



Recognising Excellence

The results of the 2014 Research Excellence Framework (REF) were announced today.

Professor Terry Lyons, LMS President commented: 'The Research Excellence Framework (REF), announced today, demonstrates the scale and world-leading quality of mathematical research conducted in UK universities. The critical underpinning role of mathematical research to the UK economy is substantial, measured in the hundreds of billions, and well documented (www.epsrc.ac.uk/newsevents/pubs/mathematical-sciences-research-leading-the-way-to-uk-economic-growth/). The impact profiles within the REF only capture a very small proportion of this contribution, although they certainly demonstrate how impact exists across the country and how it is well correlated with excellent research output.

'The Society is pleased to note that of the 1,903 FTE UK mathematical sciences researchers returned as part of unit of assessment 10, Mathematical Sciences, the REF over 83% of their overall inputs were internationally excellent. Quality and volume are important jointly to the societal contribution of mathematical sciences, and it is worth noting that the costs for those mathematical researchers returned are extremely small when compared with the contribution that mathematical sciences makes overall to the UK economy, as evidenced by the Deloitte Report - *Measuring the Economic Benefits of Mathematical Science Research in the UK* (http://www.lms.ac.uk/sites/lms.ac.uk/files/files/files/reports/26755A_Economic_Benefits_HRsg6.pdf).

'Virtually everybody in mathematical sciences submitted to the REF process is doing great research. The depth and wide distribution of this excellent quality research is something the Society believes must be celebrated and built upon to achieve an even better synergy between these talented and creative individuals and the wider educational and economic activity of our society'.

Notes for Editors

1. The **London Mathematical Society (LMS)** is the UK's learned society for mathematics. Founded in 1865 for the promotion and extension of mathematical knowledge, the Society is concerned with all branches of mathematics and its applications. It is an independent and self-financing charity, with a membership of over 2600 drawn from all parts of the UK and overseas. Its principal activities are the organisation of meetings and conferences, the publication of periodicals and books, the provision of financial support for mathematical activities, and the contribution to public debates on issues related to mathematics research and education. It works collaboratively with other mathematical bodies worldwide. It is the UK adhering body to the International Mathematical Union.

In 2015 the Society will be commemorating its 150th anniversary with a large programme of events aimed at celebrating the contributions of mathematics to the UK, both historically and in a modern context. These events will take place throughout 2015 and will fall into three major themes; *150 Years of the LMS and Mathematics*, *New Ways of Promoting Mathematics*, and *Mathematics as Part of Our Culture*.

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