



SUPA RAE Press Release

Thursday, 18 December 2008

For immediate release

In RAE 2008, three Scottish Physics departments within SUPA¹ were ranked 7th equal or better, led by St Andrews standing at equal 2nd with Cambridge and Nottingham, Edinburgh 6th and Glasgow equal 7th.

Heriot-Watt Physics has improved significantly, rising to equal 15th place, on a par with Oxford and Southampton.

Collectively SUPA has more 4* and 3* activity than Cambridge.

Professor Ian Halliday, Chief Executive of SUPA, says, "This success is the result of individual and collective enhancement in Scottish research. It also represents a significant improvement in the RAE process."

SUPA awaits the final SFC decision on its £48 million investment plans. This will build on the strong foundation of the RAE results². There is a very positive and determined mindset in Scottish physics based on strong collaboration and management which contributed to this successful result.

ENDS

Notes to Editors

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Press pack

http://www.supa.ac.uk/news/press_information.pdf

¹ SUPA is the Scottish Universities Physics Alliance, comprising the physics departments of the following universities:

- The University of Edinburgh
- University of Glasgow
- Heriot-Watt University
- University of St Andrews
- University of Strathclyde
- University of the West of Scotland

² The next stage for SUPA is based on 'the SUPA II bid' whereby the University of Aberdeen and University of Dundee will join to further SUPA's success.

PHYSICS RAE LEAGUE TABLE

The RAE process assigns each department a percentage profile across five quality bands (4* down to 0*), rounded to 5%. The league table below is found by ranking first by the percentage of 4*, then (where equal) by 3*, etc. Also shown are Grade Point Average and the Quality Index, staff headcount, and 2001 RAE performance. The Grade Point Average and the Quality Index are defined as

$$\text{GPA} = 4 \times (\% \text{ at } 4^*) + 3 \times (\% \text{ at } 3^*) + 2 \times (\% \text{ at } 2^*) + (\% \text{ at } 1^*)$$

$$\text{QI} = [16 \times (\% \text{ at } 4^*) + 9 \times (\% \text{ at } 3^*) + 4 \times (\% \text{ at } 2^*) + (\% \text{ at } 1^*)]/16$$

These use alternative weightings over the profiles to create a single numerical rating for each department. Both give extremely similar rankings to the method used to create the table itself.

RANK	INSTITUTION	4* %	Total 4*	3* %	Total 3*	2* %	1* %	0* %	QI	GPA	#STAFF	2001 RAE
1	LANCASTER	25	6.6	45	11.9	25	5	0	56.875	290	26.4	5*
2=	ST ANDREWS	25	8.1	40	12.9	30	5	0	55.3125	285	32.2	5
2=	CAMBRIDGE	25	35.3	40	56.5	30	5	0	55.3125	285	141.25	5*
2=	NOTTINGHAM	25	11.1	40	17.8	30	5	0	55.3125	285	44.45	5
5	BATH	20	4.0	50	10.1	25	5	0	54.6875	285	20.2	4
6	EDINBURGH	20	12.1	45	27.2	30	5	0	53.125	280	60.5	5
7	IMPERIAL	20	25.4	45	57.1	25	10	0	52.1875	275	126.8	5*
8=	GLASGOW	20	9.2	40	18.3	35	5	0	51.5625	275	45.75	5
8=	DURHAM	20	13.9	40	27.8	35	5	0	51.5625	275	69.5	5
8=	SHEFFIELD	20	6.3	40	12.6	35	5	0	51.5625	275	31.5	5
8=	UCL	20	20.2	40	40.4	35	5	0	51.5625	275	101.03	5
12	BIRMINGHAM	20	8.7	40	17.4	30	10	0	50.625	270	43.6	5
17=	EXETER	15	4.2	45	12.6	35	5	0	49.375	270	28	5
17=	SUSSEX	15	3.0	45	9.0	35	5	0	49.375	270	20	5
13=	BRISTOL	20	9.2	35	16.1	35	10	0	49.0625	265	46	5
13=	LIVERPOOL	20	6.9	35	12.1	35	10	0	49.0625	265	34.6	5
13=	OXFORD	20	28.0	35	49.0	35	10	0	49.0625	265	140.1	5*
16	MANCHESTER	20	16.6	35	29.0	30	15	0	48.125	260	82.8	5
19=	HERIOT-WATT	15	2.9	40	7.8	40	5	0	47.8125	265	19.5	4
19=	SOUTHAMPTON	15	6.8	40	18.1	40	5	0	47.8125	265	45.3	5*
21=	HERTFORD	15	4.2	40	11.2	35	10	0	46.875	260	28	4
21=	YORK	15	3.9	40	10.4	35	10	0	46.875	260	26	4
24	WARWICK	15	7.7	35	17.9	45	5	0	46.25	260	51	5
23	LEICESTER	15	6.0	40	16.0	30	15	0	45.9375	255	40	5
25	LEEDS	15	5.3	35	12.4	40	10	0	45.3125	255	35.5	5
28=	R. HOLLOWAY	10	2.8	45	12.6	35	10	0	44.6875	255	27.96	5
28=	SURREY	10	2.7	45	12.2	35	10	0	44.6875	255	27.2	5
26	QMUL	15	5.2	35	12.2	35	15	0	44.375	250	34.98	5
27	LOUGHBOROUGH	15	2.6	35	6.0	35	10	5	44.0625	245	17.1	4
30=	KINGS	10	1.6	40	6.6	45	5	0	44.0625	255	16.4	4
30=	SWANSEA	10	2.1	40	8.3	45	5	0	44.0625	255	20.75	5
32	QUEENS B'FAST	10	5.0	40	20.0	40	10	0	43.125	250	50	5
33	L'POOL J MOORE	10	1.7	35	5.8	40	15	0	40.625	240	16.5	4
34	CARDIFF	5	1.6	45	14.5	30	20	0	39.0625	235	32.2	5
35	STRATHCLYDE	5	1.6	35	11.1	50	10	0	37.8125	235	31.67	4
36	CENT LANCS	5	1.1	35	7.8	45	15	0	36.875	230	22.2	4
40	BRIGHTON	0	0.0	45	0.5	45	5	5	36.875	230	1	3a
37	KEELE	5	0.5	35	3.5	40	20	0	35.9375	225	10	3a
38	ARMAGH OBS'Y	5	0.4	30	2.3	50	15	0	35.3125	225	7.5	4
41	KENT	0	0.0	30	0.9	60	10	0	32.5	220	3	3a
39	ABERYSTWYTH	5	0.9	15	2.7	50	30	0	27.8125	195	18.33	4
42	W. of SCOTLAND	0	0.0	20	0.7	50	20	10	25	180	3.7	3a