8th Annual Postgraduate Conference
The Bloomsbury Hotel, London, WC1

Thursday 25th February 2010

Delivering world-class postgraduate education

Professor Paul Wellings
Vice-Chancellor, Lancaster University
Chair, 1994 Group

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Delivering world-class postgraduate education

- Enhancing the postgraduate student experience
- Quality
- Support
- Employability

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Why is a focus on Postgraduates so important? (1)

- Growing postgraduate sector
- Large rise in postgraduate international students
- Postgraduate education is a major export

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Why is a focus on Postgraduates so important? (2)

- Employer demand for postgraduate level knowledge and skills
- The forgotten part of the sector?
- Review of Postgraduate Education

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Ensuring High Quality Postgraduate Education

- 1994 Group analysis of postgraduate provision at UK Universities
- PhD volume by mission group
- PhD productivity by institution

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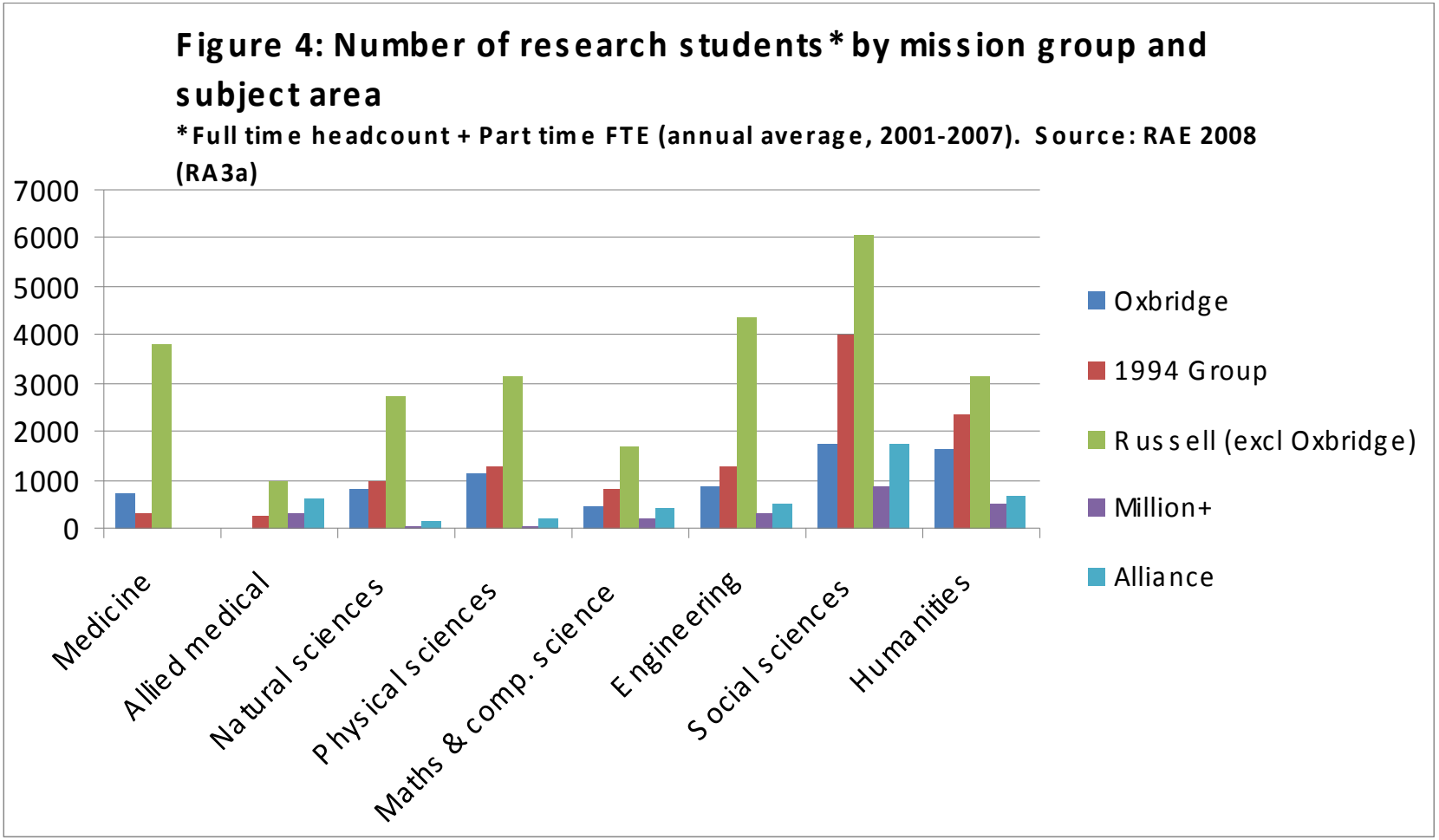
PhD volume by mission group



