

## Outstanding REF results for Economics

The Department of Economics at the University of Essex is ranked 5<sup>th</sup> for research intensity in the Research Excellence Framework 2014 (REF), confirming its long standing excellence in research.

### GPA x Research Intensity

Rank	Institution	GPA x intensity	GPA	Intensity (%)	FTE submitted
1	London School of Economics and Political Science	3.26	3.55	91.79	51.4
2	University College London	3.1	3.78	82.00	36.9
3	University of Oxford	2.98	3.44	86.49	83.9
4	University of Warwick	2.73	3.41	80.00	41.6
<b>5</b>	<b>University of Essex</b>	<b>2.71</b>	<b>3.25</b>	<b>83.32</b>	<b>33.3</b>

Submissions to the REF were assessed by an expert panel in three key areas:

- outputs (65%), rating originality, significance and rigour
- impact (20%), rating reach and significance research
- environment (15%), rating vitality and sustainability.

The weighting of these elements forms the overall quality profile or GPA. Each area is classified as 4\* (top quality), 3\*, 2\*, 1\* or unclassified (bottom quality). Weighting by research intensity, which accounts for the quantity of faculty members who are research active, produces the ranking above.

Another remarkable highlight of our outstanding performance is the percentage of 4\* and 3\* ratings, which places us joint 4<sup>th</sup> with the London School of Economics:

### 4\* and 3\* rating (percentages)

Rank	Institution	4*+3*	4*	3*	2*	1*	unclassified
1	University College London	99	79	20	1	0	0
2	University of Cambridge	96	47	49	3	1	0
2	University of Warwick	96	45	51	4	0	0
<b>4</b>	<b>University of Essex</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
4	London School of Economics and Political Science	93	69	24	3	1	3

When we look at the unweighted GPA (which does not account for research intensity), Essex is ranked 7<sup>th</sup> overall. In the area of outputs, which accounts for 65% of the overall scores, Economics at Essex is ranked 6<sup>th</sup>. In impact we are ranked joint 1<sup>st</sup> with Oxford, UCL, LSE and Bristol, among others, when using 4\* and 3\* percentages. Finally, in environment we are ranked joint 4<sup>th</sup> with Bristol, after London School of Economics, University College London and Oxford.

The rankings underscore the outstanding quality of the Department of Economics and our presence in the top tier of the discipline's research institutions in the UK. In the year of our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Essex Economics shows its great commitment to research excellence.

Head of Department Professor Marco Francesconi said:

"We are really pleased with the results of the REF. This is an excellent achievement which confirms the high quality of research performed by all the economists at the University of Essex. Excellence in

research is central to all the activities we do at Essex, from teaching to daring to ask the difficult questions. I am proud to be part of this community of researchers and congratulate every faculty member on this great success. Economics at Essex will continue to be at the frontier of economic research for the foreseeable future.”

**GPA** – Grade point average

**FTE** – Full-time equivalent

**Intensity** - Staff submitted/eligible staff