

Environment template (REF5)

Institution: University of Salford
Unit of assessment: UoA29 English Language and Literature
<p>a. Overview The English Language and Literature submission at the University of Salford comprises members of staff from the Centre for English Language and Literature. The Centre is based within the English Subject Group, in the School of Arts and Media within the College of Arts and Social Sciences.</p>
<p>b. Research strategy Post-2008, the strategic aims of this submission were: to increase the amount of externally-funded research income attracted by this submission; to increase the number of externally-funded PGRs in the submission; and to increase the size of the submission by working more closely with English Language specialists from the School of Modern Languages. Since RAE2008, the University has altered the organisation of its research units away from a Research Institute structure. Research is now housed within Schools. Research Centres have been retained in the new structure, and the Centre for English Literature and Language has developed in strength since its launch (originally as the Centre for Literary Studies) in 2007.</p> <p>We have attracted, during the REF assessment period, a total of £365, 702 externally funded research income, a seven-fold increase since 2008 which includes an award from the Leverhulme Trust (£101,348). We have been particularly successful in our strategic priority of attracting funding for PGR researchers, and have captured grants through the AHRC Open Competition (later the Studentship Competition), and as members of the AHRC-funded Block Grant Capacity Building Scheme (with Keele). We have also attracted 4 AHRC-funded Collaborative Doctoral Award studentships (details below) and have secured 3 successful Collaborative Doctoral Training Scheme awards: 'Theories and Methods: Literature, Science and Medicine,' 'Contemporary Women's Writing Skills Development Programme' and the student-led scheme, 'Issues in the Digital Humanities: A Key Skills Package for Postgraduate Researchers.'</p> <p>The University announced in 2013 a further restructuring of its academic departments. Our research will now be located in the School of Arts and Media, which will enable us to benefit from wider collaborative opportunities and to develop research capacity in synergy with School's interdisciplinary ethos; this forms our major strategic focus for the next assessment period. New posts have been approved by the institution; we will be bringing into the team staff well-placed to take forward these priorities. A number of projects are already in train reflecting the wider collaborative and outward-facing emphasis placed on inter- and cross-disciplinary research initiatives in the context of the new state of the art facilities at MediaCityUK, Salford Quays (see below). These include collaborative PhD supervisions with new colleagues, developing our commitment to community writing projects through an application to the AHRC Connected Communities Scheme, and consolidating an emerging strength in the study of translation, adaptation and visual text via a new School-wide research cluster.</p>
<p>c. People, including: i) Staffing strategy and staff development</p> <p>The research culture in English is maintained through a number of different schemes and support mechanisms. The University's research culture is overseen by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research), in conjunction with the Research and Graduate College (RGC). RGC handles research contracts and provides specialist advice and support on bidding to all external funders (inc. FEC). It also registers research students and tracks their subsequent progress through to completion. Funding is set aside (competitively) to match that provided by individual researchers or their School, so as to enable international visits and presentations and support novice researchers. The university ensures that all staff are respected,</p>

irrespective of their background; the relevant policies are outlined in *Listen!*, the strategic action plan running to 2017. Equality assessment of University policies is undertaken as a matter of course, (including for the REF submission as published in our Code of Practice on the Selection of Staff), and there is a well-established network of equality and diversity co-ordinators across Schools and Colleges, in addition to other staff networks such as the Black & Ethnic Minority Forum, the Salford Staff Women's Action Network, the LGBT Staff Network and the Salford University Disabled Staff group. The University offers a range of direct and indirect support mechanisms and in 2012 initiated the Staff Diversity Awards as a means of celebrating and rewarding outstanding achievement in the area of equality and diversity. In 2013, for the third year in a row, Salford was listed by Stonewall as one of the UK's most 'gay-friendly' universities.

For all research-active staff, RGC and the Centre for English Literature and Language encourage competitive bids to internal and external research funds, and support research activity not funded by research councils, including travel to overseas depository libraries, photography and permissions costs, and UK and overseas conference fees. Staff in the Centre have benefitted from the University's competitive sabbatical system. The University also provides an ongoing staff development package of research management and development training available to colleagues at all stages of their research career, from sessions on 'How to Get Started on Research' and 'How to Prepare Successful Conference Presentations' through to workshops on 'Full Economic Costing'.

