks;activity focused on supporting learners within a Higher Education context, providing the learner(s) are enrolled on a Higher Education Qualification may also be considered as evidence equivalent to the higher education frameworks above;delivery of some [**non-accredited continuing professional development**](https://www.advance-he.ac.uk/knowledge-hub/eligibility-advance-he-fellowship) for academic and learning support staff may also be considered as evidence equivalent to the higher education frameworks. |

The PSF 2023 acknowledges the wide variety of local and global contexts in which higher education operates, and the diverse practices and roles that contribute to high-quality learning.

In defining what constitutes higher education teaching and learning within different national contexts in order to determine eligibility for fellowship, Advance HE uses [**UK ENIC**](https://www.enic.org.uk/) (UK National Information Centre) for information about global education frameworks and qualifications. Programmes will be defined as HE for the purposes of staff teaching and supporting learning on the programme being eligible for fellowship if they are an integral part of a programme defined as higher education within the context of the country of study.

The definition of what constitutes higher education has been further defined for staff in [**UK and Australasia**.](https://www.heacademy.ac.uk/download/eligibility-hea-fellowship-february-2018) If you are unsure whether the examples of practice within your application meets the eligibility requirements above, please contact **qma@qub.ac.uk**

# The Professional Standards Framework 2023 (PSF 2023)

The [**Professional Standards Framework 2023 (PSF 2023) for teaching and supporting learning in higher education**](https://advance-he.ac.uk/knowledge-hub/professional-standards-framework-teaching-and-supporting-learning-higher-education-0?_ga=2.158300474.1278819177.1675581366-571066954.1646304278) provides a comprehensive set of professional standards and guidelines for all those who are involved in teaching and supporting learning in higher education. The PSF 2023 can be used by individuals to plan their development and evidence their practice to achieve professional recognition, by institutions as a basis for initial and continuing professional development and recognition programmes, and at a national level to improve teaching quality and celebrate success.

The PSF 2023 acknowledges the wide variety of local and global contexts in which higher education operates, and the diverse practices and roles that contribute to high-quality learning.

The Professional Standards Framework (PSF) 2023 consists of two components: **Descriptors and Dimensions**.

## Figure 1: Professional Standards Framework (PSF) 2023



The **PSF Descriptors (PSF, p6)** are a set of criteria statements (referred to as Descriptor ‘criteria’). These define the key characteristics of four broad categories of practice. Incorporating the Dimensions, each Descriptor identifies the extent of practice required to meet it and recognises the variety of practice and roles undertaken by professionals who teach and/or support learning. Each Descriptor consists of an introduction and a set of three criteria statements.

The Dimensions of the Framework (PSF 2023, p4) are arranged as **three related sets** of five **Professional Values**, five forms of **Core Knowledge** and five **Areas of Activity.**

**Professional Values (V1-5):** underpin all forms of Core Knowledge and Areas of Activity. They are the foundation of professional practice.

**Core Knowledge (K1-5):** informed by the Professional Values, representing key forms of knowledge required to undertake the Areas of Activity. There are multiple and diverse forms of knowledge which are connected to and shaped by communities and contexts.

**Areas of Activity (A1-5):** bring together the Professional Values and forms of Core Knowledge, showing the essential activities that support delivery of effective practice.

Advance HE via QMA operates the **fellowship scheme** and aligns its fellowships to the PSF 2023 Descriptors as follows:

+ Descriptor 1 (D1) aligns to Associate Fellow

+ Descriptor 2 (D2) aligns to Fellow

## + Descriptor 3 (D3) aligns to Senior Fellow

+ Descriptor 4 (D4) aligns to Principal Fellow

An individual can be recognised by the QMA, depending on the nature of their professional learning and teaching practice and experience, at one of four categories of fellowship. This guidance document is focussed on **Senior** **Fellowship (Descriptor 3).**

To achieve **Senior Fellowship**, you need to evidence that your teaching and/or support of learning practice demonstrates the requirements of the three **Descriptor 3 (D3)** criteria, which are as follows:

|  |
| --- |
| **Descriptor 3** is suitable for individuals whose **comprehensive understanding and effective practice provides a basis from which they lead or influence** those who teach and/or support high-quality learning.Individuals can evidence: + **D3.1**: a sustained record of leading or influencing the practice of those who teach and/or support high quality learning.+ **D3.2**: practice that is effective, inclusive and integrates all Dimensions.+ **D3.3**: practice that extends significantly beyond direct teaching and/or direct support for learning. |

As shown above, the Descriptor 3 criteria statements incorporate all 15 PSF 2023 Dimensions as shown below in Figure 2.

### Figure 2: PSF 2023 Dimensions of the Framework



# Developing your application

In planning and developing your application, we recommend that you access the Canvas resources and follow the sequence of activities set out in Figure 3 below.

**Steps in developing your application**

Mentoring Guidance for the Fellowship Scheme

The Centre for Educational Development actively manages a comprehensive database of trained mentors who cater to all levels of Fellowship. As a mentee, you will be paired with a colleague who holds, at a minimum, the same Fellowship category that you are aspiring to achieve. This mentor will communicate their availability to support you at the outset of the partnership. If they are unable to commit at that moment, we will promptly assign you a different mentor to ensure you receive the guidance you need.

Engagement in this mentoring process, particularly within the Professional Standards Framework (PSF), may differ significantly from traditional mentoring experiences. The mentor-mentee relationship is structured around a specific timeframe and targeted outcomes. It is essential to view this relationship as a pedagogical partnership, wherein both parties actively contribute to the learning process.

To maximize the effectiveness of your mentoring experience, you are encouraged to engage in a mutually agreed-upon timetable of activities, including writing, critical thinking, reading, and providing feedback. These activities will be outlined in an action plan collaboratively developed with your mentor. It is important to remember that the goal is not only to learn but also to apply your insights practically, ensuring that you translate your writing/thinking/reading into tangible actions.

Your mentor will play a vital role in keeping you motivated and on track, actively discouraging procrastination. Throughout the mentoring process, you will have opportunities to engage in reflective practices. At the conclusion of your mentoring experience, a debrief session will be held, where you will reflect on the effectiveness and outcomes of the mentoring process. This debrief will also allow you to provide feedback that can contribute to the ongoing development of the QMA process and formulate an action plan for your continuous professional development (CPD).

Please note that your mentor will not be eligible to provide a supporting statement for your Fellowship application. However, you may consider other mentors or colleagues familiar with your practice as potential referees. If you do identify your allocated mentor as a referee, please take this into consideration when making choices about who will support your application. Once your application has been submitted, your mentor will be copied into the outcome email to stay informed of the results.

Should your application be referred pending clarification, your mentor is there to assist you in addressing the feedback received. They can provide guidance on how to effectively respond and enhance your application to strengthen your case for Fellowship.

