

Institution: Edge Hill University
Unit of Assessment: 29 - English Language and Literature
<p>a. Overview</p> <p>The English group at Edge Hill University (EHU) is a diverse team which has expanded substantially since RAE 2008, reflecting institutional confidence and investment. The group includes both experienced and new researchers, ensuring that the team has the benefits of guidance and mentoring from senior colleagues and the capability to develop long-term plans. There are 16 (13.9 FTE) active researchers in this submission. Of these, seven members of staff work in English Literature (5.7 FTE), five in English Language (4.2 FTE), four in Creative Writing (4.0 FTE). Staff contributing literary and cultural research are: Brabon, Bradshaw, Brindle, Hughes-Edwards, Hurst, Talbot and Vuohelainen. Staff contributing linguistic research are: Burbano Elizondo, Daleszynska, Gabrielatos, Grant and Shoba. Staff contributing creative writing and related scholarship are: Cox, Glass, Pantano and Sheppard.</p> <p>The merger of the Departments of English and History in 2007 brought together two strong research cultures, and the combined Department now submits to both UoAs D29 and D30. The subject areas have complementary research interests and there is considerable potential for interdisciplinary collaboration, e.g. in ethnicity and gender studies, popular culture, and Victorian studies. This reflects a cultural commitment to inter- and multi-disciplinary research activity among the English team, which is also reflected by its range of PGR supervision.</p> <p>The English group at EHU seeks to learn from past evaluations, to consolidate and build on notable strengths, and to initiate new activities which will further diversify the subject and build international reputations. Our research ranges from original poems and stories, to literary criticism and cultural theory, to ethnographic language studies and computer-assisted linguistic analysis. Striving for excellence in all areas therefore entails the celebration of diversity in 'English studies', and a commitment not only to pure subject specialisation, but also to the interdisciplinary work which challenges traditional boundaries. Belief in diversity and innovation will lead English at EHU to seek international recognition, and to engage public awareness. Education and communication are also essential to our vision for English research: constantly refreshing the research-informed curricula of all our UG and PG degree programmes, and engaging public audiences for the exchange of new knowledge. Creative Writing, in particular, has a distinctive history at Edge Hill, and the current team (which includes Cowan and Wiltshire) between them edit four peer-reviewed international journals, making their contribution a significant one in terms of shaping the discipline and our the department's principal route to extra-mural impact.</p> <p>b. Research strategy</p> <p>The outcome of the 2008 submission, although showing considerable progress since RAE 2001, indicated a need for further expansion and improvement. Research capacity has duly increased since RAE 2008: there has been a substantial turnover of establishment staff, and an all-round expansion of the research-active team. Of the sixteen researchers presented in this submission, Bradshaw (professor), Brindle (ECR), Daleszynska (ECR), Gabrielatos (senior lecturer), Glass (senior lecturer), Hurst (ECR), Pantano (reader) and Talbot (professor) have all joined the University since January 2008. Film Studies research (included in the English submission to RAE2008) has been relocated to UoA 36; were it not for this, the English submission would have increased even more. The range of work submitted for REF 2014 is consequently broader and more diverse, with notably increased strength in international linguistics, Romanticism, and creative practice. Twenty PhD students are currently registered in English studies, and five have submitted PhD theses during the period 2008-13. This expansion is part of the University's strategy to transform itself from a teaching-led institution, noted for the excellence of its teaching and its performance in the National Student Survey, to one that is to be known for excellence in both teaching and research.</p> <p>The Unit's research strategy was reviewed following RAE 2008, and two broad priorities emerged; these were to increase the quality and volume of research outputs, and to develop and deepen the research culture of the Department by exercising external networks in selected areas of research strength, especially with regard to imaginative writing. The Department aims to consolidate a culture that supports research activity across language and linguistics, literary and cultural study, and creative writing. It also seeks to strengthen the relationship between research activity and the quality of teaching in order to sustain research-informed curricula at all levels. Members of the English team are expected to be active on all fronts – to generate peer-reviewed</p>

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publications in all recognised media, to organise and participate in international-standard conferences and cultural events such as literary competitions, and other forms of public engagement such as talks at cultural venues, radio and television broadcasts.

