

<p><b>Institution: UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM</b></p> <p><b>Unit of Assessment: 28 Modern Languages</b></p> <p><b>a. Overview</b></p> <p>The Department of Modern Languages is part of the School of Languages, Cultures, Art History and Music, which with five other Schools belongs to the College of Arts and Law [CAL]. CAL was formed on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2008, from the former Schools of Historical Studies and Humanities and the Birmingham Law School. Following a strategic review of Europe-related provision within the University in 2010, it was decided to establish a single Department of Modern Languages [DoML] which combines the former Departments of French Studies, German Studies, Hispanic Studies (including Basque, Catalan and Galician language and culture), Italian Studies, Russian Studies (which had previously formed part of the College of Social Sciences), and the Centre for Modern Languages (now re-launched as Languages for All). The new Department was designed to promote better strategic decision-making and to enhance existing cross-language and cross-disciplinary research activities.</p> <p><b>b. Research strategy</b></p> <p>The UoA's strategy since 2008 has been to sustain and develop our reputation as a centre of research excellence characterised by <b>diversity</b> and <b>depth</b>. Its research covers a broad range of disciplines (including literary studies, history, cultural studies, film, gender and sexuality studies, anthropology, political science and translation), periods (from the thirteenth to the twenty-first century) and languages. The focus of the UoA's research planning is to sustain our investigations into the diverse <b>languages, cultures, histories and ways of life of Europe and beyond</b>. The indivisibility of language and culture is at the heart of the UoA's activities and this also informs the diverse disciplines and approaches that characterise its research.</p> <p>Strategic research planning in the RAE 2008 submission was focused on research objectives in the context of what were then four separate departments and units of assessment (French, German, Hispanic and Italian Studies). The generic objectives outlined in the 2008 submissions (the encouragement of <b>specialist individual expertise</b>; the fostering of <b>cross- and inter-disciplinary collaborative ventures</b>, the encouragement of <b>strategic funding bids</b> in key areas, and the expansion of <b>postgraduate recruitment</b>) remain the central planks of our strategy. Progress in the latter two of these is indicated by the £946,000 in research funding (see d. below) and the 26 PhD degrees awarded in the period. With regard to the first two, the realisation of common interests across languages led to the evolution of a more thematic approach to research.</p> <p>The UoA has continued to invest in the <b>breadth</b> of its languages and disciplines. In order to foster a creative and collaborative <b>multi- and inter-disciplinarity</b>, an integrated strategy across the languages was designed, which adapted and built upon those declared in the 2008 submissions. Based on the successes of a number of research centres (inter alia the <i>Leopardi Centre</i> and the <i>Berlusconi project</i> in Italian, the <i>Centre for the Study of Hispanic Exile</i> in Hispanic Studies, and groups working on <i>Memory and Intellectual History</i> in German, and <i>Narrative Identities and Cultural Identities and Practices</i> in French) and on the work of individual researchers working in different languages, it was decided that the achievement of high-quality research outcomes could best be attained by organising research as a function of interlinked <b>research themes</b> which emerged organically from the UoA. These were designed to maintain the diversity of research carried out in the UoA and to encourage collaborative and inter-disciplinary research across languages while fostering ongoing research within the individual language units.</p> <p>The UoA's research environment coheres around our central, highly active, multi-lingual research theme <b><u>Text Production: Past and Present</u></b> which encompasses a wide range of disciplines and periods, from medieval studies to twenty-first century poetics and digital humanities. Particular strengths lie in medieval culture and textual editing (<b>De Ventura, MacCarthy, Harris, Ward</b>) - external funding awarded for this strand of the department's research includes a Major AHRC grant for developing an edition of the <i>Estoria de Espanna</i> of Alfonso X (£556k, 2013-16, <b>Ward</b>); in literary culture and cultural interactions (<b>Haskins Gonthier, Damamme-Gilbert, Griffiths, Watts</b>) and in German intellectual history (<b>Dodd, Martin, Speirs</b>). The work of the <i>Leopardi Centre</i>, led by <b>Caesar</b>, culminated in <b>Caesar</b> and <b>D'Intino's</b> critically acclaimed translation of Leopardi's <i>Zibaldone</i>. Seventeen monographs broadly falling under this theme were published in the period; amongst these are <b>Cornick's</b> monograph on Jean Paulhan-Armand Petitjean and <b>Marcser's</b></p>
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monograph on Catalan poetry. Staff collaborate with colleagues across the institution and participate in the activities of CeSMA (medieval studies), CLEMT (English, textual editing) and ITSEE (Theology, digital editing) amongst others. Sustainability of research is guaranteed by our commitment to appoint only excellent scholars in modern languages in order to maintain a critical mass of researchers on literary, historical and political texts. Alongside the central research theme, which typically involves **specialist individual expertise** or researchers collaborating informally, we established a further seven related themes which provide more formal **inter- and cross disciplinary collaboration**. These are:

**Memory and Exile**

Researchers within the UoA bring geographical and disciplinary specialisms to their work within the wider context of interdisciplinary memory studies; **Sayner**, for example, leads the University Memory Group which brings together scholars from a range of disciplines. Particular strengths lie in the investigation of memories of war, dictatorship, 'inner emigration', exile, and postcolonialism. Scholars working in this area have had significant success in recovering previously unknown works, historical sites, and marginalised voices. A vital element of this research has been promoting knowledge exchange between academia, practitioners and diverse memory communities, while contributing to processes of commemoration, memorialisation and reconciliation. Sustained excellence in memory and exile research is represented by the work of **Sayner, Martin, Lough, Marcer** and **Jato**, and in inner emigration by the work of **Dodd** and **Klapper**, and was strengthened further in the period by the appointments of **Jones** and **Ryan** as Birmingham Fellows. Of particular note are **Sayner's** project on 'Silence, Memory and Empathy in Museums and at Historic Sites' and the activities of the Centre for the Study of Hispanic Exile. Those working within memory studies have created the UoB **Memory Group** and run five externally-funded projects worth £121,000 (**Jones** and **Sayner**). These have involved close collaboration with universities in the USA, Canada and the UK and non-academic partnerships with Historic Royal Palaces, Imperial War Museum, and the National Library of Wales. Cutting-edge research continues into the future with a particular focus on dynamic processes of memorialisation (in relation to centenaries, the significance of place and topology, and confronting the consequences of dictatorship).

**Translation and Language Studies**

The UoA has a long-established reputation in Language Studies research. **Klapper** has continued to be involved in a longitudinal study of language learning with Rees and has further developed work in pedagogical grammar; **Klapper** and **Hardwick** have given invited lectures in language teaching and learning at other universities. Translation Studies is a newer and lively research area. Members of the cluster have published both monographs and shorter pieces in this research area and are involved in a number of international networks, including **Kershaw's** participation in the AHRC-funded 'Holocaust and Translation' project. **Brown, Kershaw** and **Watts** have co-written/co-edited volumes relating to translation and adaptation with international teams of collaborators. Events organised include **Rulyova's** 'Genre and Translation' workshop (2013), part of her AHRC-funded Genre Studies Network. **Brown** and **Kershaw** have established an annual **Translation Studies Research Forum** at the UoB; keynote speakers to date have been Theo Hermans (UCL), Susan Bassnett (Warwick) and Michael Cronin (Dublin City University). The excellent record of individual and collaborative research will be supported in the future through the newly established **Birmingham Centre for Translation**, as already evidenced by **Kershaw's** monograph project on 'Translation in and of French literature of the Second World War', supported by a Leverhulme Trust Research Fellowship (2013-15).

**Sexuality and Gender Studies**

Sexuality and Gender Studies is an interdisciplinary endeavour with a cross-university staff research network and a raft of postgraduate programmes, which is led from within the UoA. This area of research has been strongly developed by **Ross**, a senior researcher in Italian sexuality **Ince**, Reader in French Film and Gender Studies and **James**, a specialist on the Hispanic Caribbean. It is now under the direction of the strategic professorial appointment, **Downing**, Professor of French Discourses of Sexuality. Staff in modern languages working in this area have been involved in a number of national and international research projects, networks and workshops funded by the AHRC (**Ross**), the Wellcome Trust (**Downing**), the Institute of Germanic

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and Romance Studies (**Ince**), the Society for French Studies (**Ince**), and ASMCF (**Ince**). Colleagues in this research group have given many invited papers over the REF period in the UK, Europe, Latin America and the USA (**Downing, Ince, Ross, Godsland**) and have organised seven workshops and conferences (**Downing, Ince, Ross**).