At a University level, early career researchers have their own designated source of research funding in the Vice-Chancellor's Scholarship Scheme, which has been operational since 2001 and from which several current and former staff in English have benefitted over the REF period. Each successful applicant derives ongoing advice and support from a project mentor, who is a senior research colleague in his/her own subject group. One anticipated outcome is the development of a bid to an external funding council or charitable trust; our former colleague Kristen Ewins secured British Academy funding as a result of this process.

A key activity in supporting the research culture is the running of 3 seminar series: the Radical Studies seminar, the Vital Signs seminar, and the English staff seminar, the latter providing a platform for early career colleagues to present their work in a supportive format. We have also hosted the annual Centre for English Literature and Language Research Day since 2010 for all staff and PGRs each October, one session of which is always run by the University Funding Team and focuses on updating colleagues and students on changing Funding Council priorities and bringing to our attention new funds and areas of strategic investment for which we could bid.

Since RAE2008, we have lost staff to other HEIs in the UK and Europe. However, by way of replacement, we have recruited two new lecturers. **Scott's** appointment has been strategic in strengthening our links with English Language staff from the former School of Languages. **Nigri's** appointment strategically broadens the team's period coverage with early Modern expertise, and enhances our emerging strength in theatre, cultural translation and adaptation studies across multiple European contexts.

ii Research students Salford's professional training of research students has been enhanced through the University's successful Graduate Teaching Assistantship (GTA) Scheme. This programme, advertised nationally each January, helps to recruit to Salford quality PhD students graduating from across the UK and Overseas, who then benefit from a full Professional Development Plan and are given appropriate opportunities to teach undergraduate modules in their research area (to a maximum of 130 hours per academic year). GTAs are automatically registered on the Teaching in Higher Education Certificate programme and, as part of their research training, have full access to the Research Management and Development sections of the University Staff Development Programme.

All postgraduate research students are enrolled on the Salford Postgraduate Research Training Programme (SPoRT), which offers generic training for PGRs and runs alongside the

more discipline-specific Humanities Doctoral Training Programme. Regular monitoring of PGR research is maintained through i) a co-supervisory system in which all students benefit from the guidance of two supervisors and a personal tutor, ii) annual written reports on progress submitted to the Research Institute by the primary supervisor, iii) an Interim Assessment conducted (for full-time students) 9-12 months after first registration, by two academics not directly involved in the supervision iv) an Internal Evaluation conducted (for full-time students) 12 months after the Interim Assessment, in which a mini-viva is conducted based on two chapters of the thesis. The Humanities Doctoral Training Scheme, which is open to all MPhil and PhD students at the Universities of Salford and Keele, offers sessions on topics such as 'What is the REF and how does it affect Early Career Researchers?', 'Writing a Book Proposal', 'Publishing Journal Articles', 'The Viva.' **Hurley, James, Scott and White** have all contributed sessions for this training programme.

Attracting larger numbers of externally-funded PGRs has been a strategic priority for this submission post-RAE2008. Between 2007-10 a series of annual bidding workshops for all staff in the Humanities was organised by the Centre. These included colleagues from the University Funding Team but also the previous Chair of the AHRC Open Studentship Competition who advised the College on changes to PGR funding strategy. Following this, English at Salford was one of the disciplines incorporated into the successful AHRC-funded Block Capacity Building Research Studentship partnership between Salford and Keele and is now also one of the disciplines incorporated into the North-West Consortium bid (Salford working in partnership with the Universities of Keele, Liverpool, Lancaster, Manchester, Manchester Metropolitan and the Royal Northern College of Music) to the Block Grant Capacity Building Scheme Phase 2.

