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| <p>Institution: University of Manchester</p> |
| <p>Unit of Assessment: 18 (Economics and Econometrics)</p> |
| <p>a. Context</p> <p>Economics is a Discipline Area (DA) within the School of Social Sciences (SoSS), and research is promoted through five research area groups (RAGS): microeconomics and mathematical economics; macroeconomics, growth and development; econometrics and applied economics; environmental and resource economics; development economics and policy. As with RAE 2008, research from the first four RAGS is submitted under UoA18, and that of the fifth group is submitted under UoA24b.</p> <p>Building on a tradition of engagement at Manchester, our research has had impact on the public and private sectors, both nationally and internationally. The main users are:</p> <p><i>National governments:</i> In the UK: The Department of Health (DH), The Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Work and Pensions (DWP), HM Treasury, HM Department of Revenue and Customs (HMRC) and The Office of National Statistics (ONS); and abroad: the New Zealand Treasury; the Finnish Energy Market Authority.</p> <p><i>Local authorities:</i> Manchester City Council, Wigan Council, the North West Development Agency (NWDA).</p> <p><i>National and International Banks:</i> The Central Banks of Brazil, Morocco and Turkey, and the World Bank.</p> <p><i>Finance industry:</i> AllMountain Capital AG of Switzerland, Deutsche Bank of Germany, and Cambridge Systems Associates (a financial consultancy and software developer).</p> <p><i>Food industry:</i> Nestle, Unilever, Mars Inc and Greencore (a convenience food manufacturer).</p> <p><i>Advocacy groups:</i> the International Budget Partnership.</p> <p>In addition to these impacts derived from the work of current staff, two of our submitted case studies are based on work by retired staff that had impact on the UK and international government's innovations policy, and on EU agricultural policy.</p> |
| <p>b. Approach to impact</p> <p>Our research has had impact in many different areas and has come about in a variety of ways. The two main channels through which this impact has arisen are: (i) consultations initiated by users; (ii) involvement in research institutes that interact with users.</p> <p>Consultations initiated by users: Our research has impact because organizations seek out the input of our staff for their acknowledged research expertise. Agénor's research agenda in macroprudential regulation led to his advice being sought by several Central Banks around the world; see REF3b. Banks's expertise on ageing related issues, especially his key role in the design and analysis of the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA), has led to his presentation of numerous ministerial seminars and briefings in Whitehall departments, and his service on both the Scientific Advisory Panel of the DH Commission on the Funding of Care and Support (Dilnot Commission, 2010-11), and also on the Expert Panel of the DWP Independent Review into Sickness Absence (Dame Carol Black, 2010-11). Furthermore, ELSA is serving as the template for the design of similar surveys in other countries leading to Banks serving on the advisory panels for similar surveys in Brazil, China, India and Ireland. Clark (and Drinkwater) were asked by DWP and the Local Government Innovation and Development Agency (LGIDA) to produce a "how-to-guide" based on their Joseph Rowntree Foundation funded research on the employment of ethnic minorities in the UK. This guide was promoted by a series of regional workshops that led to their research findings being incorporated in the NWDA's 2010 regional strategy and Wigan Council's 2009 Worklessness strategy. Osborn provided expert advice to the ONS in the 2012 consultation on options for improving the retail prices index reflecting her acknowledged research expertise in macroeconometrics in general, and inflation modelling in particular.</p> <p>Impact through work in research institutes: Research institutes provide a conduit through which our research has impact. Banks and Griffith are Deputy Research Directors of the Institute of</p> |

Impact template (REF3a)

Fiscal Studies (IFS), the leading economic think-tank in the UK, and these roles have facilitated their research impacting on various policy debates, e.g. **Griffith's** analysis of the economic impact of HMRC's introduction of "Patent-Boxes" was summarized in the influential IFS Green Budget, contributing to a general interest in the work that culminated in a number of policy consultations with members of HMT and HMRC. **Wossink's** lead role in Manchester's interdisciplinary Sustainable Consumption Institute (SCI) facilitated her consultations with Manchester City Council on the deliverance of a sustainable, healthy food policy through her participation on the Manchester Food Futures Expert Panel, and also her work with Nestle, Unilever, Mars Inc and Tesco on meeting the sustainability challenge. Through his involvement in the Brooks World Poverty Institute (BWPI), **Dutta** both provided the economic analysis behind and was a signatory of the *Manchester Manifesto* that contributed to the policy debate on intellectual property rights in developing countries.

Our strategic approach to impact is based on the following four foundation stones.

The **promotion of a vibrant, supportive research environment** in which staff can engage in research on the economics of opportunities and challenges facing society; see **REF5**.

The **promotion of interdisciplinary research** as a significant channel through which to promote the impact of our research. Examples include our support for staff involvement in BWPI and SCI, and the provision of funds for an interdisciplinary "Stochastic Economics and Finance" group at Manchester that has supported the work by **Evstigneev** on mathematical behavioural finance which informs the investment strategies of AllMountain Capital and Deutsche Bank.

A **staffing policy** that promotes impact in three main ways: (i) *targeted appointments* of key senior staff with track-records of capacity building and impact beyond academia; such as **Agénor** from the World Bank during the last assessment period and **Banks** and **Griffith** in 2010; (ii) supporting *secondment to outside organizations* such as the **Agénor's** unpaid leave to serve as Lead Advisor to a Technical Assistance program for Burundi organized by the World Bank (2008-10), a role that led critically to the development of his research agenda in macroprudential regulation; (iii) *flexible contracts and workload allocation models* that allow staff to adjust their responsibilities to facilitate work within interdisciplinary research institutes; e.g. **Wossink** was full-time in economics from 2007-11 but then became half-time in economics and half-time in SCI where she led the research theme on Sustainable Consumer Behaviours and Lifestyles from 2011-13.