### Film and Media Studies

Film Studies and Media is a large and growing research group supported in the period by significant investment at institutional level. A new research centre - **B-Film: The Birmingham Centre for Film Studies** - was established in September 2012 following the appointments of **Stone** and **Marlow-Mann**. The staff working in this area published four monographs and a range of articles and chapters, they also organized and contributed to a wide variety of symposia and conferences. External funding awards for this group included a Major Research Fellowship from the Leverhulme Trust, an AHRC Care for the Future Award in collaboration with The Centre for World Cinemas at the University of Leeds that enabled the inter-institutional Screening European Heritage project, and an AHRC network on Russian-language media (**Rulyova**). Following the establishment of B-Film in 2012, the centre's research strategy has centred upon developing [i] an outward-facing research culture marked by seminar series, mentoring of scholars, funding workshops, screenings and presentations; [ii] a commitment to organising and hosting events conducive to inter-institutional and international collaborations such as the Cine-Excess conference in November 2013, and [iii] externally funded projects with public-facing impact and a range of outputs in traditional and new media, such as the current Leverhulme Trust-funded project on Basque cinema in collaboration with the University of Deusto, and the AHRC-funded Screening European Heritage pilot project in collaboration with the University of Leeds.

### Modernity and Modernism

Research on Modernism and Modernity has focused particularly on developing high-quality work on 'difficult' and marginal material from the Modernist period. High-quality publications have been produced in particular by **Forcer** and **Wagstaff**. Individual research items have been completed as commissions from the UK and the US, and the momentum created by research seminars held in the RAE 2008 period has been sustained through the special issue edited by **Forcer** and **Wagstaff**. **Brook** is co-leading and working with a broad constituency of academics, curators and teachers from the UK, Italy and the US as part of an AHRC-funded networking project *Interdisciplinary Italy*, while **Wagstaff** leads an AHRC-funded network on French poetic practice. **Forcer's** work on Dada has led to invitations to review research from the USA (*Dada/Surrealism*) and to present work at the University of Toronto in 2014 and **Cornick's** work on the *NRF* and Jean Paulhan has been presented at two colloquia at the IMEC archive centre. Staff participate with other disciplines in the institution's Centre for Cultural Modernity. Planned activity in Modernism and Modernity focuses on the consolidation of interrelated successes achieved over the current REF period, particularly: to complement PG-generating UG modules through a specialist PGT pathway feeding through to PGR; to pursue collaborative opportunities for public engagement around the topic of Modernist Birmingham and its connections to Europe and to capitalize on international interest in completed and ongoing research in the area.

### Post-Colonial Studies

Colonial and post-colonial studies have been a growing field in the UoA over the last few years, bolstered by the strategic investment represented by the appointments of **Sèbe** and **Hardwick** and fostered in particular by two networks established in 2010: the 'Francopoco' network within French Studies and the university-wide 'Postcolonial Birmingham' which brings together more than thirty academics working on the topic. The research theme attracted two research council-funded grants (AHRC: £72,000 and EU FP7: £154,840), both of which will continue beyond 2014. External collaboration takes place with a wide range of leading UK institutions in the field, in particular Oxford, Liverpool, Manchester and Lancaster. The Department is building on its strengths in the field of colonial and post-colonial studies, in both research and teaching. The postgraduate provision will be greatly enhanced with the launch of an MA in Colonial and Post-colonial Studies in September 2014.

### Social and Political Qualitative Studies

The staff in this research grouping (**Albertazzi, McDonnell** and **Morris**) have led, or contributed to, projects worth c. £280,000 in the current REF period, funded by Leverhulme, the British

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Academy and the EU. This funding has included facilitating two research fellows at Birmingham, and international researcher exchanges with partners in Italy, Germany and Russia. Group members have written two Think-Tank reports and have given keynote speeches to international conferences in Rome and Helsinki, as well as invited papers at the universities of Belfast, Birmingham, Rome, Paris, London, Seoul, Sydney, Glasgow, Siena, Lisbon and Bologna. Morris has taken a leading role in the Centre for East European Language-Based Area Studies. Notable publications include **Albertazzi's** widely cited work on populism. Group members plan to continue working on populist party organization and membership in Europe and producing ethnographic work focused on 'actually-lived experience' after socialism in Eastern Europe, with four monographs currently at various stages of development. An international conference on Italian politics is being organised by **Albertazzi**, to be hosted in Birmingham in January 2014.

In order to **sustain research excellence**, the UoA's research themes facilitate rather than determine research priorities. Members of staff often contribute to more than one of the groupings. Our research strategy depends on three key elements: the production of high-quality outputs and impact, the recruitment of high-quality staff and postgraduates and the capture of significant research income. These are encouraged by our research structures (principally leadership and mentoring), our research events, and the administrative support provided by the College. The forward-looking **aims of the UoA's research strategy** therefore are:

- to continue to develop our research strengths in all of the research themes via our established national and international networks (including the UoB Sexuality and Gender Network; the Memory Group; B-Film; Postcolonial Birmingham and Francopoco) beyond the life of our research council-funded networks
- to maintain the breadth of our research across a range of languages (by allowing the space for individual and collaborative research)
- to support multi- and interdisciplinary research (including building on our existing, funded networks; collaborating with the Institute of German Studies, now led by **Martin**; and developing new links through strategic partnership with the University of Nottingham)
- to continue to contribute to and define the research themes of CAL and the University (particularly, text and communication; heritage; connected communities; shaping the future)
- to support individuals in meeting the expectations of outputs, funding, and PGR supervision defined in job descriptions and promotion criteria by UoB and CAL (particularly through the informal and formal systems of mentoring)
- to build upon the considerable success in grant capture (by sharing best practice both formally and informally amongst staff).