We encourage you to take full advantage of this opportunity, approach the mentoring process with an open mind, and be proactive in your engagement to achieve your professional development goals.

## Step 1

The diagram above explains the Professional Standards Framework (PSF) 2023. Your application will be reviewed against Descriptor 3 of this framework.

Before starting to use this guide, we advise you to complete the **Advance HE Fellowship Category Tool (PSF 2023 version)**, which is free to use on the Advance HE website [here.](https://www.advance-he.ac.uk/form/fellowship-decision-tool-2023)

The Fellowship Category Tool (FCT) consists of a set of statements that are aligned to the different PSF 2023 Dimensions of the Framework and Descriptors. This self-analysis tool will ask about your professional activities in teaching and/or supporting learning in higher education (HE). By using the tool to consider your current and recent practice, your choice of statements as you progress should help to confirm that Senior Fellowship (Descriptor 3) is the most appropriate category of fellowship for you. Please note that the accuracy of the tool depends on the choices you select as you work through it. As you look through the guidance documents, if you feel that you are not yet able to provide sufficient evidence for Descriptor 3 then you can use the report provided by undertaking the FCT to guide the development of your practice further before making a successful application.

In your **Senior Fellow** **Canvas course**, you will have the following:

+ Guide to the PSF 2023 Dimensions –Senior Fellowship

+ Senior Fellowship Applicant Guidance (this document)

+ Senior Fellowship Draft Application Template

+ Guidance for Referees writing a Supporting Statement and associated Supporting Statement Template (for use by your referees)

+ Professional Standards Framework (PSF) 2023

**Step 2**

## Guide to the PSF 2023 Dimensions – Senior Fellowship (D3)

We recommend that you start by reading the ‘Guide to the PSF 2023 Dimensions – Senior Fellowship (D3)’ available in the Canvas resources. This guide introduces and explains the PSF 2023 and then focuses on each of the 15 PSF 2023 Dimensions to support you in thinking about your practice and to identify potential evidence appropriate to PSF 2023 **Descriptor 3 (D3)**, which is the basis for the award of **Senior** **Fellowship**.

This Guide focuses on each Dimension in detail. We include lots of different examples of practice to reflect the wide range of roles and contexts in which higher education practitioners work within the global higher education sector. There are also prompt questions to help you to think about your practice in relation to each Dimension.

The questions and examples provided are **indicative only** and may not be relevant to your practice; you may have different appropriate examples, depending on your own unique context. You should focus your use of the ‘Guide’ on the questions and examples that are most relevant to you and your context, to identify evidence to use in your application.

## Senior Fellowship applicant guidance

Once you have identified how **in your context** you have used appropriate Professional

Values, applied Core Knowledge and demonstrated effective and inclusive practice in all five Areas of Activity within your practice as appropriate to Descriptor 3, you should then start to use this applicant guidance document to understand the format and requirements of the application as well as how to submit an application.

## Step 3

Once your draft application or script is finalised, you need to share this with your two referees. This applies to the recorded presentation applications as well as the written applications. They will then be able to use the ‘Guidance for Referees writing a Supporting Statement’ and associated Supporting Statement Template.

When you have your two Supporting Statements and are ready, please submit to qma@qub.ac.uk.

# Your Account of Professional Practice - please use the resources in the Canvas course. The course will appear on your dashboard when you register for the QMA.

# There are two options where you can demonstrate you meet the requirements for SFHEA, a written option and a recorded presentation (RP) option. Note for recorded submissions only the case studies can be recorded, the first 3000 words is still in written format.

|  |
| --- |
| **SFHEA Application (D3)** |
| 6000 words +/- 10% / 45 minutes (Plus Introduction and Strategy 2030) |
| *Written* | *Recorded presentation* | *Reviewing* |
| Introduction | 500 words (not assessed) |   500 written words | Two reviewers required |
| Practice alignment with Strategy 2030 | 500 words (not assessed) |   500 written words |
| Account of Professional Practice | Reflective statement 2000 words 2 case studies:2000 words2000 words |  2,000 written words **PLUS**  20-minute recorded case study 1 20-minute recorded case study 2 |
| Two supporting statements |

There are **two parts** to your direct application for Senior Fellowship:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Part 1** | **Written account of Professional Practice consisting of the following:****Context Statement** (500 words) and how your practice aligns with the **Queen’s Strategy 2030** (500 words) for both written and RP submissions**Reflective Narrative**+APP (2000) words for both written and RP submissions+Two Case Studies (4,000 words) (see Section 6) **Written or Recorded**+ Reference list (Not part of word count). |
| **Part 2** | **Two Supporting Statements from referees** (see Section 7). |

Senior Fellowship is based on meeting Descriptor 3 (D3) of the PSF 2023 and your Account of Professional Practice is the core of your application.

The Account of Professional Practice consists of a Context Statement, evidence of your practice aligning with the Queen’s Strategy 2030, a Reflective Narrative and two Case Studies.

Your **Context Statement** provides a brief summary of your higher education roles, responsibilities and professional experience and your **Reflective Narrative** **and two Case Studies** should between them provide evidence that your professional practice meets the requirements of PSF 2023 **Descriptor 3**.

In the **Queen's Strategy 2030** section you will be asked to provide examples under three of the four headings, to demonstrate how your teaching aligns with our Strategy 2030.

Higher education takes many forms and there is considerable variation in the different roles higher educational professionals carry out, for example, in experience, disciplinary background, job role, institutional context, etc. Your Account of Professional Practice is a personal account and its focus throughout should be on your own professional practice; make it personal to your specific, individual and distinctive practice.

Your **two** **Supporting Statements** will verify and endorse that what you write about in your Account of Professional Practice represents your practice in a genuine way (see Section 7).

The award of Senior Fellowship is based on **evidence of your effective and inclusive practice**; you might briefly mention future plans as part of identifying what has worked well and any changes you plan to make in future, however, your application will be judged on whether your evidence of recent practice (typically over the last 3-5 years) meets the requirements of Descriptor 3.

For Descriptor 3, the examples you select to write about need to demonstrate how your practice supports high quality learning **through leading/ influencing** the teaching and/or learning support practices of others (colleagues, peers, mentees, internal/external, etc.); this is illustrated in Figure 4 below.

Figure 4: Senior Fellow impact on HE learning through leading or influencing others’ teaching and/or support for learning practices

Others’ might, for example, be colleagues who work alongside you, or colleagues who work in other teams. They could be mentees or fellow committee members. They could be based in higher education, or within your disciplinary field or a professional body. They might be individuals from industry or practice settings that have a role in HE teaching and/or supporting learning.

Senior Fellowship is **not role dependent**; there are many different contexts in which you might be leading and/or influencing the practice of others. Critically, while direct work with students is a vital part of higher education, it does not form the basis of a successful Senior Fellow claim.