To put this strategy into effect we have reviewed our appointments procedure to make sure that research activity or potential were high on the list of priorities for the filling of vacant or new posts. This has been followed through in the appointments made which include those mentioned above but also Wiltshire and Cowan (both Creative Writers), who are not included in this submission though their research careers are progressing in a way that makes us confident they will make valuable future contributions.

The principal strategic objectives of the Department are to increase the quantity and quality of individuals' outputs; to improve the public engagement value of projects; to increase the number of PhD registrations and completions; and to engage effectively with external audiences. All new staff appointments since 2008 have made research an indispensable priority. While maintaining breadth in the curriculum, recent appointments have also targeted areas of existing research strength: language and identity; international language contact; Romanticism; contemporary literature; sexuality and gender theories; popular culture, fantasy and Gothic; non-canonical literature; and linguistically innovative poetry.

The postgraduate community is another key area of development. The Department has recently appointed an Associate Head of Department (Research & Postgraduate), who plays a leading role in research strategy and mentoring, and in developing a closer working relationship with the Graduate School (established in 2010, two years after Edge Hill received its own research-degree awarding powers) in order to improve support for PGR students. In 2012 the Department validated a new Masters by Research programme, to complement a thriving MA portfolio, offer new opportunities to students, and build supervisory experience. There are named MRes. awards in all major subject areas, and seven current registrations. The MRes. will increase through-put from BA to PhD in the Department. Students of both taught and research Masters programmes are introduced to the research culture of the Department, have opportunities to present work in progress at supportive research fora, and are encouraged to begin some conference activity.

There are several recognisable strength areas within the English team, but the range and diversity of work militates against presenting this submission primarily in terms of 'Research Groups'. Four members of staff (**Brabon, Bradshaw, Hurst, Van-Hagen**) produce research on Romantic / 'long eighteenth century' studies, and co-ordinate the seminar series Romanticism at Edge Hill. **Daleszynska** and **Gabrielatos** collaborate with colleagues in History, Media, and Social Sciences to run the 'Ethnicity, Race and Racism' research group, which hosted a symposium on diaspora and refugee communities in 2012, will hold a symposium on the future of postcolonial studies in 2013, and plans an international conference in 2014. **Brabon, Brindle, and Hughes-Edwards** produce research on gender and sexuality: the university's interdisciplinary Gender and Sexuality Research Group, set up in 2007, is co-ordinated by **Hughes-Edwards**, and hosts external speakers from a wide range of disciplines including education and psychology, as well as literary and cultural studies, and history. The Poetry and Poetics Research Group is co-ordinated by **Pantano** and **Sheppard**, and hosts prestigious external speakers (e.g., Billy Collins, Carol-Ann Duffy), as well as advanced subject discussion for scholars and practitioners. The group edits two journals and **Sheppard**, in particular, has carved out a distinctive niche for himself as an innovative poet and performer of his poems. The Narrative Research Group, co-ordinated by **Cox** and **Glass**, is a forum for professional writers in the region, as well as staff and PG students. **Cox** is the driving force behind the Edge Hill Short Story Prize which is now well-established in the UK's cultural calendar. This group also edits two journals. Cowan and Wiltshire work closely with fellow dramatic writers (e.g., Newall) in the Department of Performing Arts (UoA 35).

The emerging research clusters described above will form the foci for collaborative projects, including conference organisation (for which see the 'Contribution to the Discipline' section below), applications for funding, and attracting PGR students for team supervision.

c. People, including:

i. Staffing strategy and staff development: There are currently three professors and four readers among the extended English team. Several members of the team occupy managerial roles: **Bradshaw** is Head of Department; **Talbot** is PVC (Research) and Dean of the Faculty of Arts & Sciences; **Pantano, Sheppard, and Vuohelainen** occupy the senior administrative role of Programme Leader. Of Category A staff returned in this submission, only **Brindle, Hurst, and**

Daleszynska qualify as early career researchers. There are several other early-career colleagues, including some working on fractional contracts, who are not yet ready for submission to the REF, but are building capacity for 2020. All applicants for permanent positions are assessed for their research productivity and potential.