The **active use of strong institutional support** for the promotion of impact. SoSS and Faculty of Humanities (FoH) provide increasingly high levels of support for impact activities. **Clark** found the FoH's Media Training course valuable preparation for his appearances on the Today Programme (Radio 4) and Dispatches (Channel 4) discussing his research, exposure that led to the invitation from DWP and LGIDA to produce the "how-to-guide". This institutional support also cultivates an environment in which synergies between the academic and administrative parts of the university can be exploited to develop impact. For example, the *clickLearner* survey approach developed by Millman (PhD student) and **Rigby** (advisor) to analyze attitudes towards food safety was further developed with matching funding from the Faculty eLearning unit, who recognized the transferability of the approach to eLearning. *clickLearner* has been successfully trialled by Greencore, a leading international food manufacturer, as a staff training aid.

c. Strategy and plans

Our strategy is to continue to promote top quality work in all areas of economics, and especially in health, environment, poverty and finance where we have, and aim to continue to have, impact. On top of the initiatives described in **REF5** that aim to provide a world-class research environment, we will promote and support impact from our research via the following 7 strategies.

Promotion of Interdisciplinary research: We will continue to promote interdisciplinary research. Recent successes include grants awarded through participation in a number of major interdisciplinary, multi-institution projects in the environmental and social ecology of campylobacter (**Griffith, Rigby**), and ecosystem services and biodiversity (**Wossink**).

Impact template (REF3a)

Support for involvement in Research Centres/Institutes: We will continue to encourage and support participation of staff in research institutes both Manchester based and beyond. As well as BWPI and SCI, recent initiatives include **Banks'** involvement (2011-) in MICRA, **Clark's** involvement (2013-) with the recently awarded ESRC Centre on Dynamics of Ethnicity at Manchester, and **Wossink's** participation (2013-) in the multi-institutional ESRC funded Sustainable Energy Use in Food Chains Research Centre. Both **Banks** and **Griffith** are (co-) PI's on major grants at IFS on policy related issues, such as the project **Griffith** leads on the impact of consumer food purchasing behaviour and firm food pricing behaviour on nutrition.

Career development: Individual impact and outreach plans are formulated for all staff in annual Performance and Development Reviews. We have a one-semester-after-six sabbatical leave policy and impact activities are now explicitly supported in sabbatical criteria and planning.

Making impact part of research output: We will encourage all our research groups to engage with users to help shape research to generate impact, e.g. through active participation in UoM's interdisciplinary networks that disseminate research to users, such as the "water-food-energy" (UMRI FIRE) network to which **Wossink** contributes. We will develop briefing notes aimed at non-academic audiences and policy makers to accompany and promote our research, and explore the efficacy of social media for their dissemination. We are looking to make fractional appointments from outside academia of economists who actively engage in high level policy debates.

Flexibility: Given the diversity of both our impacts and also the channels by which they occur, we recognize the critical importance of flexibility in allocation of our resources to support impactful activities as new opportunities develop, e.g. through our staffing policy.

PGT/PGR training: We will promote impact by research-informed training of PG students who then apply the research ideas of staff in outside organizations, e.g. UoM is one of only three institutions worldwide to teach Mathematical Behavioural Finance, the theory behind **Evstigneev's** impact case study (see **REF3b**). We will continue to encourage, and provide support for, PGR students to take internships in order to learn about key issues for users of their research, following successful placements this period at the Department of Justice and the Legatum Institute (Political Economy and Foreign Policy Think Tank).

Active use of strong institutional support: At the heart of the University's strategic plan, *Manchester 2020*, are excellence of research, impact and social responsibility. The FoH runs an annual competition for research support for activities to promote impact, and also funds dedicated impact support officers located in Research Support hubs. UoM is one of three that secured an ESRC pilot Impact Acceleration Award (£500k) in 2013-14 to develop social science capacity and innovative learning in the range of effectiveness of impact activities. We will continue to actively exploit the strong support for impactful activities provided by the University.

d. Relationship to case studies

Two of our four case studies (**Colman, Metcalfe**) derive from research undertaken prior to 2008 by members of staff who retired from the university prior to 2008. Their inclusion illustrates how the activities described above are part of a tradition of engagement at Manchester. **Colman's** case study relates to the impact of his work on the EU policy debate about the elimination of milk quotas. The pathway to impact involved consultations initiated by DEFRA with **Colman**, an acknowledged expert on the economics of the dairy industry, the findings of which were then disseminated by DEFRA to an European audience. **Metcalfe's** case study relates to the impact of his work on innovations policy in the UK and abroad. The pathway to impact involved Metcalfe's service on governmental commissions, reflecting his acknowledged expertise. The underlying research was developed and disseminated, in part, through the ESRC funded Centre for Research on Innovation and Competition (CRIC) at Manchester. The other case studies exemplify aspects of our current approach to impact. **Agénor** was a targeted appointment and his work was supported by leave to allow his secondment to the World Bank. Further, part of this research was joint with Alper, then a PhD student at Manchester, who has successfully promoted the work at the Central Bank of Turkey in his role as Director of Open Market Operations there. **Evstigneev's** impact case study derives from an interdisciplinary research programme that we supported through funds for post-docs and external speakers at seminars and workshops organized by the "Stochastic Economics and Finance" group at Manchester.