HE

learners

Others'

practices

Senior

Fellow

You may still be engaged with a substantive role in teaching or working directly with students to support learning; however, these are not examples that you should select to focus on in your application for Senior Fellowship. Expectations for engagement with the PSF 2023 Dimensions at Descriptor 3 differ from that expected at Descriptor 2, which is focussed on direct work with learners.

You may not have worked directly with students previously; for example, you might have departmental and/or wider teaching and learning support advisory responsibilities within an institution but not have worked as a practitioner directly with students. To evidence Descriptor 3 you will need to be able to demonstrate your ‘**comprehensive understanding and effective practice**’ that ‘**provides a basis your work in leading or influencing**’ **the teaching and/or support of learning practices of ‘*others*’.**

## 4.1 Your Account of Professional Practice is a personal account.

Think of your application as a ‘claim’; you are making a claim that your work is effective and has a positive impact on high quality learning. Your application will be reviewed by two experienced peer reviewers and you need to show these reviewers that there is a clear rationale behind the way you work and the choices you make in your practice.

Write in the first person (use ‘I’) so it makes clear what **you** do/have done. Try to avoid discussing teaching in general or abstract terms as this moves the application away from being about **you and your own personal practice** and will not help your personal ‘claim’ against Descriptor 3. Where you include work that you did as part of a team/with colleagues/ others (V5), you need to be clear what your personal contribution was.

Please note that the QMA **only accepts** **plain text**; and **will not** accept diagrams, images, hyperlinks or any other documents/appendices such as curriculum vitae/resume.

## 4.2 Context Statement and Aligning your Practice with Strategy 2030

A **Context Statement** (up to 500 words) and is the first part of your Account of Professional Practice and you should **briefly** introduce yourself and **outline** your role(s) and responsibilities in teaching and/or supporting learning in higher education. The information in your Context Statement will help the reviewers to understand the nature of your work and the context in which you practice, before they look at the evidence you provide in your Reflective Narrative against the PSF 2023 Descriptor 3; this section provides the **background** to your Reflective Narrative and is not ‘assessed’ against Descriptor 3.

**In** **no more than** **500 words** your Context Statement should:

* Your role at QUB and briefly anywhere else,
* Your educational background (where and what discipline),
* Your students/learners (who are they?  UG? PG? Staff? How many would you typically teach at a time?  This is important because it should dictate how you teach.
* The setting in which you teach.  Lectures/labs/library/tutorials etc.
* Your teaching philosophy.

As neither the Context Statement nor the Queen’s Strategy 2030 sections are assessed parts of your application, you do not need to link this information to the PSF. You are not including any evidence in this section.  There is no need to map it or include any references.  When you have a draft add it to your application form and send it for feedback.

Focus on your current or recent practice, which should be within the **last 3 -5 years** Please remember that your application for SFHEA is based on your higher education practice; if you also work in other teaching or learning roles outside of higher education you should not include this in your application (please refer to Section 1.1 for further information about eligibility for SFHEA).

A statement aligning your practice with **the Queen’s Strategy 2030** (up to 500 words) is the second part of your Account of Professional Practice and you should provide examples under three of the four goals, to demonstrate how your teaching aligns with our Strategy 2030.

**Queen’s Strategy 2030 goals**

* **Deliver a transformative student experience.**
* **Provide education for societal impact.**
* **Broaden access to Higher Education.**
* **Innovate our Teaching and Learning.**

Example at D3

1. **Deliver a transformative student experience**
Since 2016 at QUB I have delivered a transformative student experience by engaging in evidence-based teaching and leadership in my teaching with individuals (eg PhD Students, visiting staff and as I support team members teaching and leading as Principal Investigator. I integrate collaboration underpinned by social interdependence theory, ensuring inclusion and equity as I engage with individuals or teams. The impact of this approach is evidenced by students who demonstrate a shared goal to improve the education system for children in high poverty areas, common purpose in their approach to learning using best evidence, personal accountability in their commitment to working and learning alongside others, including to achieve agreed aims and objectives.
2. Provide education for societal impact

My teaching and leadership demonstrates my responsibility to society to ensure equity and flexibility in all learning experiences using digital tools, integrating into my work capacity for success in Sustainable Development Goals 4,10 and 17. Through an inclusive collaborative approach to teaching and leadership and integration of evidence-based practice into my teaching of staff and leadership of teams, I am invested in adding to a diverse and skilled society, with an excellent global reputation. This is demonstrated by my engagement in teaching and support of visiting staff and students from other international universities (Colombia and Chile) and through my teaching with over 3000 external partner-students. My teaching shares learning of effective and low-cost solutions to improve outcomes for children in poverty, both with Phd Students, with visiting staff learners, with external partner-students, and with wide academic and non-academic student audiences through extensive publications and conference-presentations.

1. **Innovate our Teaching and Learning**

My teaching and learning always integrates innovation, both in its use of technology to engage in teaching with wide student audiences, and to implement and disseminate evidence of effective methods to improve education, focused particularly in raising Reading standards internationally. Innovation includes the development/delivery of a QUB digital Mass Open Online Course in Paired Reading attended by approximately 2000 students in 2018, digital online teaching resources for visiting staff learners and external partner-students in both English and Spanish (Peer tutoring manuals 2020,2021,2022,2023), and lately the creation of a Train-the-Trainer model with digital resources for use with external partner-students in the UK, and with visiting staff learning to build capacity for effective practice across the system internationally. Innovation also includes the use of podcasts and videos for effective dissemination of teaching and learning practices and evidence to maximise student reach and impact.

## 3 The Reflective Narrative and Case Studies

The overall word limit for the **Reflective Narrative and two Case Studies is** **6,000 words (excluding your Introduction and Strategy 2030).**

You can choose how to spread the balance of the 6,000-word limit across your Reflective Narrative and Case Studies; we recommend that you should aim to use around 2,000 words in the Reflective Narrative and around 2,000 words in each Case Study.

For Senior Fellowship (D3) you need to show a ‘**sustained record**’ **of leading or influencing** **(D3.1)**; focus on identifying appropriate examples of your recent practice, typically from the last 3-5 years. Ifyou need to refer back to practice from more than 5 years ago, you need to ensure that you focus on how this now influences your current practice.

You will also need to show that your practice is **effective, inclusive and integrates all Dimensions** **(D3.2)**.

For **D3.3** your evidence will need to show that your **practice extends significantly** beyond direct teaching and/or direct support for learning (as illustrated in Figure 4).

Section 5 of this guidance document provides you with more information about how to address the three Descriptor 3 criteria statements and Section 6 provides guidance about how to plan and structure your Reflective Narrative and Case Studies.

Within your Reflective Narrative and Case Studies provide **selective** examples of your practice and ensure they have direct relevance to your claim for Senior Fellowship and make a strong case against Descriptor 3. The quality of the examples of evidence is much more important than the quantity.

