

An Outstanding Result for Law at Ulster University: Ranked Fourth in UK for Research Overall; First for Impact!

- Law at Ulster ranked 4th in REF 2014 (Overall GPA)
- The impact of law research at Ulster has been ranked first in the UK, with a perfect score of 100% at 4*
- 88% of Ulster Law submission rated as world-leading or internationally excellent (4* & 3*)
- Research publications: 82% of publications world-leading or internationally excellent

Law at Ulster has produced an exceptional REF 2014 result. Ulster is ranked in the top 5 in the UK of 67 Law units. This is a remarkable improvement from RAE 2008 when Ulster was ranked 13th out of 64.

We have achieved an outstanding result with 88% of its submission judged by international experts as world-leading or internationally excellent (4* & 3*). For research publications, 22% of publications were rated at 4* in terms of originality, significance and rigour and 60% of its research as internationally excellent (3*).

The REF 2014 results also showcase the real-world impact of legal research at Ulster. In the new category of research impact, Law at Ulster scored 100% of its work as world-leading. The impact of our research derives from long-term collaborative relationships with key stakeholders locally, nationally and internationally and a collective approach by multiple researchers to key transitional justice issues. Our impact result is the best in the UK.

This places Law at Ulster University:

- 1st in UK for impact
- 4th in UK on overall GPA (Grade Point Average)¹
- 5th in UK based on 4* overall performance
- Joint 5th in UK based on 3*+4* overall performance

alongside King's College London, London School of Economics, University College London, York, Sheffield, and Durham.

The result confirms the preeminent research status in the fields of transitional justice, human rights and international law of the Transitional Justice Institute established in 2003. The Institute undertakes cutting edge research on transitional justice, conflict, international law, human rights and gender equality. Our REF 2014 result confirms the quality and impact of that research concentration. The result affirms the strength of interdisciplinary research in Law at Ulster and the emphasis on innovative research management strategies with global research reach. This striking achievement in REF 2014 is all the more remarkable because it was achieved with a small research grouping of 22 academics producing innovative research at the

¹ Defined as (% of activity at 4* x 4)+(% of activity at 3* x 3)+(% of activity at 2* x 2)+(% of activity at 1* x 1).

highest level. The consolidation of research at the Transitional Justice Institute has been instrumental in maintaining and extending Ulster's Law research performance.

The University has been strongly committed to augmenting interdisciplinary research and this has fostered the environment that enables deep collaboration and policy oriented research productivity with lasting impact in our partner communities. Ulster University has also recognized that global-local interchange on the experience of transition from conflict enables scholars based in Northern Ireland to have global reach and influence. The success of the Transitional Justice Institute's interdisciplinary and collaborative approach was recognized this week with a colleague receiving a University Distinguished Enterprise Fellowship Award.

The results validate the depth and quality of law provision of Ulster across undergraduate and research-led graduate degrees. Our research model informs our teaching practice and the success of the Transitional Justice Institute and Law School undergraduate and postgraduate programmes underscore this productive synergy. This REF 2014 result reflects an innovative real-world oriented research strategy, involving external mentoring of early career staff, the development of a key theoretical conceptual foundation, the nurturing of research clusters within the Institute, a strong interdisciplinary focus, and a collaborative leadership model.

This result confirms and extends the international reputation of legal research at Ulster University. This excellence in research is complemented by a commitment to excellence and innovation in legal education, evidenced by the work of the multiple

prize-winning Ulster Law Clinic, imaginative short course provision and a nomination for OUP Law Teacher of the Year award.

Full details of Ulster University's REF 2014 performance are at www.ulster.ac.uk/ref2014

[For more: Transitional Justice Institute and Ulster Law School are on Twitter \(@TJI @UlsterLawSchool\) and Facebook](#)

TJI: ulster.ac.uk/transitionaljustice