

The QR Funding Formula

- 1 We allocate QR funding selectively to recognise and reinforce research excellence. The key data in the QR formula are provided by the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE), which was conducted jointly by the four UK higher education funding bodies.
- 2 Research was submitted to the 2008 RAE in 68 subject categories or Units of Assessment (UoAs). The assessment outcomes were expressed in the form of quality profiles which showed the proportion of work in each submission which reached each of four quality profiles. These ranged from 4* (world leading) down to 1* (nationally recognised). Work below the standard of 1* was identified as unclassified (u/c). Full definitions of the RAE quality levels are attached at **Annex A**.
- 3 Consistent with our published statement of research policy, we are focusing QR funding on sustainable research excellence. Specifically:
 - we are not funding 1* research
 - we have applied a volume threshold, such that departments/units with fewer than 3 Category A FTE of classified work (1* and above) are not eligible for QR
 - a sum of £6.1m, which was added to QR from other sources in 2009/10, is allocated in proportion to 4* work only.
- 4 The QR formula has three elements: quality, volume and subject cost relativities. Weightings are applied within each of these elements as follows:
 - **Quality** – the four levels of the RAE quality profile are weighted as follows:

1* -	0
2* -	1
3* -	3
4* -	7
 - **Volume** – this consists of one major volume measure – the Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) number of research active staff (Category A staff) returned to the 2008 RAE – and a number of minor volume measures. The volume measures and the weightings attached to them are as follows:

Research active staff	1.00
Research students	0.15
Research assistants	0.10
Research fellows	0.10
Charitable income converted into FTE staff numbers	0.25

For the 2009/10 QR allocations, the data for the minor volume measures were taken from the 2008 RAE submissions. In subsequent years, they will be

updated through HEFCW's annual Research Activity Survey. This allows for a degree of dynamism from year to year. The major volume measure - research active staff - is not updated in this way.

- **Subject Cost Relativities** – subjects (UoAs) are divided into three bands and weighted to reflect their relative costs. The bands and their weights are:

Clinical medicine and laboratory based subjects	1.6
Subjects with a technical/experimental premium	1.3
Other subjects	1.0.

The allocation of UoAs to cost bands is shown at **Annex B**.

- 5 Allocations are built up by UoA, using the 2008 RAE submissions. Any submissions which do not meet the volume threshold of 3 Category A FTE of classified work (i.e. 1* and above) are excluded from the calculation. For all other submissions, the volume measures are weighted by the volume weightings set out above. The product is multiplied by the relevant subject cost weighting, and then by the quality weightings. The latter are applied in proportion to the quality profile for the submission.
- 6 The overall outcomes of the formula calculation are scaled to the total amount of funding available for QR in the year in question.
- 7 Two elements of the total QR budget are allocated on a different basis:
 - The additional £6.1 million added to QR in 2009/10 is allocated in proportion to 4* quality only. The standard volume and subject weightings are also applied to this element.
 - £3.1 million is provided to help institutions meet the full economic cost (FEC) of research funded by charities – this element having been introduced in 2007/08. This funding is allocated in proportion to research income from UK charities in units which meet the QR volume threshold.

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.

Annex B

Mapping of 2008 RAE UOAs to research funding costs bands

UOA	COSTBAND
1 Cardiovascular Medicine	A
2 Cancer Studies	A
3 Infection and Immunology	A
4 Other Hospital Based Clinical Subjects	A
5 Other Laboratory Based Clinical Subjects	A
6 Epidemiology and Public Health	A
7 Health Services Research	A
8 Primary Care and Other Community Based Clinical Subjects	A
9 Psychiatry, Neuroscience and Clinical Psychology	A
10 Dentistry	A
11 Nursing and Midwifery	B
12 Allied Health Professions and Studies	A
13 Pharmacy	A
14 Biological Sciences	A
15 Pre-clinical and Human Biological Sciences	A
16 Agriculture, Veterinary and Food Science	A
17 Earth Systems and Environmental Sciences	A
18 Chemistry	A
19 Physics	A
20 Pure Mathematics	B
21 Applied Mathematics	A
22 Statistics and Operational Research	A
23 Computer Science and Informatics	A
24 Electrical and Electronic Engineering	A
25 General Engineering and Mineral & Mining Engineering	A
26 Chemical Engineering	A
27 Civil Engineering	A
28 Mechanical, Aeronautical and Manufacturing Engineering	A
29 Metallurgy and Materials	A
30 Architecture and the Built Environment	B
31 Town and Country Planning	B
32 Geography and Environmental Studies	B
33 Archaeology	B
34 Economics and Econometrics	C
35 Accounting and Finance	C
36 Business and Management Studies	C
37 Library and Information Management	C
38 Law	C
39 Politics and International Studies	C
40 Social Work and Social Policy & Administration	C
41 Sociology	C
42 Anthropology	C
43 Development Studies	C
44 Psychology	B
45 Education	C
46 Sports-Related Studies	B

47	American Studies and Anglophone Area Studies	C
48	Middle Eastern and African Studies	C
49	Asian Studies	C
50	European Studies	C
51	Russian, Slavonic and East European Languages	C
52	French	C
53	German, Dutch and Scandinavian Languages	C
54	Italian	C
55	Iberian and Latin American Languages	C
56	Celtic Studies	C
57	English Language and Literature	C
58	Linguistics	C
59	Classics, Ancient History, Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies	C
60	Philosophy	C
61	Theology, Divinity and Religious Studies	C
62	History	C
63	Art and Design	B
64	History of Art, Architecture and Design	C
65	Drama, Dance and Performing Arts	B
66	Communication, Cultural and Media Studies	C
67	Music	B