## 4.4 Reflect on your practice

Developing your Reflective Narrative and Case Studies requires you to identify/gather and consider evidence of your practice, reflecting on the impact you have made on high quality student learning via your work in leading and/or influencing the learning and teaching practices of others. You should include appropriate rationale for the approaches you took and evidence the effectiveness of your practice; use examples from your practice to make clear **what** you did, **why/how** you did it that way and **how you know** that this was **effective**.

You should avoid long descriptions of what you ‘did’ and take a **reflective**stance so that it is clear what you did, how/why you did it that way, how you know this was effective and what you will do in future as a result.

Writing about the ‘why you did it that way’ will enable you to provide **evidence for V3**: use scholarship, or research, or professional learning, or other evidence-informed approaches as a basis for effective practice.

A **simple reflective model** for you to use throughout your Reflective Narrative could be to clearly explain:

+ **what** you did (be selective with the examples you choose to include)

+ **why** you did it in this way; clearly explain your approach and justify your choices and decisions (e.g. use of an appropriate evidence-informed approach to suit your context, etc.)

+ **how** you carried out this approach (e.g. including any specific challenges or practical issues you had to overcome)

+ how you **evaluated the** **effectiveness** of what you did (explain the kinds of

‘information’ you used to review and evaluate your work, including the impact this had on student learning via your influence on colleagues’ practices)

+ **what changes** you made as a resultof evaluating your effectiveness; for example, developing your evidence-base (V3) or engaging in professional development (A5), etc. and applying learning from this to enhance your practice (use examples to illustrate).

## 4.5 Reference list

You will need to refer to your evidence-base within your Reflective Narrative and Case Studies to explain how/why you have chosen the approaches you have taken. V3 asks for evidence of your use of scholarship, or research, or professional learning, or other evidence-informed approaches as a basis for your effective practice. How you evidence this will depend on the context in which you are working, the nature of the subject, discipline or profession or service area, the ways in which you influence your peers’ practice, the context/expectations of the institution in which you work, etc.

You should cite/refer to the ‘evidence-base’ you use to inform your practice where appropriate in the text. For example, you might cite literature related to pedagogic theory or academic leadership in journal papers (e.g. Smith, 2019), publications, books, websites, etc. or refer to evidence from professional bodies, industry or your discipline (your ‘professional knowledge’ base). Where you do cite a reference, it has to be apparent how this has influenced your practice (i.e. the citation is not just ‘dropped in’). For example, you could explain how you were inspired by a particular author or journal article to plan your curriculum redevelopment in a certain way.

Where you cite in the text of your Reflective Narrative and Case Studies, you need to include the full information in the Reference List. We ask you to provide a full list of all the references you directly cite so that reviewers are clear about which sources have influenced your approach to learning and teaching and to provide appropriate credit to an author/organisation that has inspired any areas of your practice. Please note that the online application system can only accept plain text (i.e. footnotes will not be accepted).

*This short excerpt from a Senior Fellowship application illustrates how the applicant uses their evidence-base to inform their practice (V3) and includes the full reference in their Reference List:*

Having evaluated student feedback and outcomes from this initial year of online delivery for our business degree programmes, I identified a need to enhance the support in place for first year students as they transition into higher education (K3). I first researched the approaches taken by established providers in distance education and their success in providing pastoral and academic support to identify good practice and then led a team away day to consider how best to implement effective approaches within our own context (Hilliam and Williams, 2019) (V3).

**Reference list:**

Hilliam, R. and G. Williams (2019). ‘Academic and pastoral teams working in partnership to support distance learning students according to curriculum area’, Higher Education Pedagogies, 4:1, pp. 32- 40.

# Evidencing Descriptor 3

Descriptor 3 is suitable for individuals whose **comprehensive understanding** **and effective practice provides a basis** **from which they** **lead or influence** those who teach and/or support high-quality learning.

As highlighted earlier, there is considerable variation in the different roles and responsibilities individuals have from which they lead or influence the practices of their peers. Senior Fellowship is not restricted to those holding formal leadership roles. Some Senior Fellows are still involved in direct teaching and learning support activities with learners and others are not. You might still be carrying out considerable direct teaching and/or support for learning work with students, however, the focus of your Senior Fellow application will need to be on the parts of your practice where you influence and/or lead your peers’ practice.

The ‘Guide to the PSF 2023 Dimensions – Senior Fellowship (D3)’ provides many different examples of practice from a variety of contexts; this should support you to understand what, **in your context**, might be appropriate evidence for you to include within your application.

## 5.1 Evidencing D3.1

**D3.1:** a **sustained record of leading or influencing the practice** of those who teach and/or support high quality learning.

There is a strong link between D3.1 and D3.3 and together they act as a ‘frame’ for the characteristics of a Senior Fellow application. The focus of D3.1 is on describing and explaining the **process and processes** *y*ou have undertaken to **lead or influence** the practice of others who are teaching and/or supporting learning. Whereas the focus of D3.3 is about providing specific examples of your effective and inclusive practice, which go beyond your own direct teaching or support for learning, and the impact of this work on learners (see Section 5.3 below).

It is also important to evidence the **sustained** nature of your work leading or influencing others. You need to demonstrate that your record of leading or influence is ‘sustained’ through use of appropriate examples of your recent practice, typically from the last 3-5 years. If you do need to refer back to practice from more than 5 years ago, the focus needs to be on how this now influences your current practice.

The experience of ‘leading’ or ‘influencing’ evidenced in Senior Fellow applications will vary greatly and could be either through formal roles and/or processes or may be more informal in nature. You may be presenting evidence against D3.1 of leading or influencing the teaching and/or learning support practice of others from within a formal leadership role; for example, a team leader, head of a support service area or academic department, lead of an academic subject or disciplinary area, professor/reader or as lead for one or more HE courses/programmes. You might hold other formal responsibilities such as a mentor for new staff, peer reviewer, thematic lead, personal tutor, External Examiner, etc. You may work in professional support areas where the central focus of your responsibility involves guidance and/or support for those who teach and/or support high-quality learning, for example as learning designers.

Evidence of your leading or influence might be less ‘formal’ in nature. For example, you might be recognised as an experienced colleague who is regularly consulted for your guidance and support. You might be someone with particular expertise in one or more aspects of teaching and/or support, and can evidence a **sustained record** of leading or influence related to this, impacting not only members of the team(s) you belong to, but also others within different roles and professional contexts; for example, as a professional working in industry that leads or influences others’ learning and teaching practice. You may be able to draw upon influence or leading in relation to innovative practice where you have been a key innovator.

In explaining your own practice in leading or influencing others, you should draw on and integrate your appropriate use of scholarship, or research, or professional learning, or other evidence-informed approaches as a basis for effective practice (V3). You should also explain how you know that your approaches were effective (K3: critical evaluation as a basis for effective practice) and what happened as a result of your influence.

