

# REF 2014 results

## Research excellence rankings

League table compilers use REF results in different ways to assess quality, intensity and volume of research at institutions.

At Essex, we focus on research intensity which we call 'research excellence'. This measures the quality of research, its impact and the research environment (measured by Grade Point Average) and the proportion of staff submitted to the REF.

### Research excellence league table

2014 intensity-weighted GPA rank order	Institution	Number of subjects (Units of Assessment) entered	Total number FTE staff submitted	% eligible staff submitted	Grade Point Average (GPA)	Intensity-weighted Grade Point Average
1	University of Cambridge	32	2,088	95	3.33	3.17
2	Imperial College London	14	1,257	92	3.36	3.09
3	University College London	36	2,566	91	3.22	2.94
4=	University of Bristol	31	1,138	91	3.18	2.90
4=	University of Oxford	31	2,409	87	3.34	2.90
6	London School of Economics and Political Science	14	532	85	3.35	2.84
7=	Queen's University Belfast	28	868	95	2.99	2.83
7=	University of Southampton	26	1,113	90	3.15	2.83
9	University of Warwick	23	931	83	3.22	2.69
10	University of Edinburgh	31	1,753	83	3.18	2.65
11	Loughborough University	18	646	88	2.95	2.61
12	University of Glasgow	32	1,099	84	3.10	2.60
13	University of St Andrews	20	519	82	3.13	2.58
14	King's College London	27	1,369	80	3.23	2.57
15	University of Strathclyde	17	558	84	3.04	2.56
16	University of Exeter	25	736	82	3.08	2.52
16	University of Kent	23	591	85	2.95	2.52

16	University of Reading	23	590	83	3.03	2.52
19	<b>University of Essex</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>3.05</b>	<b>2.49</b>

(Table excludes specialist research institutions the Institute of Cancer Research and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and the University of the Highlands and Islands which submitted less than 70 full-time equivalent members of staff)

## Research quality rankings

Some media, including the [Times Higher Education](#), put together rankings on the REF results that measure quality of outputs, impact and research environment without taking into account the proportion of academic staff whose work was submitted. They do this by using 'Grade Point Averages'.

### Grade Point Averages (GPA)

The REF assesses the proportion of research submitted in each Unit of Assessment (or subject area) which meets the following quality criteria, represented in star ratings. From the proportions at each star level, a Grade Point Average is produced.

Using this measurement, which we call 'research quality', Essex ranks 32nd amongst UK universities.

#### Star ratings

- 4\* = World leading
- 3\* = Internationally excellent
- 2\* = Internationally recognised
- 1\* = Nationally recognised
- U = Below standards of national recognition, or fails to meet published definition of research eligible for assessment

### Research quality results table

2014 rank order by Grade Point Average	Institution	Number of UOAs entered	Grade Point Average (0-4)
1	Imperial College London	14	3.36
2	London School of Economics and Political Science	14	3.35
3	University of Oxford	31	3.34
4	University of Cambridge	32	3.33
5	Cardiff University	27	3.27
6	King's College London	27	3.23
7=	University College London	36	3.22
7=	University of Warwick	23	3.22
9=	University of Edinburgh	31	3.18
9=	University of Bristol	31	3.18
9=	Queen Mary University of London	21	3.18
12=	University of Sheffield	35	3.17
12=	University of York	24	3.17

12=	University of Bath	13	3.17
15	University of Manchester	35	3.16
16=	University of Southampton	26	3.15
16=	Lancaster University	16	3.15
18	Durham University	23	3.14
19=	University of Leeds	33	3.13
19=	University of St Andrews	20	3.13
21	University of East Anglia	24	3.11
22	University of Glasgow	32	3.10
23=	University of Nottingham	32	3.09
23=	Newcastle University	28	3.09
23=	Royal Holloway, University of London	17	3.09
23=	Swansea University	18	3.09
27	University of Exeter	25	3.08
28=	University of Birmingham	33	3.07
28=	Cranfield University	3	3.07
30=	University of Liverpool	26	3.06
30=	Heriot-Watt University	12	3.06
<b>32=</b>	<b>University of Essex</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>3.05</b>
32=	Aston University	7	3.05

*(Table excludes specialist research institutions the Institute of Cancer Research, the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine)*