

<p>Institution: ULIP</p>
<p>Unit of Assessment: Modern Languages and Linguistics</p>
<p>a. Overview</p>
<p>The University of London Institute in Paris (abbreviated ULIP) is a college of the University of London located in Paris. The institute was founded in Paris with the help of the British Ambassador in 1894, and became the British Institute in Paris shortly after the First World War. It was incorporated into the University of London in 1969 and sits alongside the School of Advanced Study as a Central Academic Body of the University. The British Institute was renamed the University of London Institute in Paris (ULIP) in 2005. The Institute is co-located with the British Council. Its premises, which overlook the Esplanade des Invalides in the 7th arrondissement in central Paris, have recently been extensively refurbished. A major restructuring exercise was undertaken in 2007 which resulted in the closure of the Institute's English Section where the major focus had been the delivery of short term sub-degree courses in English as a foreign language to members of the Parisian community. This restructuring was undertaken primarily in order to strengthen the research profile of the Institute. ULIP has also been working closely with Royal Holloway and Queen Mary, University of London who are members of a Consortium established with the Central University in 2005 in order to create mutual benefit in a number of areas of academic and support activity.</p>
<p>b. Research strategy</p>
<p>The mission of ULIP is to promote the study of the culture, language and literature of Paris and France. This of course includes the wider French-speaking world, with a specific emphasis on North Africa.</p>
<p>The current Research Strategy of ULIP is to develop areas of expertise already present within the Institute and to publish and disseminate this work at the highest level. There is also a conscious emphasis on 'impact' – it is part of the ULIP Research Strategy to explicitly connect academic research within a wider public context.</p>
<p>ULIP has the following research aims:</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To increase the quality and the quantity of research by investing in staff with evident potential. • To maximize the impact of ULIP in its field(s) at both national and above all international levels.
<p>These aims are both collective and individual, and whilst they have traditionally been realized most commonly at the individual level, it is increasingly apparent that serious, large-scale research, even in the humanities, is a collective operation. Generally, this involves collaboration with relevant scholars, typically elsewhere. ULIP's 'research environment' must in large part be externalized – and international. ULIP does not yet have the option for regular research leave, but such leave is planned in our future strategy. Researchers are mentored by ULIP staff and by the appropriate members of the ULIP Board.</p>
<p>Within this framework there has been a specific emphasis to develop work on 20th-Century 'extremist' writers and movements. Other areas of expertise include expatriate writing and 19th-century Darwinism in France, both of which have attracted external funding from the British</p>

Environment template (REF5)

Academy (respectively £2000 and £1500).

The research priorities are, however, not simply limited to French culture within metropolitan France. One of ULIP's key areas of expertise is the study of the relationship between France and North Africa, and ULIP has recently established SENAR: the centre for the Study of European and North African Relations (see below) and worked extensively with partners in the region, particularly in Morocco.

In 2007 the Consortium launched an MA in Paris Studies: History and Culture. This programme has been described by the *Times Higher Education Supplement* as 'ULIP's hidden gem'. Besides being a quality academic programme, the fact that it is based in the heart of Paris is undoubtedly its most valuable element. This degree is unique in that it is focused on site-specific activities – not only using the research facilities in Paris but also in the sense that students are active in appropriate seminars, conferences, colloquia across the Parisian academic landscape. Intellectually, the degree trains students in appropriate methodologies in the humanities and the social sciences. In every sense, this is obviously very rich soil from which to grow future research at doctoral level and beyond. An important element of the ULIP strategy is to develop a strong and distinctive master's programme and the effects are already tangible: The MA in Paris Studies has recruited well and has already produced three doctoral students, one of whom has just graduated. It should also be noted that the nature of PhD study at ULIP is quite distinctive in that research in Paris is more directly linked in to the city itself. More to the point, students have access to the world-class research facilities offered in Paris and also access seminars and research clusters which are at the forefront of French culture. These research facilities include the Groupe des Recherches Surréalistes, the Archives de L'Internationale Situationniste and the Institut du Monde Arabe.

c. People, including:**i. Staffing strategy and staff development**

The French Department will be submitted for the first time as ULIP in 2014. Since 2008 the French Department has been completely reconfigured. As of September 2013, it is staffed as follows: one Professor, two Senior Lecturers, and four Lecturers.

Although only three members of staff have been entered into the current REF exercise, all members of staff are encouraged to play a full role in the research life of ULIP. The four lecturers are all relatively junior staff who have been appointed for their areas of expertise and potential research excellence. For this reason they are funded by ULIP for conferences, field research and encouraged to apply for grants in the UK and EU environments. The Research Strategy for all Academic staff is to:

- Publish regularly at the highest level. The ULIP Board conducts a biannual monitoring exercise with an appointed assessor; the process is informed by senior staff and external assessors.
- Measure themselves realistically against only the highest standards of work in their field (the ULIP Board and external assessors).
- Give a minimum of one paper per annum at appropriate international conferences.
- Apply for research funding for any project or activity for which it is available.

A public document describing ULIP's research ambitions can be found via the following link:

<<http://ulip.london.ac.uk/research>>

ii. Research students

ULIP currently has two PhD Students and two MPhil students, aiming at an upgrade to PhD. One PhD student has recently graduated with a thesis on the Belgian Situationist Raoul Vaneigem. The PhD students are supervised by Professor Hussey in the field of 'extreme' literature. The two MPhil students are supervised by Dr Anna-Louise Milne, in the field of Expatriate writing.

The Postgraduate group regularly hosts talks and conferences with external speakers from the UK and France. The proceedings of a recent conference have been just been published ('Autour de l'extrême littéraire', Cambridge Scholars, reviewed in *French Studies: A Quarterly Review*, Oct., 2013).

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

Thus far research at ULIP has been facilitated by endowments and a small amount of external grant income and the British Academy.

In 2012 ULIP launched a peer-reviewed journal, *Francosphères*, published by Liverpool University Press. There is an on-going series of *Francosphères*-related seminars and talks with international participants.

On 16th September 2013 ULIP officially launched the new research centre SENAR: the centre for the Study of European and North African Relations at Université Mohammed V Agdal, Bab Rouah, Rabat. This was combined with a study day to launch *Francosphères* 2.1. Morocco Special. The events were attended by senior academics from the UK and Morocco, and senior representatives from the British Council and FCO.

Professor Hussey is co-judge of the C.K Scott Moncrieff Literary Prize for Translation 2013.

e. Collaboration or contribution to the discipline or research base

The location of ULIP in Paris must change not only the fundamental nature of the research, in terms of methodology, but also necessarily recalibrates its content: in other words the research produced at ULIP is not seen simply through the prism of UK French Studies but rather from within the object of study itself.

The corollary of this is the amount of collaborative activity that has taken place at ULIP (as documented in the Impact Case Studies) with partners – not only from the UK and France, but also with partners in North Africa, the Netherlands, Germany and the US.

To this extent research in France takes place within and outside of the UK paradigm of UK French Studies, offering a healthy level of interdisciplinarity which must necessarily contribute to the vitality of UK French Studies. More to the point, although the research culture at ULIP is in its relative infancy, it is already producing impact in a considerable number of ways, shaped partly by the environment of Paris, links with the British Council and the Institute's unique cross-channel status.