

**2008 RAE – Definitions of Quality Levels**

The definitions of the quality levels are:

- Four star (4\*) – Quality that is world-leading in terms of originality, significance and rigour.
- Three star (3\*) – Quality that is internationally excellent in terms of originality, significance and rigour, but which nevertheless falls short of the highest standards of excellence.
- Two star (2\*) – Quality that is recognised internationally in terms of originality, significance and rigour.
- One star (1\*) - Quality that is recognised nationally in terms of originality, significance and rigour.
- Unclassified – Quality that falls below the standard of nationally recognised work. Or work which does not meet the published definition of research for the assessment.