To meet the requirements of D3.1 you need to explain:

+ the contexts in which you influenced or led the teaching and/or supporting learning practices of others over a sustained period

+ the approaches you took to leading/ influencing and your rationale for taking these approaches, including the evidence-base you drew on

+ how you ensured that your leadership or influence was effective

+ how you evaluated the outcome and used this insight to shape your future practice.

Some short examples below are included to **prompt your thinking** about different ways in which you might be able to provide evidence of your sustained record of leading or influencing the practices of others in support of high quality learning in line with D3.1. These are **indicative only** and you should select your own examples to provide evidence for D3.1 within your own context.

### Mentoring

You may have experience of mentoring colleagues over a number of years and can explain the approaches to mentoring (including the rationale) you have taken in carrying out this work. In evidencing D3.1 it is likely that the you will have carried out mentoring of others on multiple occasions, in different circumstances. Through this you should be able to demonstrate a sustained record of leading or influencing those who teach and/or support high-quality learning and to identify how your influence on the enhancement of your different mentees’ practices has benefitted their learners.

**Membership of committees or working/task groups**

Membership of committees or working/task groups might provide the basis for evidence towards Descriptor 3 if you are able to evidence your own individual contribution to the work of that group and demonstrate how this has impacted on the teaching and learning practice of colleagues. For example, if you sit on a Support Service area or Departmental Teaching and Learning Committee, you might be responsible for heading up a task group which is looking at improving student induction processes. In such an example, you would discuss how you organised the work of that task group and also demonstrate how the findings of the group have influenced and shaped decisions and actions taken by the wider committee, influenced colleagues’ practice and, by extension, enhanced the student learning experience.

### Supervision Responsibilities

Direct supervision of postgraduate researchers as learners in the production of their doctorates aligns to Descriptor 2 practice. However, there are different ways in which your supervision responsibilities may provide appropriate evidence for Descriptor 3. For example, your work may involve responsibility as a mentor or supervisor of postgraduate researchers in their role as teaching assistants, which may provide examples of your sustained influence over time on these individuals’ practice with learners. To give another example, you may be leading or influencing the instigation of new research supervision processes or protocols, which are adopted and impact on the teaching and learning practice of research supervisors; through this you should be able to demonstrate your personal role and contribution and identify the resulting enhancement for learners.

## 5.2 Evidencing D3.2

**D3.2**: practice that is **effective, inclusive and integrates all Dimensions**

### You should continue to use the ‘Guide to the PSF 2023 Dimensions – Senior Fellowship

**(D3)**’ as you progress with your application. The ‘Guide to…’ considers each of the 15 PSF 2023 Dimensions in turn to explain what each one is about and provides a wide range of typical examples of professional practice in HE teaching and/or supporting learning that are relevant to that Dimension as appropriate to Descriptor 3. The guidance should help you to make appropriate links between your practice and the PSF 2023 Dimensions and to identify relevant evidence to include in your application for Senior Fellowship. Remember that an application for Senior Fellowship must evidence D3.2: practice that is **effective, inclusive** and **integrates all Dimensions.**

There are prompt questions in each section of the ‘Guide’. Those questions should help you to consider and identify clear evidence of your own effective practice that might be used in your application for Senior Fellowship.

Whilst each of the 15 PSF 2023 Dimensions represent distinct aspects of HE practice, the

**Dimensions are** **inter-related** **and** **inter-connected**. For example, in designing a programme (A1) you will need to consider the how learners learn appropriate to the subject and level of study (K1), the types of learners (V2), use of technology (K4), the evidence-informed approaches to be taken (V3), etc.

Within an example of a specific aspect of your leading or influencing others, evidence for Professional Values, Core Knowledge and Areas of Activity might be found through the articulation of your aims, as part of your rationale for why you chose the approaches you did, in the explanation of how you know that your practice was effective and/or in how you plan to develop and enhance your practice in the future.

As you provide evidence against the Dimensions, you should highlight this where applicable. One way to do this is to refer to the Dimension in your text, e.g. (V1) or (K1) etc. Ensure that you only link to the most relevant Dimensions in each case (e.g. one or two that you have engaged with in a meaningful way in that specific example of practice) and avoid producing long lists of links to Dimensions (e.g. K1, K2, K4, V1, V2, V3) as this will not demonstrate your meaningful engagement with the Dimensions.

A short example is given below to illustrate how Dimensions are integrated within practice.

One of the examples I used in my Senior Fellowship application was when, as a Head of Department, I set up a working group to look at departmental assessment and feedback practices (A3). My aims were to explore and adopt best practice, to achieve a greater consistency across all our programmes and to ensure that all learners had an equity of opportunity to be successful in assessment (V2).

Initially I had researched current best practice in assessment within my discipline, also attending two conferences on assessment and feedback, and I had also considered different leadership techniques I could utilise to persuade and motivate colleagues to change their assessment practices (A5, V3).

I then explained the approaches I took and my rationale for these (V3), finally providing evidence of the positive impact this had on my colleagues’ practices and on the student learning experience in as a result (K3).

Please remember to continue to use the Guide to Understanding the PSF 2023 Dimensions – Senior Fellowship to support you in making links between your practice and the most relevant Dimensions you evidenced in each example as you develop your narrative.

## 5.3 Evidencing D3.3

**D3.3**: practice that extends **significantly beyond direct** teaching and/or direct support for learning.

As mentioned above in Section 5.1, there is a strong link between criteria D3.1 and D3.3 as the activities involved in leading or influencing others that teach and/or support learning (D3.1) involve practice that is situated beyond direct support for learning (D3.3), even where such practice may not be 'sustained'.

You need to explain your approaches to leading and influencing practice to satisfy D3.1 and this will act as a ‘frame’ for the examples you describe in some detail for D3.3; but to fully satisfy D3.3 you also need to show how the examples have enabled change, to the benefit of learners. The examples you use should show how you have worked with others (learner support, professional services, academic or teaching staff, employers or professionals) to enhance their learning and teaching practice and explain how this has been **effective in promoting high-quality learning, making a positive difference to learners and their experience as a result** (as indicated in Figure 4 above).

For D3.3 it is important to show how the practice you describe includes **significant** examples of situations where your work is influencing others and goes beyond your own direct teaching or your own direct support for learning. To explain this further, you might include evidence of your contribution to the development or implementation of local policies or strategies at a group/team/department/school or Faculty level, or to initiatives that aim to enhance practice across a team, context or profession. In discussing such activities, it is important that you **clearly indicate your personal role** in relation to the examples given and identify the impact and influence of your work on others.

0222

Some short examples below are included to prompt your thinking about different ways in which you might be able to provide evidence of the scope and impact of your practice for D3.3. These are indicative only and you should select your own examples that provide evidence for D3.3 within your own context.

