

Institution: Leeds Metropolitan University

Unit of Assessment: Unit 35 Music Drama Dance and Performing Arts.

a. Overview

The Deputy Vice Chancellor (DVC), Research and Enterprise is responsible for the strategic development and leadership of research and enterprise activity across our University. The offices of University Research (URO) and University Enterprise (UEO) under the line management of the DVC, support the delivery of the Strategic Plan 2010/2015 theme 3 and the Research Strategy. Working together we focus on, the research community, enhancing research student experience, fostering relationships with partners, companies and external organisations and promote entrepreneurship and innovation among our staff and students.

Building and enhancing a research culture is at the heart of our University's Strategic Plan 2010-2015, Theme Three. The DVC is directly supported by Head of University Research Office (URO) and four faculty directors of research. This group is at the forefront of research developments, abreast of the demands internally and externally and provides the framework and scope for change and implementation of the research strategy.

Our University is structured into four faculties and 18 schools, each undertaking research activity specific to their subject groups. The research environment is further enhanced and focused through the internal establishment of three Research Institutes, each with a director and a collection of research centres, which cover a very wide range subject base. The institutes and centres demonstrate our expertise and strengths in an array of subject areas focusing on developing research activity to provide sustainability and a platform for growth. This major investment has seen a return in the form of an increase of 57% in successful applications for external research income and a higher number of academic staff being put forward for inclusion in the Research Excellence Framework (REF).

The strategic research decision making processes take place through our committee structures at University and faculty level. The University Research and Enterprise Committee and its sub-committees, The Research Degrees and the Research Ethics deal directly with research and enterprise issues. The Research Degree Sub Committee has the sole authority for decision making on any matters relating to postgraduate research students.

Our current research student portfolio is over 550 students, studying full and part time on a variety of research degrees. This academic year (12/13) saw 53 postgraduate research students successfully complete their programme of study.

Our University is committed to the development of its staff, and operates in compliance with the Concordat and Researcher Development Framework. Through Human Resources (HR) and the URO/UEO we enable our staff to deliver high levels of performance by promoting and providing development opportunities, which are reviewed through our Performance and Development Review (PDR) process. There are also biennial promotion calls for suitably qualified staff to the roles of Reader and Professor as part of our on-going commitment to the research vibrancy of our university. Both early career researchers and those further into their careers are offered a wide range of development and participate in a lively research culture at Faculty and School level as well as in university-level events.

Continual professional development through the Enterprise Academy and the Research Academy will equip our staff and research students with the necessary skills and attributes to be able to succeed in their chosen career paths. The URO implement several competitive schemes to build research careers such as; Early Career Research Development, Research Leadership and Research Cluster Development Awards. These schemes also promote collaboration across our University and in the wider research environment

Internal investment in addition to our external research income is an important contributor to increasing our internal structures, facilities and equipment, research profile, reputation and in the development of academic staff.

b. Research strategy

Unit 35 is housed in the School of Film, Music and Performing Arts, which resides in the Faculty of Arts Environment and Technology. The School consists of three subject areas Film (The Northern Film School), Music, in the areas of Technology (BSc and MSc) and Production (BA and MA) and Performing Arts. As we are a new and emerging school with a number of common research interests such as Practice-based and Practice-led research, we have aligned many of our research aims and outputs. The School is integrating the work of the three subject areas (Film, Music and Performing Arts) and has tasked members of staff to develop this. The School's Head of Research works with research coordinators in the each of the three subject areas. The coordinator's role is to identify opportunities for collaborations both internal and external, develop links between our research and our teaching and help to support and develop a vibrant and inclusive research environment. The many and varied areas of research ably complement one another and the proposed mid term plan to situate the subject areas on the same site in the future, will provide the opportunity to build on our strong research base.

The Head of School uses his budget to ensure an equitable spread of funding opportunities, as evidenced by the global dimension to our research and the internationally recognised reputations of our staff. The focus has been on finding appropriate ways to support the realistic goals that we as a School have set. These goals: to advance knowledge, facilitate internationally relevant cultural outputs and develop relationships with communities and professions in the arts, through high quality research that influences and innovates at regional, national and international levels, defines our Schools strategy for the future. We recognise the importance of integrating research throughout the School. Encouragement is given to continuing study within the specialist subject areas and the formation of research groupings or 'clusters'. Clusters are cross-School informal groupings that are defined by their members and are not prescribed by the School. Staff are encouraged to bid for available School funding to develop their cluster and to meet defined outcomes - Publications, Projects (external), PhDs and Prestige. The next academic year 2013/14 will see the appointment of three visiting professors in the School.

