



UNIVERSITY OF SURREY

The recently created Times Higher Education DataPoints Merit Award allows us to acknowledge exceptional performance by UK universities using the data we collect and collate about institutions both in the UK and across the world.

In June this year, THE looked at the possible implications of the UK government's proposed teaching excellence framework, as its definition and implementation were being formed and debated. We noted that there were some excellent institutions that might be highlighted by the TEF assessment in terms of the outcomes their graduates achieve relative to the characteristics and background of the students they recruit. These were not the "usual suspects" that regularly feature in discussions about the nation's leading universities.

When combining this analysis with the results from the research excellence framework 2014, an interesting group of institutions stood out as being strong on both teaching and research, and these formed the shortlist for this award.

The University of Surrey, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, was the overall winner of the award in a year when it has received a great deal of recognition for its achievements.

In a group of impressive institutions it stands out for its teaching strength, both in absolute and relative terms, and for the proportion of students it attracts from widening participation backgrounds. This has been achieved at a time when it has also attained impressive scores in the REF. The ability to provide excellence in both teaching and research is a compelling advantage in an increasingly competitive sector.