### New approaches to teaching and/or support for learning

Development of new approaches to teaching and/or support for learning which stem from, and build on, your own direct practice with students (aligned to Descriptor 31 or 2) might form the basis for evidence appropriate to a claim for Senior Fellow if you can show how this practice is being used by others at a local or wider level to the benefit of their learners.

For example, you might have experimented with innovative approaches to providing learners with feedback as part of an action research activity, disseminated at an internal/external workshop or event and because of positive feedback from delegates, you were invited to present to a university committee. Following this, the approach is now included within university guidance and/or processes as an example of good practice and you have developed resources for staff development.

### Project work on enhancing support for students

Project work related to enhanced support for students could provide the basis for appropriate evidence for Descriptor 3.3 of the PSF 2023 if you are able to demonstrate your individual contribution.

You might have been invited to join this project team as an expert practitioner with specialist knowledge and relevant experience in this area of work. Project work is likely to involve a more collaborative approach (link to V5) so you will need to explain your contribution to the project. You might discuss how you facilitated related workshops to disseminate to colleagues and supported the implementation of the enhancement within their work with learners. Evaluation has demonstrated the positive impact of this work.

### External Examining/ External Review of programmes

Experience of effective external examining or reviewing responsibilities might provide appropriate evidence for Descriptor 3.3. You will need to demonstrate how your work as a ‘critical friend’ or external reviewer has enabled you to share relevant expert knowledge and professional experience to identify areas for enhancement and support individuals/ programme teams to introduce positive changes to enhance student learning and/or ensure robust quality processes.

You should not simply list your appointments, achievements or outputs, but need to give selected examples of recommendations and/or advice you have provided, across a range of contexts, and show how your interventions have been responded to.

222

# Writing your application

## 6.1. Planning

Planning your claim and making decisions about what examples you will use should be the first stage in the writing process. This should also be enjoyable as you reflect on the many ways in which you have supported others to enhance their practice.

Within the limited words available you will not be able to write or talk about everything you have done and **must be selective about which examples** **you choose to write about**. Select examples that best exemplify your work in line with Descriptor 3 requirements.

As well as deciding which examples of your practice to select to use in your application, one of the key decisions you will also have to make is whether to use each example in the Reflective Narrative or the Case Studies. The following two sections (6.2 and 6.3) provide guidance on each of these.

Overall, your claim is built using examples from your practice identified from within the last three to five years. How you select the examples is your choice and depends on how you prefer to work, but two different approaches are suggested below; some people like to start with a blank page and others are helped by seeing suggestions which help to generate their own ideas.

+ **Possible approach 1**: think back over the last three to five years and make a list of possible examples of your teaching and/or supporting learning practice that you think could be useful evidence towards Descriptor 3. This process can take a while and could be helped by talking with a colleague, or by working in a small group where you can share ideas and stimulate thinking. Sometimes speaking with other people reminds you of the effectiveness of your practice.

Once you have a list, then refer to the examples in the ‘Guide to the PSF 2023 Dimensions - Senior Fellowship’ document to check that the examples on your list are similar in their scope of influence to those suggested there. The prompt questions in the guidance will help you to refine your list to focus on your strongest examples and to start to plan how to use these in your application.

+ **Possible approach 2**: start with the Guide to the PSF 2023 Dimensions - Senior Fellowship document and use the prompt questions and the suggested examples to help you to identify your own.

Whatever approach you choose, we recommend that you work with the Guide to the PSF 2023 Dimensions - Senior Fellowship document and use the examples and prompt questions provided to guide your choices.

Once you have a list then you should review each example against the three Descriptor 3 criteria to decide whether to select to use it in your application, and if so, where it will be placed – in the Reflective Narrative or in one of the two Case Studies. Remember that across the examples you choose to write about, you will need to include evidence that integrates all PSF 2023 Dimensions (D3.2).

You might like to use a planning grid, such as the one shown below in Figure 5, to check that you have a balance of evidence across your claim that should appropriately address all the three criteria statements of Descriptor 3 (note: use of a grid would be for initial planning purposes only and not for use in your final application).

### Figure 5 – example of a planning grid

Use of a planning grid might be useful to help you to refine your list of possible examples (aiming for around 10-12 strong examples to build your claim) ensure that you have evidence of all PSF 2023 Dimensions across the range of examples and help you to decide which examples to use in the Reflective Narrative and which in the Case Studies.

This part of the writing process will take some time, but once completed, you will be ready to start to write. To emphasise, your ‘claim’ for Senior Fellowship must focus on leading and influencing others’ practices, recognising that here are many ways in which this might be done and numerous ways in which learners might benefit from your actions as you work with peers.

## 6.2 Writing your Reflective Narrative

Your Reflective Narrative will provide an overview of your practice over the last 3 to 5 years using short examples to illustrate the effectiveness of your action. In contrast, the Case Studies provide the opportunity for you to explore and evaluate two examples (one for each case study) in much greater depth.

There are different ways in which you might choose to structure and write your Reflective Narrative. We recommend that you use around 2,000 words in total (of the 6,000-word limit) for this part of your claim and you will need to decide how best to use this allocation.

One **possible** way (but there are others) is to identify ‘themes’ from within the examples of practice you have selected to use (Section 6.1 above). These themes could then be presented with sub-headings, creating a structure for you to organise and present your examples of your effective practice. To illustrate this further, some themes that might possibly emerge could be ones such as those below, but **remember these are purely indicative suggestions**:

+ leading and influencing learning, teaching and assessment practice

+ managing change

+ collaborating with colleagues external to the university

+ mentoring

+ integrating technology into effective practice

+ shaping inclusive practice; and many other possible themes.

If you take this thematic approach, your ‘themes’ will be unique to **your context and the nature of your practice**; your themes must emerge from your own personal examples of practice.

You may prefer to use a different approach to structure your Reflective Narrative to suit your own writing style, context, etc.; however, if you do take this approach, you might choose 3 or 4 different themes and use each theme as a subheading. Under each subheading use succinct examples that together identify the effectiveness of your actions on the others’ practices and high-quality learning as you worked with, and through, your peers.

Across your two Case Studies and Reflective Narrative, you need to evidence the integration of all the PSF 2023 Dimensions.

Below, an extract from a Reflective Narrative illustrates how one example under the theme of ‘Influencing through committee work’ incorporates evidence of some Dimensions.

