

Queen Mary, University of London and the Research Assessment Exercise 2008



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The results of the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE), published in December 2008, confirmed Queen Mary's place in the leading group of research-led universities.



Acting Principal Professor Philip Ogden commented: *'This outstanding result confirms that Queen Mary is one of the very top research-led universities in the*

UK and amongst the handful of world-class institutions in London. The success is the result of the talent and hard work of our academic staff in all disciplines - and the colleagues who support them - and a robust and carefully targeted research investment strategy over the past few years. My congratulations to all colleagues who contributed to this excellent result'.



The RAE was conducted jointly by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), the Scottish Funding Council (SFC), the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW) and the Department for Employment and Learning, Northern Ireland (DEL). RAE 2008 produced quality profiles for each submission of research activity made by each institution in each subject area. Funding implications will be known in March 2009.

According to tables published in the *Times Higher Education*, Queen Mary has been ranked 13th in the country out of the 132 institutions which submitted for the exercise.

The *Guardian* places Queen Mary even higher, 11th in the UK.

The *Times Higher* comments "the biggest star among the research-intensive institutions was Queen Mary, University of London, which went from 48th in 2001 to 13th in the 2008 *Times Higher Education* table, up 35 places."

Queen Mary is ranked third amongst University of London multi-faculty colleges and ahead of several Russell Group institutions, including King's College London, Bristol, Sheffield, Leeds, Nottingham, Birmingham, Southampton, Liverpool and Newcastle.



Anti-clockwise from top: Three of Queen Mary's leading academics: Professor Aine McKnight (Professor of Viral Pathology), Professor Maria Delgado (Professor of Drama and Theatre Arts), Professor Mark Sandler (Professor of Signal Processing).

Queen Mary has also excelled in several subject groups, being in the top five in many, including:

- Linguistics (ranked 1st ahead of UCL, Oxford and Cambridge)
- Geography (ranked 1st equal with Bristol, Cambridge, Durham and Oxford)
- Drama, dance and performing arts (ranked 1st for Drama, but 2nd equal in the unit of assessment with the department ahead of Queen Mary not being entered for Drama)
- Dentistry (ranked 2nd ahead of KCL and UCL)
- English Language and Literature (ranked 2nd ahead of UCL, Oxford and Cambridge)
- Epidemiology and public health (ranked 3rd ahead of Oxford, UCL and Bristol)
- Pre-clinical and human biological sciences (ranked 4th ahead of KCL, Bristol and Nottingham)
- Health Services Research (ranked 4th ahead of Oxford, UCL and KCL)
- Cancer studies (ranked 5th equal ahead of Oxford, Imperial, KCL and UCL).

Queen Mary is also in the highest quartile in:

- Law
- Iberian Languages
- History
- Computer Science
- Economics and Econometrics
- Other hospital-based clinical subjects

In addition, Queen Mary has recorded substantial achievements in a number of other extremely competitive subjects, including Russian, French, Materials, Politics, Pure Maths and Electronic Engineering. Business and Management, despite being a new department that was not entered at all in the 2001 RAE, has equalled the Cass Business School at City University in the *Times Higher* RAE ranking, coming within the top half of business schools.

The Guardian's league table places Queen Mary at 11th in the UK

Ranking	University	Average ranking	% 4*	% 3* plus 4*	Staff entered 2008 (FTE)	Staff entered 2001	Number of subjects
1	The University of Cambridge	2.975	32.0	71.2	2040.39	1826.1	48
2	The University of Oxford	2.959	31.8	70.3	2245.83	2023.83	48
3	London School of Economics	2.957	34.9	68.4	490.36	431.57	14
4	Imperial College	2.943	25.8	72.9	1224.57	1171.28	21
5	University College London	2.844	26.6	65.8	1792.68	1745.7	47
6	The University of Manchester	2.823	23.1	65.4	1824.34	1204.14	53
7	The University of Warwick	2.799	21.3	64.9	966.35	714.33	28
8	The University of York	2.780	22.6	62.0	653.87	554.06	25
9	The University of Essex	2.772	22.1	62.9	322.02	313.87	14
10	The University of Edinburgh	2.747	22.5	62.8	1639.81	1365.29	39
11	Queen Mary, University of London	2.726	18.7	62.6	686.82	677.95	29
12	The University of St Andrews	2.724	19.2	59.5	491.10	359.2	26
13	The University of Bristol	2.723	18.3	61.4	1198.70	1019.26	46
14	University of Durham	2.721	20.0	60.9	759.30	604.23	30
15	The University of Southampton	2.715	17.9	61.1	1097.96	930.42	32
16	The University of Leeds	2.715	17.5	60.9	1269.66	1137.14	46
17	The University of Sheffield	2.715	18.7	60.4	1204.56	955.6	46
18	The University of Bath	2.711	18.7	59.6	469.73	421.54	18
19	The University of Lancaster	2.711	18.8	60.7	611.39	467.14	22
20	King's College London	2.693	19.0	59.8	1172.03	1157.97	35

Full rankings can be found at: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/table/2008/dec/18/rae-2008-results-uk-universities> and www.timeshighereducation.co.uk/Journals/THE/THE/18_December_2008/attachments/RAE2008_THE_RESULTS.pdf
For the full results see: www.rae.ac.uk

Notes

The 2008 RAE results have been expressed differently from the 2001 RAE. There is no longer a 1-5* rating scale. This has been replaced by a quality profile which identifies the proportion of activity reaching each of four defined 'starred' quality levels. These results are published at sub-panel (UoA – Unit of Assessment) level. The UoA quality profiles are reported as a percentage of research activity in the submission within each UoA deemed to meet each of the defined levels of quality (the star ratings). The overall quality profile comprises the aggregate of the weighted profiles produced for research outputs, research environment, and esteem indicators.

What are the definitions for each of the Star Ratings in the Quality Profile?

Quality Level	Definition
4*	Quality that is world-leading in terms of originality, significance and rigour.
3*	Quality that is internationally excellent in terms of originality, significance and rigour but which nonetheless falls short of the highest standards of excellence.
2*	Quality that is recognised internationally in terms of originality, significance and rigour.
1*	Quality that is recognised nationally in terms of originality, significance and rigour.
Unclassified (u/c)	Quality that falls below the standard of nationally recognised work. Or work which does not meet the published definition of research for the purposes of assessment.

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For further information contact:
Department of Corporate Affairs
Queen Mary, University of London
Mile End Road
London E1 4NS
Tel: +44 20 7882 5315
Fax: +44 20 7882 5556
email: corporate-affairs@qmul.ac.uk
www.corporateaffairs.qmul.ac.uk