

# Research Assessment Exercise 2008



Warden of Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry, Professor Sir Nicholas Wright, said “This result is official ratification of what we have known: that Barts and The London has one of the most outstanding constellations of world-class researchers in the UK and is a top medical and dental school within a leading higher education institution.”

The results of the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE), published in December 2008, confirmed Barts and The London as one of the UK’s top four medical schools for the quality of research.

The Dental School was ranked 2nd nationally.

Queen Mary, University of London, the School’s parent institution, was ranked 11th nationally by the *Guardian* and 13th out of 132 universities by the *Times Higher Education*.

RAE2008 Biomedical Units of Assessment (UOA1-10 & UOA15)

Ranking	University	%4* & %3*	GPA
1	University of Cambridge	82.1	3.157
2	University of Oxford	73.3	2.994
3	University of Edinburgh	72.5	2.900
4	<b>Queen Mary, University of London</b>	<b>70.0</b>	<b>2.857</b>
5	Imperial College London	69.2	2.883
6	University of Southampton	67.5	2.750
7	University of Manchester	66.9	2.806
8	University College London	64.4	2.750
9	University of Aberdeen	63.8	2.663
10	University of Bristol	61.3	2.725
11	King’s College London	60.6	2.711
12	University of Newcastle upon Tyne	59.3	2.634
13	University of Dundee	57.5	2.550
14	University of Exeter and University of Plymouth	57.5	2.550
15	University of Birmingham	56.9	2.575
16	University of Leeds	55.8	2.633
17	University of Glasgow	55.0	2.571
18	University of Sussex	55.0	2.500
19	Cardiff University	54.2	2.500
20	University of Liverpool	52.5	2.533
21	University of Leicester	46.0	2.460
22	Queen’s University Belfast	46.0	2.440
23	St George’s Hospital Medical School	41.7	2.258
24	University of Sheffield	40.6	2.128

See notes page 2



According to rankings published in the *Times Higher Education*, Barts and The London scored in the top five nationally in:

- **Dentistry** was ranked **1st equal** with Manchester based on 3\* and 4\* outputs, and 2nd overall on Grade Point Average out of 14 UK dental schools.
- In **Cancer**, we were ranked **3rd** out of 14 submissions in terms of 3\* and 4\* outputs and joint 5th in the UK overall, ahead of Oxford, Imperial, King’s College London and University College London.
- The **Institute of Cell and Molecular Science**, returned in Hospital-Based Clinical Subjects, was ranked **1st equal** with Cambridge and Edinburgh in terms of 3\* and 4\* outputs and was joint 7th overall out of 28, ahead of Manchester, Newcastle and Southampton.
- The **Wolfson Institute of Preventive Medicine**, returned in Epidemiology and Public Health, was **2nd** out of 21 in terms of 3\* and 4\* outputs, and 3rd overall, ahead of Oxford, University College London and Bristol.
- In **Health Services Research**, we were ranked **4th** overall out of 28, ahead of Oxford, University College London and King’s College London, both overall and by 3\* and 4\* outputs.
- The **William Harvey Research Institute**, returned in Preclinical and Human Biological Sciences, was ranked **3rd** in terms of 3\* and 4\* outputs, and 4th overall out of 13, ahead of King’s College London, Bristol and Nottingham.

# Research Assessment Exercise 2008

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). The RAE 2008 produced quality profiles for each submission of research activity made by each institution in each subject area.

The RAE is one of the few ways in which the academic quality of UK medical and dental schools can be compared.

The 2008 Research Assessment Exercise ranks research by two principal measures: the proportion of work graded 4\* and 3\* (see table below) – that is world-leading or internationally recognised; and the Grade Point Average across the whole profile of the submission.

The results showed Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry joining Oxford, Cambridge, and Edinburgh in the top 4 research-active medical schools in England, ranked by 4\* and 3\* outputs and 5th overall by Grade Point Average.

## Notes on the RAE Results

**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.

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.

GPA is the Grade Profile Average - calculated by adding the weighted % in each star category and dividing by 100. Source: HEFCE <http://submissions.rae.ac.uk/results/>



Professor Bart Vanhaesebroeck, Professor of Cell Signalling

## The Research Mission of Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry

Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry offers international levels of excellence in research and teaching.

We serve a population of unrivalled diversity in east London and the wider Thames Gateway, with a high prevalence of diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, tuberculosis and other chronic lung diseases, HIV, oral disease, and cancer.

To follow the London Underground from Westminster to Canning Town, in health terms, is to see a reduction in life expectancy of one year for each station – an astonishing and scandalous six years in all. Barts and The London is committed to changing this situation.

At the heart of the School's mission lies world class research, the result of a focused programme of recruitment of leading research groups from the UK and abroad, and a £100 million plus investment in state-of-the-art facilities. Its fundamental mission, with its partner NHS Trusts, and other linked organisations, is to ensure that the best possible clinical service is underpinned by the very latest developments in scientific and clinical research.

### Research is focused on:

- translation of basic research into man
- cancer
- cardiovascular
- dentistry
- inflammation
- endocrinology/metabolism
- immunology and infectious diseases
- skin disease
- genomics
- neuroscience
- gastroenterology
- epidemiology
- public health and primary care



**Aine McKnight**, Professor of Viral Pathology



**Farida Fortune**, Professor of Medicine in Relation to Oral Health and Dean for Dentistry

## Queen Mary, University of London

Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry draws strength from being part of Queen Mary, University of London, one of London and the UK's leading research focused higher education institutions.

In the Research Assessment Exercise 2008, 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.

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.



**Barts and The London**  
School of Medicine and Dentistry

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