222

|  |
| --- |
| **Theme: Influencing through committee work** I have been effective in my influence on student learning through my active, engaged membership of the Learning and Teaching Committee for the last four years. The pandemic required the Committee to discuss and agree the smooth transition to online learning and the appropriate use of technology. Very early on in the pandemic multiple data sources – formal and informal – indicated that many staff were not ready to support fully online learning. I was known for my expertise in this area which was supported by my own formal learning; I completed a MSc Online Learning (A5). This led me to be identified as the lead designer of a short series of workshops for staff to build their confidence in and ability to use MS Teams as an effective environment for online teaching and/or support sessions (A1, K4). Although it was short notice, I was able to involve two of my mentees in the project – both of whom wanted to develop their skills in leading change (V5). Together we explored key literature looking to apply it into the workshops, deciding on the value of Salmon and Wright (2014) Carpe Diem model (V3, A2) as an effective approach. Supported by the two mentees, I led the design of 5 interactive, online workshops which recognised the individual starting points for each staff member and the need to be inclusive in our approach at the same time as building the academic community (V2). We aimed to model the intervention we designed so that staff members could take aspects of it, relevant to their discipline and learners, into their own practice (K1, K4). Was it successful? Attendance was good with 87% of those attending, engaging in all five workshops. Feedback from the attendees on what they were able to learn was also positive, indicating the development of confidence. Subsequent feedback through to the Learning and Teaching Committee reported that student satisfaction with their learning had increased by 2%, up to 84%. Critically, module outcomes were broadly similar in terms of student success to those pre pandemic (K3). I have since led on the redesign of the 5 workshops enabling their incorporation into new staff induction (A1), a consequence of the value placed on their effectiveness by Committee members (K3). Reference List Salmon, G. and Wright, R. (2014) Transforming future teaching through 'Carpe Diem' learning design. Available at https://www.gillysalmon.com/journalarticles.html (date accessed).  |

## 6.3 Writing or talking about your Case Studies

The first stage in deciding the focus of each of your Case Studies is to choose the most appropriate two examples of your work (one for each case study) that provide you with the best opportunity to fully explore and evaluate your influence on the practices of others and on high quality learning as a result. Case studies are commonly complex in their different elements and take place over a period of time.

We recommend that you choose two Case Studies that address two different aspects of your practice as this will give you opportunity to most effectively build evidence towards the three Descriptor criteria statement and to incorporate different PSF Dimensions; i.e. avoid choosing case studies which both focus on programme design, or mentoring, or teaching or assessment approaches, etc...

Throughout your Case Studies, you should continue to reflect on your practice (see Section 4.4) rather than just describe the action you took. Some key aspects for you to consider as you write are outlined below.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| + | use a title that reflects the Senior Fellow focus on leading/ influencing others |
| + | provide a context for the case study so the reader understands what the issue was that required action |
| + | explain your aim/ goal – what you were seeking to achieve and why |
| + | discuss what you did and why you did it that way (include evidence base) |
| + | outline the timescale and who you worked with (and why these people) |
| + | explain what approach(es) you took. Include any problems/ challenges you experienced and how you managed them |
| + | discuss the outcome – what happened? |
| + | explain the impact(s). What was achieved? How do you know that what you did was effective? |
| + | identify what you would do differently next time/ how you have adapted your approach in subsequent work. |

Remember that the two Case Studies make up the majority of your claim if you follow the recommendation to use around 2,000 words or 20 minutes presentation on each Case Study; refer back to Section 5 above to ensure that you are addressing all three criteria statements D3.1, D3.2 and D3.3.

The two short examples below are included to prompt your thinking around possible ways to approach your Case Studies; you will choose examples from your context that will make a strong claim against Descriptor 3.

### Case Study example 1 – leading an intervention to boost student resilience

Ali decides to focus one Case Study on the work he led in relation to boosting resilience in students. In the case study he summarises the background, rationale, development, evaluation process and subsequent process of embedding a new resilience unit within the curriculum.

As a senior member of a student services team, Ali was leading aspects of work around student well-being; at the time, one of the main priorities for the Engineering Faculty at his institution.

Ali was aware that recent published research had found increased resilience to be linked to positive outcomes for student mental health, retention and academic performance (Bleasdale & Humphreys, 2018). Drawing on the literature, Ali explains how he then undertook his own research with small student focus groups. Findings supported the importance of developing resilience in students and the need for structured support and resources to do this (V3).

Ali explains how he then brought together and led an inter-disciplinary working group of staff, including both academic and support services staff, to develop, validate and deliver a 5 credit-unit designed to boost student resilience through a variety of evidence-informed approaches (A4, V3, V5). The unit was piloted with one first year group and the outcomes were fully evaluated before being embedded across all first year programmes within the faculty (K3).

Ali organised a series of workshops, facilitated by members of the working group, to support programme team members and support service staff to develop the knowledge and skills required to deliver and assess the resilience unit. Ali also coordinated the development of online resources to provide additional support for staff (A2, V3, K4).

Ali provides a range of evidence demonstrating positive impact on students associated with study on this unit and points to interest from staff in other faculties.

Reference list

Bleasdale and Humphreys. (2018). Undergraduate Resilience Research Project.

Available at [https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Lydia-Bleasdale-](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Lydia-Bleasdale-2/publication/324866343_Undergraduate_Resilience/links/5ae88e5b45851588dd8144bd/Undergraduate-Resilience.pdf)

[2/publication/324866343\_Undergraduate\_Resilience/links/5ae88e5b45851588dd8 144bd/Undergraduate-Resilience.pdf](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Lydia-Bleasdale-2/publication/324866343_Undergraduate_Resilience/links/5ae88e5b45851588dd8144bd/Undergraduate-Resilience.pdf) (date accessed).

### Case Study example 2 – leading curriculum design

Mai is a Programme Lead within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. She leads a team of staff (both academic and support) who work across nine programmes within the faculty.

Mai chooses to base one of her case studies around leading the validation and professional body accreditation of the portfolio of undergraduate programmes that she leads. Mai discusses the rationale for the design of the curriculum, which included a key focus on employability; a university strategic priority (V4). The programme design had to meet professional standards; i.e. the skills, knowledge and behaviours required in graduates by the professional body (K5).

Mai discusses how she based her initial ideas for the curriculum design on her own educational research and other current evidence-informed approaches (V3). She formed and led a small Steering Group to support the development and redesign process, and in addition, set up a service user forum. She worked in collaboration with a range of stakeholders, including the professional regulator, students, inservice practitioners and service users, staff and employers (V5). The group identified key principles to embed within the programme design including good pastoral support, partnership with service users and practitioners, team teaching and varied assessments.

The successfully validated programme design was based around 'threads' of modules scaffolding learning across the three years (A1). Mai took a participative leadership approach (Mishra and Pandey, 2019) to work with her programme team to think creatively about how the programmes could be delivered and assessed in different ways (A2, A3) and how they could build on the identified strengths to acknowledge the diversity of their learners and develop skills to create a sense of ‘belonging’ across the programmes (V1).

Evidence of the effectiveness of the curriculum design was provided by student outcome and achievement data for the first set of graduates, feedback from service user forum and employment data (K3).

Reference List

Mishra, M. and Pandey, A. (2019), "The impact of leadership styles on knowledge-

sharing behaviour: a review of literature", Development and Learning in Organizations, Vol. 33 No. 1, pp. 16-19.(date accessed).