We have also been awarded a £50,040 AHRC-funded Collaborative Doctoral Award, 'Humphry Davy: Poetry and Science' and a £237,337 AHRC-funded Extended Programme of Collaborative Doctoral Awards: to run over 5 years, 'Culture, Journals and Working-Class Movements 1820-1979', is led by **Harker** in partnership with the Working-Class Movement Library. These successes have been augmented by additional funded studentships in the AHRC Open Studentship competition (Research Masters in Creative Writing), in the AHRC Studentship Competition (Research Preparation Masters in English), in the AHRC-funded Block Grant Capacity Building Scheme (with Keele) (PhDs in English and in Critical and Creative Writing). Salford is also a member of the North West Consortium for one of the UK's AHRC new Doctoral Training Programmes: a total of 40 studentships *p.a.* over seven years from 2014, with a total AHRC award of over £14m.

Developments such as these have also resulted in a number of student-led bidding successes, such as in the recent AHRC-funded collaborative skills development scheme (student-led route), in which 3 of our PGRs were awarded £2,474 to run 'Issues in the Digital Humanities: A Key Skills Package for Postgraduate Researchers.' In the same scheme another PGR was a co-investigator with a University of Oxford PGR in a successful application for the 21st century scholar project (2013). Our PGR Jennifer Morgan was awarded an AHRC funded international placement at the Library of Congress, Washington (2012); another PGR, Joseph Darlington, was awarded a visiting dissertation fellowship at the Harry Ransom Research Institute, Texas (2013-14). Our PGRs are actively engaged in the intellectual life of the Centre (Elinor Taylor and Jennifer Morgan co-founded and co-run the Radical Studies network with **Harker**). They are also participants in a wider research-prize culture, Elinor Taylor being runner-up in the 2012 Raymond Williams Society graduate essay prize (her essay is to be published in a refereed journal in 2014).

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

Increasing our external research income has been the top strategic priority for this submission post-2008. Post-RAE2008, this submission has attracted a total of £365,702 externally funded research income, constituting a seven-fold increase in the amount of externally funded research awards returned in RAE2008. We have met this aim partly through new staff appointments, attracting academic colleagues with a track record of research funding success, partly through an enhanced culture of training and support linked to bidding and internal peer

review, and partly by deepening our links with external organisations. Though the majority of our research funding continues to come from the AHRC (£423,344), the Leverhulme Trust (£101,348) and, to a lesser extent, the British Academy (£21,603), we have begun to attract funding from a wider range of external funders than formerly, including the Wellcome Trust (£4993-50) and Yale University (£5000). It is anticipated that this trend will continue, reflecting our increasing involvement in collaborative and cross-disciplinary research patterns, which augment our existing and continued strength in single subject publications and projects.

All members of this UoA have benefited from regular internal financial support for research, but in addition, individual colleagues have been awarded a total of £14,048 from specifically designated internal funds, including an award of £900 from the Arts Development Fund to pump-prime the new 'Digital Shakespeare' project and an award of £3,750 RISF money to support an ongoing project on 'The Collected Letters of Sir Humphry Davy and his Circle'.

Researchers at Salford also benefit from a range of facilities enabling them to undertake high quality research. Examples of these are:

- The geographical proximity of key libraries and archives in the locality. These comprise the Working Class Movement Library and the Imperial War Museum North in Salford, the Manchester Jewish Museum, the John Rylands Library, Chethams Library, the Labour History Archive and Study Centre at the People's History Museum, and the International Anthony Burgess Foundation. These holdings have proved essential to the work of **Harker** (writing and radical politics), **White** (Burgess and his associates) and **Powell** (medieval manuscripts and early printed books).
- The University of Salford Library currently holds in excess of 18,000 hard copy English Language and Literature titles and a further 400 ebooks in the field; it subscribes to a full range of English Literature and Language academic journals and electronic databases, including JISC Historic Books, JSTOR, *Linguistics and Language Behaviour abstracts*, *Literature Online* (LION), *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* (ODNB), as well as the OED and MLA. We also benefit from a small archive and rare books collection, which houses comprehensive archives of manuscripts and papers on and by Walter Greenwood (1903-74), Stanley Houghton (1881-1913) and Arthur Hopcraft (1932-2004) as well as individual items of historical and literary interest from 1559 onwards, including 900 items comprising the Duke of Bridgewater Collection, dating from 1730-1920.
- The University is a major partner in the leading edge development of MediaCityUK at Salford Quays, arguably the most important and largest scale media industry initiative nationally of the 21st century to date. Located at the heart of five national BBC departments and the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra's new base, ITV/Granada, leading cultural organisations including The Lowry theatres and galleries and Imperial War Museum North, as well as an expanding hub of independent creative, digital and media organisations, the University is the core HE sector provider at MediaCityUK. We have invested over £50m in a state-of-the-art building opened in 2011 and capitalised on this so far via collaborative partnerships with the BBC (audio, music), and with large multinational corporations including Adobe, BT, CISCO, Hewlett Packard.
- Within our MediaCityUK building there is set of dedicated research facilities, including the Research Hotel, an innovation space where academics, businesses, communities and practitioners can interact; the Egg, a multimedia Living Lab which includes an 8K resolution high definition screen, integrated touch tables and gesture recognition technology, high definition audio, all based in our public foyer to encourage interaction and audience participation; the Digital Performance Lab, a unique black box space enhanced by the latest in screen technology and interactive devices, designed to explore interactions at the boundary between human performance and digital devices; and a range of other leading-edge media facilities which includes HD TV and radio studios, broadcast and audio laboratories, visual effects studios, edit suites all linked through an industry-standard

Media Asset Management system. We already teach 1500 students there; staff permanently based at MediaCityUK come from different schools across the university, while others are temporarily based there for purposes such as specific projects, modules or collaboration; our philosophy is to have a cross-disciplinary, dialogic space. We plan to establish a Graduate School here for our media and digital technology PhDs.

e. Collaboration and contribution to the discipline or research base Work in the Centre is sub-divided into 4 research clusters: Creative Writing, Performance and Innovation; Radical Formations; Poetry and Poetics; and Periodicals and Print Culture. These clusters operate as a hub of activity relating to internal and external collaborations. They reflect our roles as active researchers within national and international research networks and associations and as editors of scholarly journals. They also facilitate our recruitment of externally funded PGRs and provide a ready focus for the organisation of conferences and seminar series both at Salford and in partnership with other HEIs and external institutions.

- I. **Poetry and Poetics.** This cluster encompasses both critical and creative writing research. It comprises five members, **Bergstrom, Hurley, Kendall, Thurston** and **Powell**. The 'Writing and the Small Presses' conference is attached to this cluster, as is the Impact Case Study of the same name.
- II. **Periodicals and Print Culture.** The work of this cluster has been enhanced by the appointment in 2011 of an Honorary Research Fellow, Margaret Beetham. This cluster especially benefits from the rich holdings of local Museums and Archives such as The Working-Class Movement Library and Chethams. It supports the work of **Allan, Harker, Powell** and **Thurston**. In terms of the international reach of this cluster, Salford is a founder member (with the Universities of Ghent and Nijmegen) of the European Society for Periodical Research. Regionally, it also hosts the Northwest Periodicals Workshop. In 2012, this cluster secured 15,000 Euros from Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen and the European Society for Periodical Research to run a series of networking events.
- III. **Creative Writing: Performance and Innovation.** This supports the work of **Hurley, Kendall, James, Thurston** and **White**. Book-length outputs attached to this cluster have increased significantly in number since RAE2008; colleagues in this cluster have published 8 volumes of poetry and 4 novels during this period. This is the home of the 'Vital Signs' seminar series and the 'Visual Text Forum'. The 'Writing Lives' Impact Case Study is also attached to the work of this cluster.
- IV. **Radical Formations.** This newly-launched research cluster builds on the expertise **Harker** brings to the English submission, augmented by increasing research in partnership with the Working-Class Movement Library. It is the home of our treble AHRC-funded Collaborative Doctoral Award, 'Culture, Journals and Working-class Movements, 1820-1979' extended programme, run in conjunction with the library. All three doctoral students on that project are also active in the cluster's events, which includes a monthly reading group. Colleagues contributing to this cluster work closely with colleagues in UoA 28 and UoA 36 REF submissions. The 'Radical Studies Network,' which enables staff and PGRs to present research papers and organise events in collaboration with external partners is housed in this cluster.