All researchers in the university have access to the Research Capacity Building programme, which organises themed events to develop knowledge and confidence in submitting material for peer review and publication, applying for external funding etc., with workshops on writing for publication, identifying funders etc., and are encouraged to apply for support for specific projects to the university's Research Investment Fund (RIF). More experienced researchers may apply for an annual round of promotions to professor or reader, addressing the advertised criteria. During 2013-14 **Glass** has the benefit of a University-funded sabbatical in order to work on his new novel, demonstrating institutional confidence in the work of our imaginative writers.

EHU is committed to supporting people to develop as researchers, and is fully committed to equal opportunities both in its recruitment processes and through training and development. Staff who disclose disabilities are provided with support to enable them to progress their research careers, and can approach the Government's Access to Work scheme for funding and equipment. The University has been awarded the Disability 'Two Ticks' mark, which guarantees an interview to all applicants who disclose a disability, provided that they meet the essential criteria for the post. In keeping with our commitments to the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers we provide a comprehensive range of training opportunities through the RCB programme. The RCB is mapped on to Vitae's Researcher Development Framework (RDF) with workshops designed to align with the RDF domains and guidance on how to access other support to address the areas identified in the RDF. It includes sessions on writing for publication, developing your career, bid writing, methodology and data analysis tools, plus workshops on the 'digital researcher'. The RCB is also open to PGR students, who are encouraged to integrate its sessions into their programmes of training. The University has been awarded the liP Leadership and Management Gold Award, liP Health & Wellbeing Award, and nominated for a number of national awards for our wellbeing provision, reflecting our commitment to staff welfare in its broadest terms. Three researchers and about half of all current PGR students in English studies are registered part-time, and are supported to study flexibly while managing other professional and life commitments.

Newly-appointed and early career researchers are supported by a combination of these centrally co-ordinated resources, and more subject-specific mentoring within the Department. The English team is well equipped with research leadership: there is at least one professor or reader in all the main sub-disciplines of the team. The Associate Head of Department (Research & Postgraduate), the Historian Dr Alyson Brown, disseminates information about funding, and keeps the teams up to date with institutional and national issues. The professors and readers provide advice on funding opportunities, and ensure that research activities and publications are aligned with a Departmental Research Strategy, and monitored in an annual development plan; they also support researchers to develop public engagement value from their ongoing projects. All research-active staff complete an individual research plan as part of their Annual Academic Return, with short- and long-term objectives: progress against these objectives is monitored through the annual appraisal process. Each member of staff has an opportunity to discuss the support for her/his research, including the resources required, and to agree their personal development needs and objectives. There is also a research mentoring database where individuals can search for professors and readers with relevant experience to help them with their projects and personal development. This mentoring is initiated by the researcher and focuses on specific issues related to a research project from initial proposal to publication.

The University has applied for an Athena Swan Bronze award. Women are well represented in recent appointments and make up 50 per cent of the submission. We recognise, however, that women are underrepresented at senior levels. To address this we are providing extended mentorship for those colleagues who wish it and the leaders of the research groups will actively monitor progress of ECRs to ensure that they are able to reach their full potential. Various sources suggest that women planning or returning from maternity leave can find the opportunities diminished or the work-life balance more challenging. We will address this by phasing in women's return after maternity leave by reducing administrative tasks and teaching for the first six months.