**c. People, including:**

**i. Staffing strategy and staff development**

The Department's staffing strategy and staff development policy are designed to support its research aims by **targeting prioritised areas, with research excellence as the key criterion for appointment and promotion**. The strategy involves retaining expertise across existing thematic areas of multi- and interdisciplinary strength in French, German, Hispanic, Italian and Russian Studies, while actively seeking to promote the growth of new research areas. Key appointments were made in the period which have both maintained **disciplinary diversity** across the different languages and **strengthened existing areas of research excellence**. Thus, Professorial appointments were made in French/Sexuality and Gender Studies (**Downing**) and Film and Media Studies (**Stone**, initially Hispanic Studies, subsequently Art History, Film and Visual Studies). Two further appointments were made to prestigious, research-focused Birmingham Fellowships (five-year research-focused fellowships with a permanent post attached at the end) in Memory and Exile (**Ryan**, Hispanic Studies, and **Jones**, German Studies and College of Social Sciences). Expansion in Film and Media Studies was supported by the addition of Russian to the UoA (**Rulyova**, **Morris**) and the pro tem appointment of **Marlow Mann**. Investment in other key areas included Post-Colonial Studies (**Sèbe**, **Hardwick**, both French) and Translation (**Brown**, German/Translation Studies). Existing strengths across a range of periods, languages and cultural manifestations in Text Production Past and Present were reinforced by the appointment of **Kershaw** (French), while the arrival of **Morris** (Russian) reinforces interdisciplinary links in the area of Social and Political Qualitative Studies. External funding was also secured for a number of posts. The UoA's unique strengths in the non-Castilian languages of Spain now include a research component: **Marcser's**

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post in Catalan Studies is part-funded by the Generalitat and the posts funded by the Xunta de Galicia (Galician) and the Etxepare Institute (Basque), while aimed principally at language teaching, also fund research-related activities such as colloquia, lectures and an annual film season. As a result of the staffing and research strategies, the institution is able to appoint the best people, while due account is taken of the necessity to maintain a balance of staff between the language areas. The UoA in 2013 consists of eight professors, four readers, ten senior lecturers and fifteen lecturers.

**Structure, research leadership and mentoring:** In order to maintain an appropriate level of research leadership and mentoring, research in Modern Languages is managed overall by the Research Lead, aided by a research committee comprising one research lead for each language. The Department Research Lead has overall responsibility for the REF, for research strategy and funding bids and is advised by the language leads who will provide direct research leadership and guidance to research-active staff in the respective languages. **Formal mentoring** of colleagues by the language research leads takes place on a rolling basis. Research leads in the individual languages hold annual meetings with all members of staff. These meetings are formal and a record is kept of them. Each meeting addresses research activities and plans under the headings of **outputs, funding bids and impact**. The research leads meet with the Department Research Lead to compile a coherent overview of research in the UoA, which is used for research strategy and planning. The discussion of research cycles for individuals emerges from this process of mentoring and informs (and is informed by) the UoA's strategy for 2020. **Informal mentoring** takes place at School level. A list of mentors is circulated to all staff who are encouraged to contact mentors informally in order to discuss research plans and activities. In addition to such formal and informal mentoring, all members of staff participate in the institution-wide annual Staff Development Review scheme. Plans and progress in all areas (Research, Teaching and Administration) are discussed and developed in these fora. The research of new, early career members of staff is mentored as part of the University's probation scheme. Probationary staff taking the Postgraduate Certificate in Academic Practice are offered a module in research leadership. The University was awarded the HR Excellence in Research accreditation in September 2011 and continues to work towards full implementation of its Concordat action plan by September 2013. The University provides both an integrated leadership programme for researcher-academics at all stages from experienced contract research staff to senior academic leaders, and recurrent central funding to maintain development provision for researchers. Staff are supported in identifying development opportunities relevant to their career and research plans by their research mentors, their SDR/PDR reviewers and by the directors of research. CAL operates a Workload Allocation Model which guarantees all research active staff credit for their research activities and aims for an equitable distribution of roles. Early career staff are protected from onerous administrative responsibilities and are given a lighter teaching load. In addition, Birmingham Fellows (**Jones, Ryan**) are mentored through an accelerated research programme, and AHRC Early Career Fellows (**Ross, Sayner**) benefited from an additional layer of mentoring. Promotions, which are awarded in open competitions, are governed by clear University criteria and procedures. The UoA has an excellent promotions record over the assessment period: three members of staff were promoted to Reader and six to Senior Lecturer.

