

Adrian F M Smith FRS

Adrian Smith was educated at Selwyn College, Cambridge and University College, London. He began his academic career as a Lecturer in Mathematics at the University of Oxford in 1971, moving to University College, London in 1974 as Lecturer in Statistics, then to the University of Nottingham in 1977 where he remained until 1990 as Professor of Statistics and Head of Mathematics.

- Adrian Smith was knighted in the New Year's Honour List in December 2010.
- In 1990, he became Professor of Statistics at Imperial College, London and held a number of posts over the next eight years, including Head of Department of Mathematics and part-time member of the College's Senior Management Team.
- He became Principal of Queen Mary in 1998, and was re-appointed in 2003 for a further five-year tenure.
- He was a member of the governing body of the London Business School from 1998 to 2008 and Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University of London from 2006-08.
- He served on the Advisory Council for the Office of National Statistics from 1996–1998, was Statistical Advisor to the UK Nuclear Waste Inspectorate from 1991–1998 and was advisor on Operational Analysis to the Ministry of Defence from 1982–1987.
- He was President of the Royal Statistical Society from 1995-97. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 2001.
- In 2004, he headed a ground-breaking UK governmental inquiry into post-14 mathematics education – Making Mathematics Count – which was the driver for major mathematics education reform in England. In 2007 he chaired a review for the UK government on restoring trust in crime statistics.
- From September 2008, he was appointed as Director General of Science and Research at the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (since merged with another department to form the UK's Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, BIS).
- Adrian Smith has published three monographs, eleven edited/translated volumes and more than 120 academic papers. He successfully supervised over 40 Ph.D. theses.