



UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER

Every year, Times Higher Education's data team delves into the mine of information that underpins the World University Rankings for fresh insights into the performance of UK universities to determine the winner of the DataPoints Merit Award.

For the THE Awards 2017, the data team created a "bang for the buck" measure of research performance in a bid to discover which UK universities were producing the highest-quality research given their income.

To come up with a shortlist, the data team looked at measures of research quality and productivity in the rankings and compared these with universities' income – figures that, in the published rankings, are normalised for an institution's size.

The shortlist represented a diverse group of research-intensive universities, both large and small and from opposite ends of the country. However, one thing that they had in common was a reputation for cutting-edge research in a variety of fields.

In the final scoring, just a handful of points separated the top institutions, but the University of Leicester pipped the others thanks to its exceptionally strong research performance per pound.

"The wealth of information that the data team have at their disposal enables us to create new ways of thinking about excellence beyond the overall ranking," said Simon Baker, THE's data editor.

"The University of Leicester has shown time and again that it produces world-beating research and groundbreaking discoveries. Our data now show that it also punches well above its weight in terms of bang for the buck, too."