**Equality and Diversity:** All staff in the UoA have been trained in the principles and importance of valuing diversity in the workplace. Activities to address under-representation of particular groups include encouraging and supporting staff to apply for promotion. Timetabling of research seminars in the UoA is kept under review and adjusted to accommodate those with caring responsibilities. Gender distribution is almost even among UoA staff, and at least eight nationalities and a range of ethnic minorities are represented. Both genders are represented on appointments and promotions panels. Workload allocation is transparent and designed to be equitable, allocating adequate resource, *inter alia*, for research activity. The introduction of the Workload Allocation Model is designed to give equal weighting to activities whose contribution is equal. Equality data for promotions and appointments is monitored by HR.

## ii. Research students

### • Integration and Preparation

Postgraduate researchers (PGRs) in the UoA are encouraged to attend, and to present papers at,

the regular research seminar series organised each year by each language unit. The new Department of ML (DoML) has co-ordinated seminar activity and in 2012 it launched a series of Modern Languages seminars, with high-profile invited speakers, which dovetail with the UoA's research themes. A School-wide postgraduate forum was established in 2009. It is run by PGRs, who organise their own research workshops and seminars, at which they can present their research to fellow students and staff. Arts and Humanities PGRs are supported by the College of Arts and Law Graduate School which ensures that CAL PGRs have access to funding for peer-led development (e.g. PG conferences, online journals and seminar series) and career development opportunities such as teaching.

For three of the past five years, PGRs in DoML have chaired the University's Graduate Centre for Europe (GCfE), a cross-disciplinary initiative led by PGRs from three Colleges (Arts and Law, Life and Environmental Sciences, Social Sciences) and overseen by **Martin**. GCfE brings together the research expertise of PGRs and staff across the University on Europe-related matters (past and present), provides an intellectual and social forum for the exchange of ideas on Europe between PGRs, promotes the acquisition of transferable skills related to the organisation and management of research activity, and facilitates collaborative, PGR-led research-based activities across the University. Since 2007, GCfE has organised an annual international conference, attracting 70-80 PGR delegates. It also organises a programme of seminars and lectures by distinguished visiting speakers and publishes the online *Birmingham Journal for Europe*.

Integration in other University-wide, cross-disciplinary research networks linked to our research themes, and in which PGRs in DoML are actively involved, include ROLES and the Memory Group. ROLES is a sexuality and gender forum run by PGRs and affiliated to the Research Network for Sexuality and Gender Studies directed by **Downing**. In 2012-13 the network was led by three ML PGRs, who organised the third annual Interdisciplinary Sexuality and Gender Postgraduate Colloquium. In addition, ML PGRs run a Sexuality and Gender Studies seminar series each semester. PGRs are also firmly integrated into the research of the University-wide Memory Group, which is co-ordinated by **Sayner**, assisted by five ML PGRs. Since 2010 a series of more local Memory Workshops has been organised at which both academic staff and PGRs have presented their work. Further evidence of PGR integration into Memory Studies in the UoA is the PhD studentship supported as part of a DAAD-funded memory project (run by **Jones**, totalling £53,500) and the organisation of, and support for, PGR conferences totalling £43,179 (**Sayner**, **Jones**). Linked to our work on modernity and modernism, a rare symposium for UK postgraduates working on the European avant-garde was organised by **Forcer**, and led to an invitation to join the Réseau-F consortium of UK PhD students in French Studies.

- **Recruitment**

The language units in the UoA secured a total of eleven doctoral studentships in the first round of the AHRC Block Grant Partnership (2009-10 to 2013-14). These are set to expand given the highly successful outcome of Birmingham's BGP2 bid ('Midlands Three Cities consortium': ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> in the UK) worth £14.6million, which will receive 100% matched-funding from the College. In addition, PhD students in DoML have secured scholarship funding from CAL, Birmingham University, charitable foundations or overseas governments. Since 2008-09 26 PhD students have graduated in DoML (four in 2009, seven in 2010, three in 2011, eight in 2012, and four in 2013 to date). AHRC and School awards have allowed for two doctoral projects and three M-level research dissertations since 2008, in a range of new areas for the Department, and which have all been developed from specialist undergraduate teaching. In order to address issues of **equality and diversity**, all postgraduate scholarships are publicly advertised. The UoA follows the University's codes of practice on recruitment and selection, which explicitly highlight the need to consider equal opportunities issues. Gender issues are taken into account in vivas and at interview panels.