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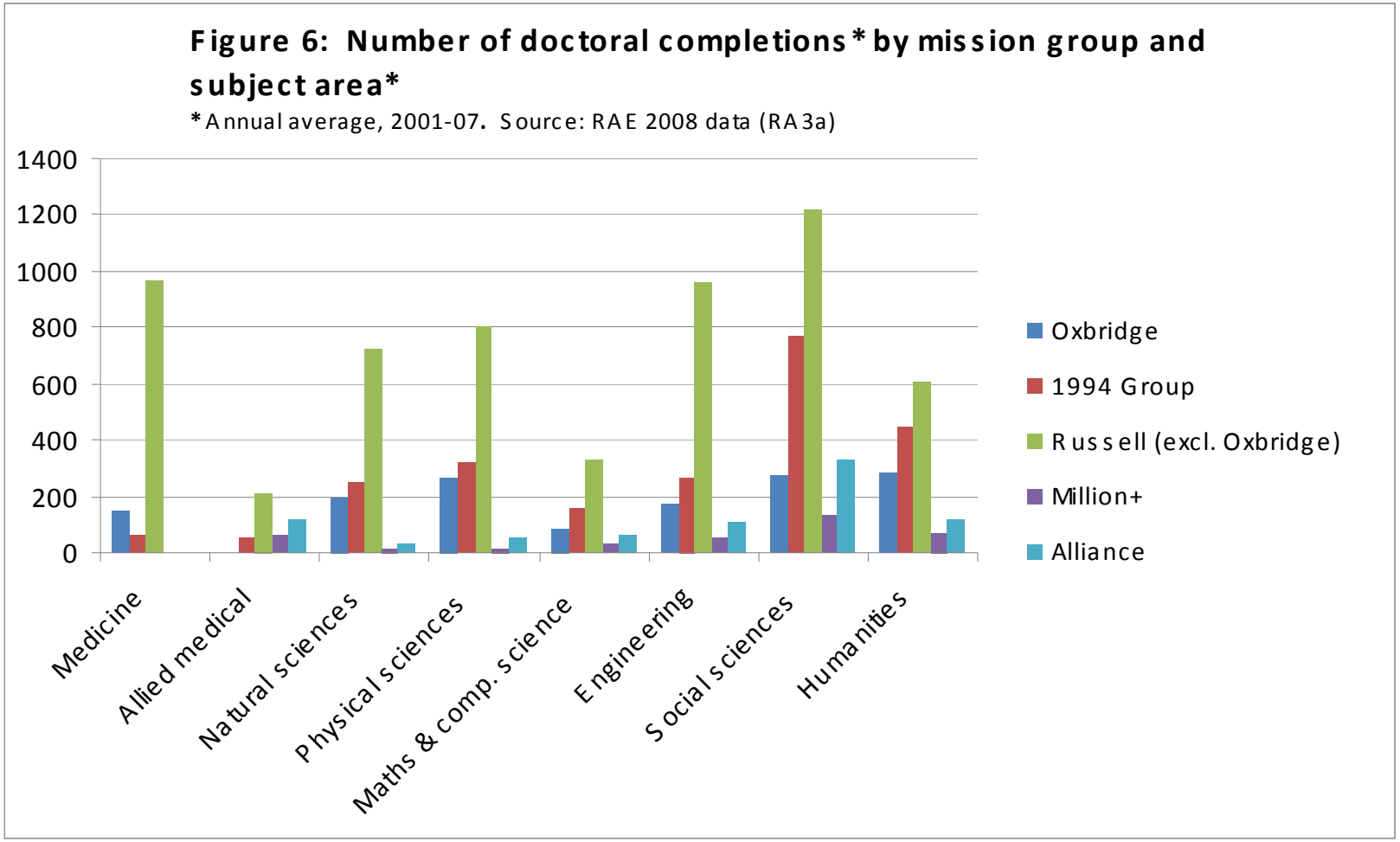
PhD completions by mission group



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PhD productivity and volume by institution

Figure 1: Ranked order of PhD productivity rates

Annual doctoral completions per 100 members of staff

		PhD Productivity Indicator*
1	University of Cambridge	52.3
2	University of Oxford	45.0
3	Imperial College	35.7
4	University of Surrey	32.8
5	University of Sussex	32.5
6	University of East Anglia	32.1
7	School of Oriental and African Studies	31.7
8	University College London	31.4
9	University of Nottingham	31.3
10	University of Manchester	30.3
11	University of Southampton	30.2
12	University of York	29.9
13	University of Essex	29.7
14	University of Sheffield	29.7
15	University of Bristol	29.4
16	Loughborough University	29.0
17	University of Leeds	28.0
18	University of Reading	27.9
19	London School of Economics	27.5
20	Durham University	26.4
21	University of Newcastle	26.0
22	Institute of Education	25.9
23	University of Warwick	25.5
24	University of Birmingham	25.3
25	University of Bath	25.0
26	University of Edinburgh	24.9
27	Lancaster University	24.7
28	University of Leicester	24.5
29	Queen's University of Belfast	24.1
30	University of Glasgow	22.4
31	University of St Andrews	22.3
32	King's College London	21.2
33	University of Liverpool	21.0
34	Royal Holloway, University of London	20.4
35	University of Exeter	20.1
36	Cardiff University	19.7
37	Aberystwyth University	18.0
38	University of Bradford	16.8
39	Goldsmiths, University of London	16.2
40	Queen Mary, University of London	15.6
41	Birkbeck, University of London	14.4