Additionally, we recognise that our profile contains a significant number of ECRs (not all of

them included in the submission) and that it is vital that we give them adequate support to enable them to excel equally in research and teaching. ECRs are given reduced administrative and teaching loads in the first year and are given priority with internal research support funds. They are mentored by senior staff and encouraged to participate in collaborative projects to help support them. Those who are immediately post-doctoral produce research plans to identify how they will generate quality outputs from their PhDs and to support them in creating a continuation strategy. To provide additional support and recognising the growth in ECR numbers across many disciplines, the faculty is to introduce an ECR forum to be coordinated by an ECR who has been in post for two years. The role of the forum is to provide a place for mutual support regarding all aspects of academic life. Senior staff will participate and offer assistance as invited: for example, to give workshops and surgeries on University systems and processes so that the ECRs are aware of all the resources they can access. This forum is in addition to the formal induction process and participation is voluntary. The majority of ECRs at Edge Hill are on permanent contracts which allows for improved research planning and both formal (appraisals, AAR) and informal structures (mentoring, ECR forum) are there to aid professional development without the threat of interruptions to contracts. **Brabon** and **Hughes-Edwards** are both examples of staff who joined Edge Hill as ECRs (pre-RAE 2008 in both cases) and who have since progressed to Readerships.

ii. Research students: Research students undergo a *viva voce* examination with an external examiner to transfer from MPhil. to PhD. which mirrors the final examination and offers the students vital experience. There are currently twenty registered research students in the English subject group. All research students undertake a formal induction and training programme, and their progress is monitored and supported by the supervisory team and the Graduate School Board of Studies. Research students in English are part of a postgraduate community that includes the four MA programmes in Creative Writing, English, History and Culture, and Popular Culture, and the MRes. programme. Several students are working on creative/critical projects, with co-supervision from various subject areas. Creative Writing postgraduate students contribute to the Poetry and Poetics Research Group and/or Narrative Research Group, which both have regular programmes of visiting writers and theorists. There is also a programme of visiting writers to the University's Rose Theatre, where PhD students frequently share the platform with the guest speakers, giving them experience of audience reaction to their work in progress. All research students are expected to give a paper at least once a year on their research at either one of the Writing Research groups, the Postgraduate Research Forum, the English Research Forum, or the Gender and Sexuality Research Group. There are departmental research workshops in which staff and students can discuss their experience regarding such topics as writing applications for funding, writing book proposals, and turning ideas and research into publications. Registrations, transfers, and award examinations are co-ordinated by the Graduate School. The Graduate School was established in 2010 to co-ordinate the central training of PGR students and the appointment and training of all PGR supervisors with a two-year rolling training programme. PGR students have a dedicated study room with its own suite of computers, access to printing facilities and presentation equipment. All doctoral students are expected to participate in conferences and seminars held at the University, and there is a competitive bursary scheme to support external conference paper presentations

Improving the registration, progression, and completion of research students is among the highest priorities for the English team. Until recently all research students in English were registered part-time because they were self-funding. This inevitably militated against the fast completion of theses. Support for PGR has improved significantly. In 2012 the Faculty made the strategic decision to introduce an annual fully-funded, competitive Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA) scheme. So far this has seen the recruitment of 12 GTAs per year (2012 and 2013, with a commitment to at least three more intakes), and it will shift the balance from part-time to full-time registrations, in order to make completions faster and more numerous in the near future, with the first GTAs due to graduate in 2015-16. The GTA scheme will change the profile of postgraduate research at EHU, and will create a vibrant PRG community. Track record in prompt completions will enable us to make a credible bid for AHRC funding in the next competition. Supervisors in English aim to attract at least one GTA per year in this time. Other strategies to grow the PGR community while also promoting full-time study have included advertising fee-waiver bursaries in specific areas of good supervisory capacity. Three PhD projects are associated with **Shoba's** British Academy-funded project on Ghanaian English, co-supervised at Edge Hill and registered

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at the University of Ghana. Securing fully funded, full-time registrations is the key to the faster completion of doctoral projects and the English team continues to explore every possible means of achieving this.

Although there is only one official PhD completion in this submission, five PGR students have completed their doctorates – two remaining on Lancaster regulations, having been supervised and examined at EHU, and two having had their *vivas* in summer 2013, just too late for the REF census date. In February 2010 Carol Fenlon was awarded her PhD, having written her thesis under the guidance of **Cox** and **Sheppard**. The English team thus achieved the first 'Edge Hill PhD', since the university was awarded its Research Degree Awarding Powers in 2008. In September 2013, PhD candidate Carys Bray has won a six-figure book deal with Cornerstone publishers for her first novel, evidence of the high calibre of our research students.