- **Monitoring and Support for Successful Completion**

All PGR students in the UoA are assigned to either one supervisor or, as is increasingly the case, two co-supervisors with expertise in the PGR's research area. In addition an Academic Advisor and a Mentor are appointed for each PGR student. The Academic Advisor provides academic support to complement that provided by supervisors. The Advisor meets the PGR once per term, which enables the PGR to discuss issues relating to their work in general and to long-term plans and career development. The Mentor offers non-academic support, having a role roughly analogous to that of a personal tutor to UG students. The Mentor can provide links to financial, emotional and practical support services available to students. These three levels of support for

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PGRs are designed to minimise the possibility that research students will encounter difficulties that they cannot resolve and thereby to assist timely and successful completion of doctoral work. At DoML level, the progress of PGRs is monitored at each supervision (held every 4-6 weeks for full-time students, in accordance with University guidelines), and progress is recorded in a supervision record form. Progress is also monitored by the CAL Graduate School. As part of the first-year progress review, the student submits a draft chapter and thesis outline, which are evaluated by an independent reader (who is not the supervisor). The PGR's draft chapter, thesis outline and general progress are then discussed at a Progress Panel interview, which also allows the PGR to provide feedback on the quality of their supervision and general experience as a PG student at Birmingham. Where the Progress Panel has concerns, the PGR agrees an action plan and is invited to a further panel within six months of the first. Towards the end of each subsequent year of doctoral research, every PGR meets with their supervisor(s) for a formal progress review meeting, the outcomes of which are reported to the Graduate School. Where cause for concern is flagged by either party the PGR is invited to discuss their progress with the Progress Panel.

- **Skills Development and Career Preparation**

At the beginning of each year of their registration, all PGRs in the UoA complete, with the help of their lead supervisor, a reflective Development Needs Analysis (DNA), which is submitted to the CAL Graduate School. The DNA form includes a short personal development plan and links to opportunities at UoB to develop PGRs' research, organisational, communication and management skills. PGRs' skills development needs identified in the DNA process can invariably be met by the high-quality development support opportunities available through the University Graduate School (UGS) and its training partners, the Careers Network, and the Centre for Learning and Academic Development, and Employability. The UGS provides workshops and resources in core skills areas such as academic writing, presentation skills and project management and it also organises Research Exhibitions and Poster Conferences. ML PGRs also have access to online resources such as Doctoral Researchers' Essentials (an online induction package for PGRs in the first six months of PhD research) and development toolkits aimed at specific PGR groups such as part-time researchers. PGRs in ML are actively encouraged to apply for internal (Graduate School) and external funding to enable them to deliver papers at conferences both in the UK and abroad.

#### **d. Income, infrastructure and facilities**

The strategic aim of encouraging research funding applications was realised by the creation of appropriate organisational infrastructure and investment in dynamic new appointments (e.g. **Stone, Downing, Sèbe, Hardwick, Jones, Ryan**). Since 2008 the UoA has generated a high level of research income (ca. £1m) across a range of disciplines, greatly exceeding the number and value of successful applications prior to 2001. Additional awards include **Ward's** AHRC funded project (£556k) for electronic editing of medieval texts (which involves collaboration with the University's world-leading Institute for Textual Scholarship and Electronic Editing), four AHRC networking grants (**Wagstaff, Brook, Sayner** and **Rulyova**) and various Leverhume, AHRC and EU FP7 fellowships (most notably **Kershaw** and **Hardwick**). Successful income generation from a range of public and private sources contributed to **Caesar's** Zibaldone project. Further testament to the lively research environment and research support structures is provided by the awards made under the AHRC 'Care for the Future' theme: of 16 pilot grants made nationally, two were awarded to staff at the UoA. Within the University, the UoA benefited from awards made by the North America Travel Fund.