(Cut off = 10)

University of London	16.2
39 Goldsmiths,	

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University Alliance

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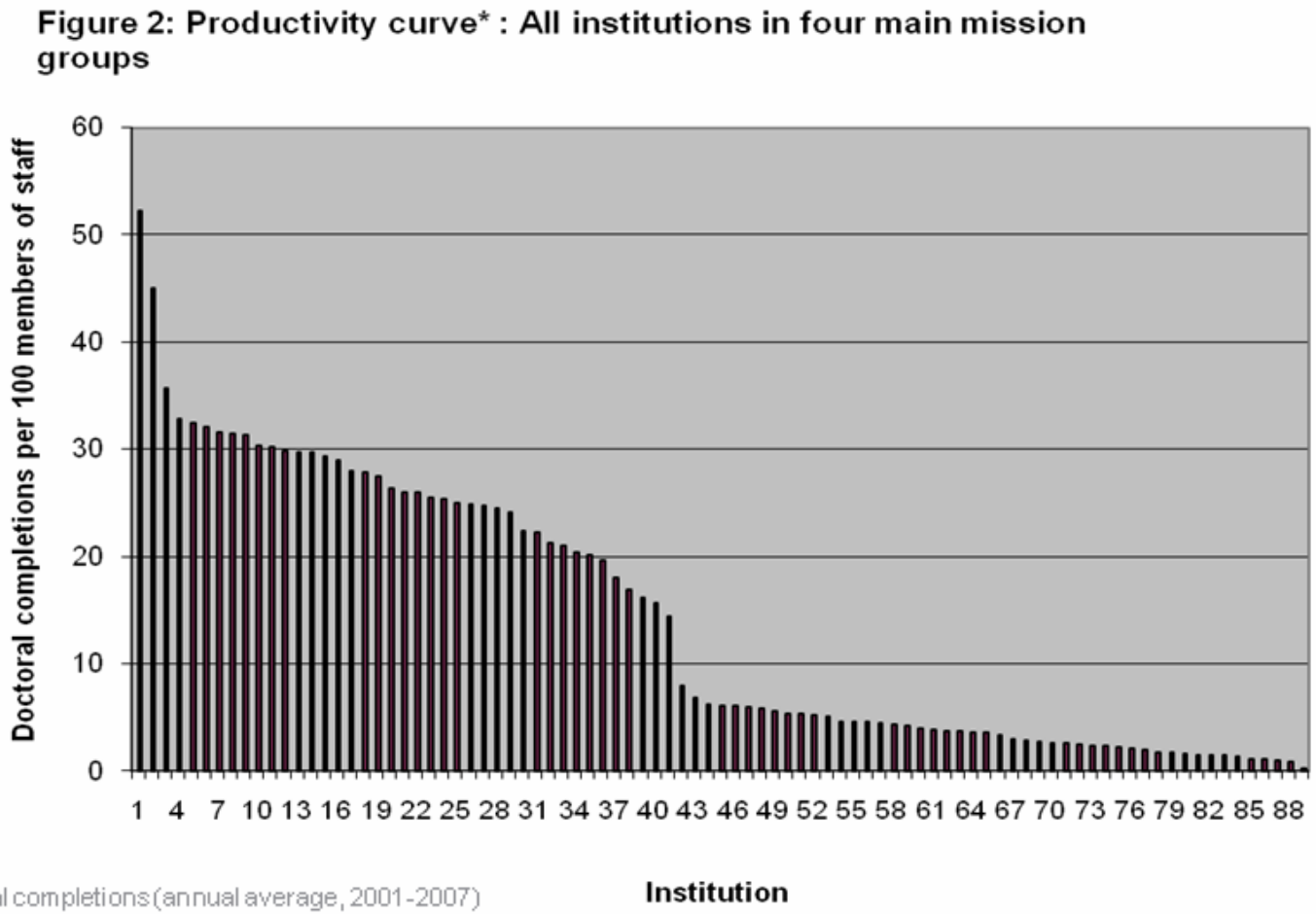
Doctoral Completions Productivity Curve



*Doctoral completions (annual average, 2001-2007) by academic staff with 'T&R' employment contracts (annual average, 2004/05-2007/08).
Source: RAE 2008 (RA3a); HESA

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1994 Group Postgraduate Report Findings and Recommendations

- Research-intensive universities show the greatest productivity of PhDs
- Research-intensive universities produce the greatest volume of PhDs
- A new quality threshold for PhD provision should be introduced
- Postgraduate Teaching (PGT) provision should be supported at all universities

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Providing Effective Support for Postgraduates

- Support the development of the world-leading researchers of the future
- Protect Roberts Funding
- Graduate Schools

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Postgraduate Employability

- Meeting the need of the economy and society
- Enhancing postgraduate employability
- Industry sponsored masters – new 1994 Group innovative practice report

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Conclusions

- Postgraduate Education is a major strength of UK universities
- A new quality threshold on PhD provision should be introduced
- Postgraduates deserve better support
- Industry sponsored masters deliver for employers and employees

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