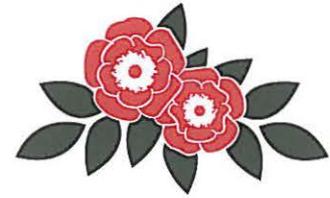


NEWS RELEASE

UNIVERSITY
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RAE results confirm international excellence of UK research: University of Central Lancashire gets outstanding results

The results of the 2001 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) confirm that universities in the UK are international leaders in delivering world class research. The RAE assesses the quality of research in all higher education institutions through a process of peer review and uses the results to allocate funding. Nearly 300 international experts set the benchmark standard of international excellence, and score the results from 1 – 5* with 5* being the highest.

The University of Central Lancashire has acquitted itself well in this round of RAE visits and for the first time gained scores of 4 in some of its subjects, notably History, Law and Physics, while it scored no less than 3 in any subject submitted for review. These results put the University among the leaders in the field among modern universities, which have only been funded for research since 1993.

Physics, which scored a 4 is top graded for a modern university, Law comes equal second and General Engineering which scored a 3a comes equal 3rd. Eight of the University subject areas come in the top 7 of modern universities and in History, 100% of staff who submitted work for review scored 4, results which will feed back into their teaching.

Sir Howard Newby, Chief Executive of the Higher Education Funding Council for England said: “Research is a major driver of productivity, quality of life and international competitiveness.”

The University of Central Lancashire has worked hard to develop its research infrastructure since 1993 when modern universities began competing for the funding that, until then, had only been available to old universities, with long established research cultures. Given this background, the University of Central Lancashire’s results are even more impressive.

At the University of Central Lancashire, Professor James Lusty, Pro Vice-Chancellor responsible for research said: “The results of this round of the RAE show that the quality of research in the faculties is of national and international excellence. The RAE recognises the commitment and dedication of staff and the high calibre of their work. We can be proud of this outcome and the University will build upon this excellence for the future.”

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14 December 2001