**Scholarly infrastructure** consists first and foremost of an extensive library which is one of the largest academic collections of its type in the country, comprising over 2.7 million items, over 50,000 scholarly journals and access to 275,000 e-books. The maintenance of the collection is assured by members of academic staff in each of the language areas who, in consultation with academic colleagues and professional librarians are responsible for an annual acquisitions budget of approximately £67k (not including the periodicals budget). Further funding within the library is also available for exceptional items. The Collection Development Team manages the purchase of and access to a wide range of information resources, which can be found and used via <http://findit.bham.ac.uk/>. In addition, Library Services provides formal training in information skills to make best use of information resources, and also on topics such as 'Raising Your Research Profile'. Subject Advisors offer information clinics to research staff and students, on request. All new research staff receive an invitation when they join the University. Subject Advisors assist

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researchers with systematic reviews through one-to-one bespoke training on relevant databases, and in organizing results using reference management software. The Copyright Officer advises on the use of images etc. in work for publication.

With regard to **organisational infrastructure**, research support is guaranteed primarily by the College of Arts and Law (CAL) **Research and Knowledge Transfer (RKT) Office**, which was established in 2009 with 2.35 staff, and has grown to 4.9 fte currently. The remit of the office was re-aligned in October 2011, to include the provision of support for impact for REF 2014 and embedding impact in research, and to provide full and comprehensive support for all aspects of grant application development and post-award support. The RKT Office supports the development of external funding for research, and co-ordinates all research support in the College. It also advises staff on applications to the CAL **RKT Fund**. The £35k per annum fund, which comprises three rounds of competition per year, supports larger projects, new strategic initiatives and impact activities. Staff can also bid for monies from a £100k Special Research Fund. In addition, staff can apply at three points in the year to a **School Research Fund** of approximately £30k per annum. This serves to support activities which are not covered by the RKT fund, principally attendance at conferences. A University-wide initiative, the **Institute of Advanced Studies**, provides further funding opportunities for exploratory workshops, and funding for emerging themes selected by the University. Of the six workshops which the IAS has funded in CAL, three have been in Modern Languages. CAL provides the opportunity to apply for a period of fully paid institutional leave (**Study Leave**), normally of one semester's duration, when six semesters of normal teaching and administrative duties have been completed. Recipients are encouraged to use periods of study leave to complete substantial research outputs and to start new projects, including identifying and applying for funding. In the assessment period members of the UoA benefited from a total of 44 semesters of study leave. These structures support the production of high-quality impact and outputs which reflect and build upon the themes identified above.

In terms of **operational infrastructure**, most of the UoA is housed on a single bespoke site (Ashley Building), something which in itself has promoted a greater degree of collaboration across the languages. All research-active staff are guaranteed an office with workspace and computing facilities (including wifi and off-campus access to university computing facilities). Specific requests for particular research projects are found accommodation elsewhere on campus as appropriate (e.g. **Ward's** project room in the ERI building chosen to allow collaboration with ITSEE).

It is the responsibility of the Head of College to agree annually with the relevant Head of School and subsequently maintain an appropriate balance between the various infrastructure aspects described above. Due regard is given to School and Departmental aspirations, the over-arching College research strategy and external environmental factors (such as funder priorities) in determining this balance.

#### **e. Collaboration or contribution to the discipline or research base**

Members of the UoA organised **13 major conferences, 38 colloquia, workshops, and seminars, and one exhibition**. Of particular note in this regard are **Lough's** 'Spanish Republican Exile Geographies' (2008), **Martin's** 'Aftermath' conference (2010), **Brown and Kershaw's** Translations Studies Research Fora (2009, 2012) and **Jones'** 'Remembering Dictatorships' conference (2011). Staff gave **67 invited lectures and keynotes** worldwide.

Staff in the UoA continue to lead many **national and international collaborations**. Of particular note are the collaborations between academics and non-academics which have arisen from our success in attracting research grants (some of those funded by the AHRC include project partners in Denmark, Spain, Turkey and Finland) (**Stone**); in the UK, USA and Brazil (**Rulyova**); in the US, UK and Italy (**Brook**); in France and the UK (**Wagstaff**). The DAAD-funded Zeitgeist project (**Sayner, Jones**) involved 42 invited speakers from the USA, Germany and UK. Other major collaborative projects include **Ross's** work on dissident sexualities across genres and borders, **James's** work on the cultural history of Cubans in South Spain, and **Downing's** collaboration with SUNY on interrogating the concept of sexual consent in UK, US, and European culture, law, and subcultures. Staff have also produced journal special issues, monographs and edited volumes in collaboration, including **Forcer** and **Wagstaff** on the French avant-garde with Nottingham University, **Ince** on filmology, with partners in Frankfurt and Zurich; **Martin** on Schiller, with co-editors at California State University and in Bonn; **Sèbe** on 'echoes of empire' with partners in

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Oxford and Kazakhstan; **Haskins Gonthier's** critical edition of Voltaire's complete works with colleagues from UK, Ireland, France, Italy, Belgium and Germany; **Kershaw** and **Cornick** on 'totalitarian temptations' with Bristol.

