

Birmingham Law School's world-leading research officially recognised

Posted on Thursday 18th December 2008

Ninety per cent of Birmingham Law School's research activity is of international quality in terms of originality, significance and rigour. A significant part of it is world-leading. That was the verdict of the official Research Assessment Exercise published on 18 December.

Conducted by the UK's higher education funding bodies, the purpose of the RAE is to measure the quality of the research activity carried out in British universities. In late 2007 institutions wishing to take part submitted details of four publications for each member of staff selected for inclusion. Those publications were then assessed by subject-specific panels of experts alongside the research environment in which their authors work and the esteem in which they are held.

The RAE is a massive exercise and its outcome is of enormous significance to those taking part, affecting morale and prestige as well as the funding universities receive for research. The results published on 18 December take the form of an overall quality profile for each submission. For full details, [click here \(http://www.rae.ac.uk\)](http://www.rae.ac.uk).

Early in 2009, sub-profiles will be published. These will break the overall quality profile down into individual ratings for research output, research environment and esteem indicators.

The 2008 RAE was the sixth such exercise and Birmingham Law School's results were its best ever, securing its position in the front rank of British law schools. Together with the exceptional outcome it achieved in the [National Student Survey earlier in 2008 \(/schools/law/news/2008/student-survey-results.aspx\)](/schools/law/news/2008/student-survey-results.aspx), they underline the School's strength across the legal curriculum, the top class teaching it provides and the extent of its contribution to policy making and our understanding of the modern world.

Learn more:

- [University of Birmingham RAE website \(/university/fact/rae/index.aspx\)](/university/fact/rae/index.aspx)