There is an active and ongoing programme of international and national conferences run by colleagues in English, sometimes linked to national and international research networks and sometimes hosted in conjunction with partner institutions. Between January 2008 and July 2013, the following international conferences have been hosted or co-organised by researchers in English: the 'Thomas de Quincey, Manchester and Medicine' Conference (December 2009) (part-funded by British Society for Literature and Science); the 'Slow Art in Progress symposium' (January 2010); the 'Literature and Mental Health Symposium' (in partnership with the School of Health) (July 2010); the annual Raymond Williams Lecture, held at the Working-Class Movement Library and delivered by **Harker** (November 2010); the 'Periodicals Across Europe' Conference, held at the International Anthony Burgess Foundation (December 2011); the 'Writing and the Small Presses' conference (March 2012); 'Translating European Histories' (July 2012, funded by the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence); 'Drama Translation in the Age of Globalization' (March 2013); 'Culture, journals and working-class

movements, 1820-1979 (April 2013, held at the Working class Movement library and funded by the Raymond Williams Foundation); and the Research Society for Victorian Periodicals Annual Conference (July 2013).

The following in-house seminars have been organised by researchers in English during the period 2008-13: The 'North-West Long Nineteenth-Century Seminar Series' (Manchester, quarterly, both academic and public); the 'Centre for English Literature and Language' seminar (invites 3-4 external speakers per year); the AHRC-funded 'Future of Testimony' seminar series (in partnership with Goldsmiths and the Universities of Lancaster, Sheffield and Turin); the Salford Film Seminar; 'Vital Signs', a series of performances and interviews by high profile creative writers; the 'Slow Art Network' (2009 – 2011); the 'Radical Studies Network' (since 2011; meets 3 times per year); the 'Visual Text Forum' (meets 3-4 times per year); the 'North-West Periodicals Workshops Series' (held at different locations in Manchester and Salford); the 'Northern Modernism Seminar'.

Researchers also make significant contributions to other collaborative work. **Hurley** is an editorial consultant for Erbacce Press, an international small press specializing in experimental poetry, and is a judge for their annual poetry competition (600 entries this year). In collaboration with Commonword, Burnish Writing and the *Manchester Evening News* she helped to establish the 'Piece of Your Life' competition for short autobiographical writing. She is also a judge for the Commonword memoir competition. **Kendall** is Co-convenor of the 'Writing Otherwise' Group (in partnership with the Universities of Manchester and Cape Town), an organiser of the annual Chorlton Arts Festival (since 2010) and is Incredible Edible Todmorden Poet Laureate. She collaborated with Seaming To (musician) on lyric and text performances (Manchester and London), sponsored through Chinese Arts and was a writer for the *White Peak/Dark Peak* collaboration, led by Alec Finlay. This collaboration was nominated as a work of public art for the Alice award for Artistic Landmarks in Contemporary Practice (2012). Her next book will be launched at the Sonic Fusion Festival in Salford as part of a concert on birdsong and music, and she's currently translating poems for a Japanese medical translation company for a pharmaceutical client. **Nigri** is active in the multi-institutional and international 'Shakespeare European Laureate, 1769, 2016, and Beyond' project, central to which is the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, Stratford-upon Avon. In this capacity she is working with a team from the University of Verona analyzing Italian responses to Shakespeare during moments of historical crisis. She is also the researcher on the international Bandello Project, led by Professor Silvia Bigliuzzi at the University of Verona.

