

Institution: University of Salford

Unit of assessment: D28 Modern Languages and Linguistics

a. Context: Research impact in Modern Languages and Linguistics at the University of Salford placed its focus between 2008 and 2013 on enhancing quality of life for individuals, communities and supporting organisations in doing so, in a range of areas:

- The development and application of collaborative research in literacy and language-related policy and practice,
- Language revitalisation, cultural diversity, social and cultural inclusion, and;
- Exploring discourses of equality and representation and their expression in policy and individual and community agency.

The main non-academic user groups, beneficiaries or audiences and main types of impact specifically relevant to research submitted to UoA 28 include:

- Individuals and communities speaking endangered languages in southern Arabia, cultural associations, SMEs, and media and broadcast organisations, locally and internationally, where impact is focused on enhancing the visibility of the language and the culture in which it developed and through its documentation and dissemination, with and by the communities, of their oral traditions.
- Providers and users of public-sector interpreting (PSI) services in the UK, including professional and volunteer interpreters, social workers, police officers, health-service professionals, local authorities and voluntary-sector organisations where impact is developed in the area of improving social justice through a theoretical focus on the social construction of identity in PSI situations, enhancing the efficacy of services.
- Providers and users of interpreting services in conflict situations, including community and voluntary-sector organisations, the armed forces and governments, where impact is focused on supporting individuals and communities in accessing interpreting services in conflict situations, through the development of professional communities of practice to improve outcomes.

The impact described relates to the following range of research activity or research groups in the Unit for the period 2008-2013:

Enhancing the visibility of language and the culture in which it developed through the [Centre for Linguistics and Applied Linguistics](#), which provides an interdisciplinary environment for developing research impact in areas including: Arabic dialectology and Semitic linguistics, TESOL-based language research, and semantics and pragmatics.

Promoting and engaging people with our research through the [University of Salford Working Papers](#) initiative, an open access, peer reviewed online journal hosting full articles in all areas of theoretical and applied linguistics, including syntax, semantics, pragmatics, phonology, sociolinguistics, psycholinguistics and language pedagogy (including TESOL).

Links with the commercial and public sectors through the [Centre for Translation and Interpreting Studies](#), which includes one of the largest clusters of translation and interpreting specialists in the UK, developing research impact through a range of externally focused networks, including: Leading the [National Network for Translation](#), is a partner in the [National Network for Interpreting](#), and also in the North West Regional Consortium (all part of the HEFCE-funded [Routes into Languages](#) Programme). Developing links with the profession through the [Institute of Translation and Interpreting](#), the [North West Translators Network](#), and the [Association of Translation Companies](#).

b. Approach to impact:

University of Salford research submitted to UoA 28 focuses on engagement with key users, beneficiaries and audiences of research beyond academia. The Unit's approach to interacting with, engaging with or developing relationships with key users, beneficiaries or audiences to develop impact from the research is demonstrated within two key examples which are expanded in our Impact Case Studies, and presented here in summary; as follows:

- Revitalising the endangered languages of southern Arabia through researchers living among the community and inviting community members to jointly undertake the research and to curate the documentation of their language; developing research projects of their

own by commissioning the publication of research outputs locally, to support the community economy and to access opportunities for international cultural exchange.

- **Evidence of impact achieved:** Impact Case Study
- Supporting individuals and communities in accessing interpreting services and enhancing the efficacy of PSI services by co-creating research programmes in association with the police, service providers and service users, conducting research jointly, in partnership with public and voluntary-sector organisations and practitioners.

- **Evidence of impact achieved:** Impact Case Study

Research staff at all levels within the Unit are specifically supported and enabled to achieve impact from their research through the following initiatives:

- Sustained partnerships with the voluntary, public and private sectors, jointly funded research projects and placing researchers within communities and organisations;
- Fee waivers in key areas of research;
- Workload allocation; and
- Sabbatical Scheme, where applicants are required to set out how their proposed project(s) bring benefit beyond academia, allowing dedicated time to pursue impactful research.

The unit made use of institutional facilities, expertise or resources in undertaking these activities including:

- The University of Salford Institutional Repository (USIR) makes research outputs available as far as possible via open access, maximising the accessibility of the research.
- The University's Graduate Teaching Assistantship (GTA) scheme, where assessment criteria include likely impact.

The University of Salford has now formalised its approach to impact through [SalfordImpact](#), an initiative which has focused facilities, expertise and resource in this area, including:

- Salford Impact Advisory Group, with cross-University and external representation to build momentum and develop excellence in evidencing impact;
- Impact Fund, to support researchers in generating impacts and celebrating impact in the Vice Chancellor's Research Excellence Awards;
- Embedding impact within funding bids;
- Early Career Researcher training in impact.

c. Strategy and plans:

The Unit developed a particular focus on achieving impact from research during the period 2008-13. Modern Languages and Linguistics research to date has exemplified [Salford Impact](#) by demonstrating the successful realisation of impact with a particular emphasis on partner, user, and community-defined benefits, including professional communities of practice. Future research impact strategy around the current UoA28 groupings will be determined within the context of the University's strategic plan and internal structure, both currently being revised.

d. Relationship to case studies

The two submitted case studies are very closely related to the unit's approach to impact set out above, as well as being centrally located within the unit's discipline areas.

Case Study 1: The languages and culture of southern Arabia exemplifies and has informed the development of the Unit's approach to impact through its focus on inviting community members to undertake research to curate the documentation of their language and promote it in novel ways, developing research projects of their own.

Case Study 2: Public service interpreting exemplifies and has informed the development of the Unit's approach to impact through its focus on co-creating research programmes in association with the police, service providers and people accessing interpreting and translation services, conducting research jointly in partnership with public- and voluntary-sector organisations and practitioners.