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

The capture of external grants from funding councils and other bodies is a priority for the English group. The mentoring of less experienced staff to make stronger external applications has been identified as a strategic necessity. Within the Department, external bids are supported by informal mentoring; there is more structured support from the University, in the form of the Peer Review College, which provides feedback to improve draft applications. **Talbot** is a strategic reviewer for and a member of the AHRC Peer Review College, as well as chair of the University Research Committee. In addition to approaching the major funding councils, researchers are also encouraged to engage with strategic initiatives and more targeted grant-making bodies: mentors with specific subject expertise guide colleagues towards specialist funding, in order not to be totally reliant on the oversubscribed funding councils. Research mentoring and academic appraisal continue to prioritise external applications, and some progress has been made since the 2008 RAE; further increases are expected beyond 2013. A number of external grants have been awarded during the present reporting period, for example: **Shoba** won £29,975 from the British Academy UK-Africa Partnership for 'Language Practices and Values Among Young People in Ghana' (external collaborators: University of Ghana and University of Education Winneba, Ghana); **Glass** won £6,000 from Arts Council England for overseas travel to research his new novel about south American politics; **Talbot** won £3,120 from the BA Small Grant scheme to prepare an edition of Irma Brandeis's stories; **Vuohelainen** won £3,468 from the BA Small Grant scheme for an editing project on Richard Marsh; and **Hughes-Edwards** won £2,000 from the BA Small Grant scheme to fund permission to use copyright material in her ongoing monograph project on the poetry of Carol Ann Duffy. A total of c. £50,000 in external research income has been secured. Sixteen members of staff have been awarded competitive internal funding for projects in the current review period, from the University's Research Investment Fund, of which the English section is one of the largest beneficiaries. Strategies to increase external income post-2014 include the construction of interdisciplinary projects between subject areas, using the facilitating framework of the Institute for Creative Enterprise (see below).

Research strategy is overseen by the University Research Committee (URC) and its Research Ethics Sub-committee. Each Faculty has its own Research Committee and Research Ethics Sub-committee which reports to the URC. A recently restructured Research and Enterprise Support Office (RESO) assists staff with external funding bids and manages central funds. Additionally it co-ordinates the RCB programme and the mentoring and peer review systems. The REF Steering Group oversees the distribution of internal funds and monitors the progress towards publication or other successful outcome. Staff research activity is monitored via Annual Academic Returns which are reviewed by the Head of Department, Dean, and Director of the RESO. English staff access the Research Investment Fund for a variety of purposes, including remission from teaching, travel and subsistence in order to use archives, and funding research assistants for the development of Impact case studies.

Research activity in the creative industries is promoted through the newly-established Institute for Creative Enterprise (ICE), which brings together researchers from the Departments of English & History, Computing, Media, and Performing Arts, with close links to external agencies including community organisations and healthcare providers. The Institute acts as a forum for exchange between EHU and communities of practitioners. The principle of interdisciplinarity is intrinsic to the Institute, and central funds are available for the running of interdisciplinary research seminars and workshops (while the departments run their own subject-based series).

In terms of on-campus facilities, the Library provides support through the dedicated Research

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Support Librarian who offers expert advice and guidance on information management, the effective use of research resources and specialist tools such as RefWorks. The strategy is to provide a comprehensive range of services and resources, tailored as necessary to meet specific discipline requirements of researchers.