Powell and **Thurston** are or have been members of the AHRC Peer Review College during this REF window. **Powell** has also peer reviewed an application to the Leverhulme Trust (2012). **Bergstrom** is Chair of the Board of Trustees of the International Anthony Burgess Foundation; **Powell** is a Steering Group member of the Harlaxton Symposium, an international interdisciplinary group of medievalists; she is also a board member of the Early Book Society and of the Syon Abbey Society; **Thurston** was a Member of the Awarding Panel for the AHRC Fellowship in Creative and Performing Arts (2010); **White** is a Steering Committee member of the UK Network for Modern Fiction Studies. **Bergstrom** was Associate Fellow at the Centre for Eighteenth-Century Studies and Print Culture, University of Ghent, September 2010; **Harker** held the 2013 Jackson Brothers Fellowship, Yale University, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library (£5,000), and was an advisor for the Salford Museum and Art Gallery's 2008 exhibition on popular music in the city. **Scott** has acted as Consultant on a historical dictionary project with the Wallace Collection and the Society of Antiquaries (2012).

Many of our team are active on the editorial boards of major academic journals. **Allan** is Executive Editor of *Clues: a Journal of Detection* and an editorial board member for *The Wilkie Collins Journal*; **Bergstrom** is Reviews Editor of *Eighteenth-Century Poetry*; **Blakemore** is the co-editor of *Lingua* and on the advisory board for *Mind and Language* and *Studies in Pragmatics*. **Harker** is an Editor of *Key Words: a Journal of Cultural Materialism* (2009 - present), *Twentieth Century Communism* (from 2013) and was reviews editor of *North West Labour History* (2008-13). **Hurley** is a founding editorial board member of *Short Fiction in*

Theory and Practice (since 2011) and was Associate Editor of the *International Journal for the Arts in Society* (2011); she is now Associate Editor of the *International Journal of Arts in Education* (2013). **Nigri** is on the editorial board of *Textus*, the official journal of the Italian Society for the Study of English (from 2012); **Powell** is Reviews Editor of the *Journal of the Early Book Society*; **Thurston** is co-founder and co-editor of the *Journal of British and Irish Innovative Poetry* (2009-present). **Scott** is Editor of *Nomina* (for the Society for Name Studies in Britain and Ireland) and an editorial board member of the *Journal of Scottish Name Studies*. Colleagues have also guest edited or co-edited Special Issues of the following journals: (**Kendall** and **White**) *European Journal of English Studies* (2013); (**Harker**) *Key Words: A Journal of Cultural Materialism* (2009); (**Scott**) *Collegium* (University of Helsinki, 2013).

Blakemore has given keynote lectures in Madrid (2009) and Paris (2009). **Harker** has given the Annual Raymond Williams Memorial Lecture, Working Class Movement Library (2010) and public lectures at the Bishopsgate Institute, London (2008), the Working Class Movement Library (2011 and 2012) and the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscripts Library at Yale (2013); **Hurley** was a member of the expert panel which addressed the Northern Light Writers' Conference (2013). Colleagues have also given invited papers at the following other Universities and Learned Societies: **Harker**: Universities of Newcastle (2008), Manchester (2009), Loughborough (2010); Reading (2011), Wolverhampton (2012), Yale (2013), Institute of English Studies (2013); **Powell**: Universities of Cambridge (2009) and 'Old and Middle English Seminar, London (2011).

We have been external examiners of doctoral theses at the following universities since 2008: **Bergstrom** (Ghent, 2013); **Harker** (Sheffield Hallam, 2012); **Kendall** (Glasgow, 2011); **Thurston** (Roehampton, 2012). Colleagues have refereed book manuscripts and monograph proposals for the following book publishers between January 2008 and July 2013: Continuum (**Hurley**); Longman (**Scott**, 2010); Oxford University Press (**Scott**, 2010); PanMacmillan (**James**), Unisa (the in-house publisher for the University of South Africa) (**Harker**, 2012, 2013); and for the following journals: *Contemporary Women's Writing* (**Hurley**); *Folklore* (**Harker**); *New Writing: The International Journal of Creative Writing* (**James**); *Studies in the Novel* (**Harker**, 2012); *Twentieth Century Communism* (**Harker**, 2011, 2013); *Key Words* (**Harker**, 2009-13); *Research in English Studies* (**Harker**, 2013).