

Overview of changes to DFF processes, 2026

Area	Scope of change
<b>Assessment criteria</b>	The assessment places less emphasis on quantitative indicators such as number of publications, journal prestige or metrics. Greater weight is given to the scientific <b>quality and originality</b> of the proposed project, the applicant's contributions and competencies in relation to career stage, and the broader value of the research for the research community.
<b>Overall assessment focus</b>	The original research idea and project design are more clearly positioned as the central basis for assessment, while the applicant's profile is evaluated holistically rather than through narrow performance indicators.
<b>CV format</b>	Applicants must use a <b>new mandatory CV template</b> with a narrative structure and a fixed maximum length. The CV now allows applicants to contextualise their career path and describe a wider range of contributions, including research leadership, collaboration, supervision and engagement activities.
<b>Publication list / track record</b>	The traditional full publication list is replaced by a <b>structured track record format</b> . Applicants highlight a limited number of key research contributions with short descriptions of significance and personal role, alongside a controlled overview of publications, rather than presenting exhaustive lists.
<b>Scope of recognised contributions</b>	A broader range of research outputs and activities can now be taken into account, including diverse types of outputs, collaboration, data sharing and contributions to the research environment, rather than focusing primarily on standard journal publications.