e. Collaboration or contribution to the discipline or research base

There is currently one major international collaborative project in the Department, co-ordinated by **Shoba**. This British Academy-funded project involves Edge Hill University, the University of Ghana and the University of Education, Winneba. The research aim is to investigate language practices among young people in contemporary Ghana, focusing on bilingual code-switching. Findings will be related to the explanatory context of linguistic values across Ghanaian society. The research activities are integrated into a broader strategy for knowledge exchange and capacity-building across the partner institutions, particularly PG curriculum development and research degree registrations. In addition to this, **Grant** contributes to collaborative projects co-ordinated by the Max-Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Leipzig, particularly in the area of creole languages. **Vuohelainen** is co-editing a collection of essays on Richard Marsh with colleagues from the universities of Brighton and Warwick, and Linnaeus University, Sweden; and she is working on another collection on Primo Levi with a colleague at the Institute of Education, London. **Gabrielatos** has published collaborative work on media attitudes to Islam, and is experienced at working in large linguistic research teams from multiple institutions.

There is an increasingly international dimension to current publication projects, such as **Grant's** ongoing editorship of *The Oxford Handbook of Language Contact*, **Brabon's** *Trans-Gothic*; **Bradshaw's** *Disabling Romanticism*; **Daleszynska's** work on Bequia Creole; and **Vuohelainen's** two edited collections on Marsh and Levi. **Bradshaw**, **Pantano** and **Talbot** continue to publish their research in a multi-lingual context. The team aims to establish international collaboration as a more prominent and consistent feature of research activity after 2013, and to make the international dissemination of research a key objective for its emerging scholars. Since 2008, four major international conferences have been organised by members of the EHU English team. In 2009 EHU hosted the annual conference of the international Feminist and Women's Studies Association, 'Feminist Transitions', at the Bluecoat Centre in Liverpool (2009), organised by **Brabon**: the conference hosted over 100 delegates from ten countries. The 'Using Corpora in Contrastive and Translation Studies' conference was held at Edge Hill in 2010 (c. 70 delegates), organised by a former colleague, Dr Richard Xiao (left EHU in 2012). The university also hosted the 'UK Language Variation and Change' conference in 2011 (c. 50 delegates), organised by **Burbano Elizondo**. A further international conference, 'A Sort of Wisdom: Exploring the Legacy of Primo Levi', co-organised by **Vuohelainen**, took place on the Ormskirk campus in 2012, attracting c. 50 delegates from twelve countries and four continents.

A series of smaller conferences and symposia has been organised through the North Gothic Network, most recently the one-day conference 'Urban Gothic: Haunted Cities, Spectral Traces' (April 2010): the organiser was **Brabon**. The 'Literary Collaboration' symposium, organised by **Sheppard**, was held in 2013; **Sheppard** has also collaborated with the printmaker Pete Clark as part of the AHRC-funded project 'Poetry Beyond Text: Vision, Text and Context', including exhibitions at Dundee Art Gallery and Scottish Poetry library in 2011 and the 'Manifest' exhibition at Edge Hill in 2013. A regional symposium on the development of postcolonial studies will be held in November 2013, with a follow-up international conference in 2014.

The English team has expanded its programme of visiting research speakers, and assumed a more coherent and theme-based approach. Recent research seminars in both Language and Literature / Creative Writing have featured new work on gender, sexuality and identity, a focus of interdisciplinary interest in the Department, while the team also won support from the university's Research Investment Fund to set up the annual 'Romanticism at Edge Hill' seminar series (convened by **Bradshaw** and **Hurst**), inaugurated in 2010. The series has hosted visiting speakers from: the University of Colorado; King's College, London; Notre Dame University; and St Andrews University, among many others. The series is attended by PG students and visitors from other universities, as well as EHU staff and students. **Hurst** also convenes the annual student conference on Byron and Byronism, the first of its kind in the UK (2011, 2012, and 2013), a focus for emerging scholars in Byron studies and British Romanticism, with keynotes from distinguished scholars from Keele, Manchester, St Andrews, and the National Library of Scotland.