# Supporting Statements

Your application for Senior Fellowship must be endorsed by **two Supporting Statements from referees**.

The **Supporting Statements** **endorse** your claim and are used by the reviewers to confirm that your application presents a fair and accurate reflection of your higher education practice. The Supporting Statements are not used by reviewers to fill any gaps in the evidence you provide towards the Descriptor. The reviewers will need to see sufficient evidence of effective practice in your Reflective Narrative and Case Studies to meet Descriptor 3 for them to award Senior Fellowship.

Your referees should work, or have recently worked, closely with you and have first-hand knowledge of your practice so that they are in a position to comment on and endorse your application. Please note that Supporting Statements should reflect a professional relationship; i.e. not be from a family member or based on a personal friendship.

Referees need to have current or recent experience of working in higher education and to be

familiar with the PSF 2023; for example, as a holder of one of the four categories of Fellowship, although this is not essential

It is important that you read the Supporting Statement your referees provide, as they may refer to aspects of your practice that could strengthen your application; if this is the case then you could revise parts of your application and ask your referees to check that they are happy to endorse the changes you have made before you submit.

You may be asked to provide an alternative Supporting Statement or two new Supporting Statements for a variety of reasons when reviewers of your application judge that one or both of these statements do not fully verify and endorse the evidence in your application.

## Guidance for referees

Provide your referees with a copy of the **Guidance for Referees writing a Supporting Statement – Senior Fellowship** and the **Supporting Statement template**; this document is part of the Canvas resources. Please copy and paster the Supporting Statements into your application form.

In their Supporting Statement, your referee will need to confirm that you have represented your practice accurately and fairly. Therefore, your referee needs to **be provided with** **the final draft of your application** to enable them to provide an effective reference. In their Supporting Statements each referee will confirm that in their professional opinion, you demonstrate the requirements of Descriptor 3 and should be awarded Senior Fellowship.

Your referees will be asked to confirm that they have written the Supporting Statement themselves and that the information they provide has been written specifically for your application.

CED reserves the right to contact your referees for clarification so please ensure that each Supporting Statement includes verifiable contact details (e.g. name, job title, email address, institution). As part of CED’s ongoing quality assurance process, Advance HE routinely checks references for individual authenticity. If the professional integrity of the Supporting Statement is in question, the statement will not be accepted which may result in the application being failed.

# Submitting your Senior Fellowship application via the QMA

Once you have finalised your application using the Senior Fellowship draft application template and you have included your two Supporting Statements, you are ready to submit your application.

Your application is submitted via qma@qub.ac.uk

Application submission process

**How will your application be reviewed?**

Your application will be reviewed by two independent assessors as part of a peer review process.

The QMA reviewer pool includes education specialists and practitioners from across our institution. Reviewers are selected for their experience of external review and their understanding of the PSF 2023, as well as for their knowledge and experience of learning and teaching in higher education, including different contexts (e.g., disciplines, professional roles, etc.) and global settings.

All reviewers are Senior or Principal Fellows and are required to undertake an annual cycle of professional development and regular standardisation activities with the QMA to ensure that their review of your application is based on their up-to-date knowledge and understanding of the requirements of the PSF 2023 and Senior Fellowship.

How do the reviewers reach their judgement?

The reviewers will be looking for evidence that your practice meets the requirements of Descriptor 3 across your Reflective Narrative and will check that the Supporting Statement provides appropriate endorsement for your application. They will assess your application against each of the Descriptor 3 criteria.

Each reviewer will read or listen to your application and will apply the Descriptor 3 criteria to reach an initial independent judgement. The two reviewers then reach a combined consensus judgement.

Full guidance for reviewers with associated review pro-formas are available in Canvas. This information sets out the process reviewers follow to make professional judgements on SFHEA applications.

### How long will the review process take?

An application for SFHEA can be made at any time during the year and will be allocated to the next available panel. The length of time it will take to process your application is dependent on the dates of our review panels and the demand on the fellowship service when you submit your application.

QMA holds regular review panels and typically you will be notified about the outcome of your application within 12 weeks.

If your application is not successful following the first review, you will receive feedback from the reviewers and have one opportunity to strengthen your application and resubmit (see below). Once you have resubmitted, you will normally be notified of the final outcome within 6 weeks.

###

### Review process and possible outcomes

x

**Application**

**reviewed by two**

**Reviewers.**

**Descriptor 3 met.**

**Descriptor 3 not met.**

**Senior**

**Fellowship awarded.**

**Consensus**

**judgement reached.**

**Applicant has four**

**weeks to resubmit.**

**Resubmission**

**Referred.**

**End of review**

**Process.**

**1**

**2**

The diagram above outlines the review process for your application and possible outcomes.

Outcome of first review

There are two possible outcomes following the first review of your application – Award or Refer.

**Outcome 1: Award**

If the reviewers’ consensus judgement is that your application meets the requirements of Descriptor 3 then you will be awarded SFHEA. You will receive a congratulatory email which will explain how to download your SFHEA certificate from the QMA.

As an SFHEA, the QMA expects you to adhere to the [**Fellowship Code of Practice**](https://www.advance-he.ac.uk/knowledge-hub/fellowship-code-practice) and to maintain your professional practice in accordance with the PSF 2023.

**Outcome 1: Refer**

Should your application be judged as providing insufficient evidence for meeting Descriptor 3 then you will be provided with feedback from the reviewers in a **Panel Outcome and Feedback template**. This feedback will indicate which of the three Descriptor 3 criteria your application has met and explain how your application needs to be strengthened to provide the evidence of the remaining Descriptor 3 criteria.

You will be offered ***one*** opportunity to resubmit within four weeks, you will be asked to highlight any changes you make to your original application. Once you submit your revised application, the same reviewers will make a final judgement to either award SFHEA or that the application is unsuccessful.

Outcome of second review (resubmission)

**Outcome 2: Award**

If the reviewers’ consensus judgement on your resubmission is that your revised application meets the requirements of Descriptor 3 then you will be awarded SFHEA.

**Outcome 2: Unsuccessful**

If the reviewers judge that despite revisions, your resubmission does not fully meet the requirements of Descriptor 3 then the final judgement is ‘unsuccessful’. In this instance, further feedback in **Section 4 of the Panel Outcome and Feedback template** will explain the unsuccessful judgement.

Please note that Section 1 of the Panel Outcome and Feedback template will be updated to show where Descriptor 3 criteria are met in the resubmission. The original reviewer feedback from the first review will **remain unaltered in Sections 2 and 3** of the form; Section 4 will draw on the feedback in Sections 2 and 3 to explain the final outcome.

**Appeals and complaints**

 Appeals and complaints can be made in accordance with the Universities’ Academic Appeal Policy.

**What if I have other questions?**

If you cannot find the information you need or require further assistance, please email ced@qub.ac.uk and one of our team will be able to assist you. You can also call us on (+44) 028 9097 5845.