

RAEextra

Manchester Joins the Research Premier League

The University of Manchester has broken into the elite group of research universities traditionally dominated by Oxford, Cambridge and London, according to the 2008 United Kingdom Government Research Assessment Exercise (RAE).

Based on any analysis of the results, Manchester emerges amongst the country's top four or five major research universities and is proving competitive with the University College London and Imperial College and just behind Oxford and Cambridge.

65% of research activity (amounting to 1,194 full-time equivalent staff) at The University of Manchester is judged to be "world-leading" (4*) or "internationally excellent" (3*).

Professor Alan Gilbert, President and Vice-Chancellor of The University of Manchester, said: "These results justify the decision to merge UMIST and the Victoria University of Manchester in 2004 and our massive investment in new staff and facilities since then. In order to achieve the ambition of being among the worlds top 25 universities by 2015, we have added around 1,000 new and outstanding researchers since 2004, and invested more than £403 million in new and refurbished buildings and facilities."

These results show an outstanding performance by The University of Manchester, confirming its position as one of the UK's top major research universities and reinforcing the 2008 Jiao Tong (Shanghai) 'World University Rankings' which placed Manchester at 40th in the world and 6th in Europe earlier this year.

These results are very good news for our students. The very best international teaching and learning universities are great research institutions, where

successive generations of students and staff can mix with, and learn from, many of the best and brightest people in the world. That is what makes research-led higher learning a rich and exciting intellectual environment for staff and students alike.

The amount of data included in the RAE results mean there are a number of different ways of analysing the results. But in each case, Manchester ranks among the country's top performing universities.

It is 'Research Power', a measure of quality and volume combined, that will ultimately prove most important to universities and on this measure, the University is ranked third nationally behind only Cambridge and Oxford.

Research Power

Ranking	Institution
1	University of Oxford
2	University of Cambridge
3	The University of Manchester
4	University College London
5	University of Edinburgh
6	Imperial College London

A ranking which looks at the volume of research activity judged to be 'World-Leading' (4*) and 'Internationally Excellent' (3*) shows Manchester in third position, behind Cambridge and Oxford.

Ranking	Institution
1	University of Oxford
2	University of Cambridge
3	The University of Manchester
4	University College London
5	University of Edinburgh
6	Imperial College London

A table of the major research universities according to quality alone places Manchester in 6th place.

Ranking	Institution
1	University of Cambridge
2	University of Oxford
3	London School of Economics
4	Imperial College London
5	University College London
6	The University of Manchester

A similar table which looks at the volume of research activity judged to be 'World-Leading (4*) shows Manchester in fourth position, behind Cambridge and Oxford and UCL.

Ranking	Institution
1	University of Oxford
2	University of Cambridge
3	University College London
4	The University of Manchester
5	University of Edinburgh
6	Imperial College London

What is the RAE and why does it matter to students?

The Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) is the UK government's formal method of assessing the quality of research in universities.

The results determine how more than £1.5 billion of government research funding each year will be distributed.

The universities undertaking large volumes of high quality research will get a larger proportion of this funding to invest in new researchers, teachers and facilities.

The world's best teaching and learning universities are great research institutions, so the results are important for current and prospective students.

The last RAE was conducted in 2001 but it is not possible to compare the 2008 results with the 2001 results as the list of subjects assessed and the way that the results are published has changed.

Each subject area is given a 'quality profile' which shows the proportions of research activity which is:

- 4* - World-Leading
- 3* - Internationally Excellent
- 2* - Internationally Recognised
- 1* - Nationally Recognised
- Unclassified

Key Facts about Manchester's Results in the RAE 2008

In terms of 'Research Power' (a measure of quality and volume) Manchester is ranked 3rd behind Cambridge and Oxford.

65% of research activity at Manchester was judged to be 'World-leading' or 'Internationally Excellent'.

The scale and diversity of research at Manchester is unrivalled in the UK. We submitted research in 53 subject areas, more than any other UK University.

Manchester came top in the country for quality in 6 subject areas, behind only Cambridge (18 subject areas) and Oxford (8 subject areas).

The outstanding results confirm Manchester's reputation as one of this country's top research-led institutions across all the major subjects and that Manchester is well on its way to becoming one of the top 25 Universities in the world by 2015.



Find out more

You can find more information about the RAE 2008 results and individual subject results at:

www.manchester.ac.uk/research

www.rae.ac.uk

www.hefce.ac.uk

www.researchresearch.com/rae2008



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