The 'Gender and Sexuality Research Group', set up by **Hughes-Edwards** in 2007, is a forum

for interdisciplinary research in the Humanities and social sciences; the group has run five annual programmes of external speakers, with contributors coming from HE institutions in Europe, the UK, and the USA. In October 2010, **Hughes-Edwards** and **Pantano** co-organised a public reading on the Ormskirk campus (attendance c. 750) of the present UK Poet Laureate, Carol Ann Duffy, and the former US Poetry Laureate, Billy Collins – a unique combination of transatlantic poets laureate. The long-established series 'Readings at the Rose', co-ordinated by **Cox** and **Sheppard**, has hosted a wide range of prominent authors, recently including: Jeremy Dyson, Allen Fisher, Chris Honer, Toby Litt, Nicholas Royle, Harriet Tarlo, and David Vann.

It is a distinguishing feature of our department that four international journals were founded, and are edited at EHU, by members of the Creative Writing team. *The Journal of British and Irish Innovative Poetry* (ed. **Sheppard**) is a peer-reviewed literary / academic journal, which aims to promote the writing, reading and interpretation of experimental poetry. The journal was launched in both the UK and the Republic of Ireland. *21: Journal of Contemporary and Innovative Fiction* (ed. **Cox**) is a peer-reviewed, online critical journal exploring aspects of avant-garde prose writing; articles focus on fiction from the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries, whether in the short story, the novel or hybrid forms; in print or hypertext, and includes literature in translation. The peer-reviewed *Short Fiction in Theory and Practice* (ed. **Cox**) was launched in 2011. *Black Market Review* (ed. **Pantano**) is an international peer-reviewed literary journal, which gives PG and UG Creative Writing students at EHU hands-on experience of editing and e-publishing, and has a strong trans-Atlantic emphasis. We believe that our Creative Writing team, in particular, makes a significant contribution both to the discipline and has wider impact on the reading public.

There is a strong sense among the English team of contributing to national and international fields of work. Members of the English group regularly present papers at national and international conferences and are regularly requested to review works in their field in academic journals, quality national newspapers and trade press, and to act as publishers' readers. Brief examples of external engagement and recognition are captured below. During the reporting period, EHU English staff have given keynote addresses; invited talks; public readings and interviews at institutions including the following:

HEIs: University of Aberystwyth; University of Amsterdam; University of Angers; University of Bologna; University of Brest; University of Brighton; University of Edinburgh; Edinburgh Napier University; University of Genoa at Monterosso al Mare; Keele University; KU Leuven (Belgium); Lancaster University; University of Liverpool; London University; University of Macao; University of Malta; University of Manchester; Manchester Metropolitan University; University of Michigan; University of Milan; University of Murcia; Newcastle University; University of Northumbria; University of Nottingham; University of Oslo; Oxford University; University of Portsmouth; Salford University; University of Siena; Southampton University; Swansea University.

Media and cultural bodies: BBC Radio Scotland; BBC Radio 5; Bluecoat Arts Centre, Liverpool; Edinburgh International Book Festival; Glasgow Book Festival; Hay-on-Wye Book Festival; Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts; London Literature Festival; Manchester Literature Festival; Manchester Salon; *The One Show* (BBC TV); *Open Book* (BBC Radio 4); Southbank Centre; the Wordsworth Trust.

Edge Hill English staff currently act as reviewers; assessors; referees or examiners for institutions, publishers and publications including the following:

University of Aberystwyth; *Adirondack Review*; AHRC Peer Review College and Strategic Review Group; *Anthropological Linguistics*; *Applied Linguistics*; Ashgate Publishing; Birkbeck University College; Cambridge University Press; *Discourse and Society*; Edinburgh University Press; *Eighteenth-Century Studies*; *English Studies*; *Gothic Studies*; Heinemann; Higher Education Academy; International Gothic Association; *International Journal of Corpus Linguistics*; *Journal of English Linguistics*; *Journal of Language and Politics*; *Journal of Multilingual and Multicultural Development*; *Journal of Pidgin and Creole Languages*; *Language and Gender*; University of Liverpool; Manchester University Press; National Association for Writers in Education HE Committee; *Nineteenth-Century Contexts*; Oxford University Press; Palgrave Macmillan; Routledge; *Times Higher Education Supplement*; *Times Literary Supplement*; University of Huddersfield.