**Prestigious fellowships** won include: Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Palmes académiques, FRSA (**Cornick**); Associate Research Professor in Communication Sciences at University of Deusto, Spain (**Stone**); Senior Fellowship, Alfried Krupp Wissenschaftskolleg Greifswald (2010-2011) (**Dodd**); Visiting Cardin Chair in the Humanities, Loyola University Maryland (2011-12) (**Martin**).

Nine members of staff served on the **AHRC peer review college** during the REF period. In addition, staff served on a variety of **national and international government and funding institutions**, such as The National Agency for the Evaluation of Universities and Research Institutes (ANVUR) of the Italian Ministry of Universities and Research, Leverhulme Trust, GACR: The Czech Science Foundation, and the The Qatar National Research Fund (for applications in the field of the Arts, History of Arts, Performing Arts and Music).

Members of the Department fulfilled **advisory positions for a number of institutions**, including the University of Surrey, Queen Mary University, London and Birkbeck. Members of the UoA have served as external assessors at the University of Lancaster and the University of Leicester, and for research-based promotions to Reader and Professor at Exeter, Royal Holloway and Hawaii at Manoa. Nine members of staff acted as **HEI consultants** for 20 institutions.

Twelve members of staff took **leading roles in professional subject associations and learned societies**, including: the Society for Italian Studies; Italian Politics Specialist Group of the UK Political Studies Association; the UK Society for French Studies; the Association of University Professors and Heads of French; the Organisation Internationale des Peuples Créoles; the Federació Internacional d'Associacions de Catalànica; the British Association for Slavonic and East European Studies; and the British Association of Film, Television and Screen Studies.

Staff were on the **editorial boards of 28 language-specific and interdisciplinary journals** including: *Italian Culture*; *Rivista internazionale di studi leopardiani*, *Psychology and Sexuality*, *Fabula-Littérature Histoire Théorie (Fabula-LHT)*, *Studies in European Cinema*, *Studies in French Cinema*; *Journal of European Studies* and *Journal of Medieval Iberian Studies*, *Publications of the English Goethe Society*, *Forum for Modern Language Studies*, *Journal of War and Culture Studies*, *German Life and Letters*, *Studia Theodisca*, *Studia Austriaca*.

Eleven colleagues acted as **external examiners for 21 universities in the UK and abroad**, including: Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, St Andrews, University of Oxford, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand, The University of the West Indies, University of Melbourne, University of Sheffield, University of Edinburgh, University College London, University of Manchester and University of Exeter.

Staff have worked as **reviewers for 24 international publishers**, including: Toronto UP, Manchester UP, Oxford UP, Blackwell, Palgrave, Lexington, Pearson, BFI Cambridge UP, Berg Press, Continuum, IB Tauris, Bucknell UP USA, Intellect, Routledge, Liverpool UP, MHRA, The University of the West Indies Press, Acumen Publishing, Athlone Press, Yale UP, Camden House. A total of twenty-seven staff have acted as **reviewers for 90 international journals**. These include *Forum for Modern Language Studies*, *Modern Language Review*, *Government and Opposition*, *West European Politics*, *Political Studies*, *Modern Italy*, *The Journal of Modern Italian Studies*, *Journal of Contemporary European Studies*, *Interventions*, *Romance Studies*, *Gender Studies*, *Dada/Surrealism*, *Studies in French Cinema*, *French Studies*, *Nottingham French Studies*; *New Formations*, *French Cultural Studies*, *Romance Studies*, *Journal of History of Sexuality*, *Sexuality and Culture*, *Victorian Studies*, *Psychology and Sexuality*, *Hypatia*, *Modern and Contemporary France*; *Bulletin of Hispanic Studies*, *New Cinemas*, *Hispanic Research Journal*, *Journal of Latin American Studies*, *International Journal of Iberian Studies*, *Studies in European Cinemas*, *Studies in Hispanic Cinemas*, *New Cinemas*, *Tesserae*, *Journal of War and Culture Studies*; *Confluencia*, *Hispania*, *Symposium*, *Bulletin of Spanish Studies*; *Medium Aevum*; *Germanistik*, *Journal of Modern Jewish Studies*, *German Life and Letters*, *Studia Theodisca*, *Studia Austriaca*; *Europe-Asia Studies*, *Critical Discourse Studies*, *Digital Icons: Studies in Russian*, *Eurasian*, *East European New Media*.