A regular seminar series continues throughout the year and allows both staff and students to present their work. Guests from industry and academia are invited to present work and discuss methodologies in the arts; this has been popular with both colleagues and students and has led to further collaborations with institutions and industry, both nationally and internationally. Professor Phillip McIntyre from Newcastle University in Australia and our work with JAMES (our course accreditation body <http://www.jamesonline.org.uk>) are just some examples.

c. People, including:

i. Staffing strategy and staff development

In line with the University's strategic vision we are looking to appoint new academic staff based on their research profile and Doctoral level qualifications. This is not always possible because as a creative area, we need to at times, look to professional practitioners to help us develop strong links between research, teaching and employability and to enhance and develop the research student experience. Their empirical knowledge and experience helps ensure our research remains current and relevant. Academic colleagues are supported by the following mechanisms:

- Research is supported through the PDR (Performance & Development Review) process that is used effectively to engage staff in post-doctoral research and scholarly activity leading to professional and doctoral level qualifications.
- The School supports a research seminar programme to disseminate and promote the school based research activities.
- Members of the academic team have been tasked with identifying funding opportunities and developing bids by working together with the University Research Office to enable us to expand our research infrastructure.
- We have recently engaged with the University's 'Research Mentoring Scheme' to develop a pool of research supervisors that will enable us to attract and support research students.

- The School continues to support colleagues in profile raising activities such as conferences and seminars.

ii. Research students

In the last 12 months there has been one PhD completion in the music area. In this area there are a further six members of staff that are engaging in Doctoral study. A further four members of staff are engaged in Doctoral study that is supervised at other institutions. There are similar numbers of staff in the other subject areas of Film, and Performance who have commenced study this year 2013 or are due to commence next year 2013/14. There have been two PhD completions in Performance with two further registrations this year (2013). As a new school we are offering two bursaries per subject area this academic year 2013 (and this will continue in 2013/14) to develop our research base and work on potential collaborations that are now emerging. We encourage staff with internationally recognised research profiles to attract research students from both home and abroad through the Erasmus schemes. Students regularly present their research at international conferences and have published in a number of journals to date. The School is looking to promote PhDs by Professional Practice through fee waivers to add to our expanding research community. Two students have now enrolled on this program and are due to commence study in October 2013.

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

The School operates on three sites.

- The Northern Film School is housed at the Electric Press building on Millennium Square, Leeds. Here there are number of editing suites and pre and postproduction offices for research and student use. Specialist film equipment and other resources can be hired from technicians who also offer technical support and advice. There are preview theatres and 'hot desk' facilities available in the building as well.
- The Performing Arts group (PALM - Performing Arts Leeds Metropolitan University) is based in the city at Northern Terrace (staff offices) and has access to specialist dance and theatre spaces at Perform 1 in Calvary Building and House 14 in Queens Garden. Dance has space provided for them at Northern Ballet and Yorkshire Dance. There is a lab with Mac computers equipped with Adobe Suite for editing video and sound etc. PALM also has a student-learning officer who is a working theatre designer. Spaces for Dance and Performance have been identified at Headingley Campus and are due to be refurbished for the 2014/15 academic year. This fits with the Schools mid term strategy to have all the subject areas on the same campus.
- The music group is based at Headingley campus to the north of the city. There are a number of professional facilities that are used for research as well as teaching. Students / staff in other subject areas, working on interdisciplinary projects can access these facilities. These specialist music studios and recording facilities include:
 - Five recording studios, each with a control room, and live area with instruments and amplifiers.
 - 5.1 mixing facilities
 - Five fully equipped programming/offline editing suites, each with its own acoustically treated booth.
 - Audient ASP8024 analogue recording consoles.
 - Genelec, Dynaudio & Focal monitoring.
 - Foley studio for recording sound effects and multi-speaker performance space of electroacoustic and diffusion compositions.
 - Each studio is equipped with Apple Macintosh computers, running software that includes Protools 10, Logic 9, Cubase SX6, Native Instruments Kontakt 4, MAX MSP 6.
 - Laboratory space with PC and mac computers running the software listed above.
 - Acoustically treated performance spaces for instrumental practice, songwriting and composition.

- Staff and Researchers can receive technical support and advice from our Learning Support Officers at all our sites.

e. Collaboration and contribution to the discipline or research base.

The units approach to practice led research and creative practice is demonstrated in a number of engagement activities:

Membership of international and national committees such as the IASIG (Interactive Audio Special Interest Group) and MIDI Manufacturers Association, which was, until recently chaired by academic Richard Stevens, helps to raise our profile and benefits from our research. Raybould and Stevens are also members of the Game Audio Technical committee of the Audio Engineering Society (AES).

The School has hosted several conferences over the last 7 years, most notably the internationally recognised Art of Record Production Conference of 2010 (Davis & Morey). The School also regularly hosts conferences and seminars by our course accreditation body JAMES <http://www.jamesonline.org.uk/>. The School is the JAMES regional centre for the north of England and its remit is to work with schools, colleges and community groups to disseminate skills and working practices through our Schools teaching and research activities. Parker is an active member of the JAMES working group and meets regularly with the professional practitioners who are members of this group and advises on accreditation and pedagogical matters. Stavropoulos has recently been invited to be on the reviewing panel for the 2013 International Computer Music Conference <http://icmc2013.com.au/>.

Working with voluntary bodies such as Cloth Cat <http://www.clothcatleeds.org.uk/> and the Leeds Education Music Hub <http://www.thefms.org/> we reach out to the local community and the creative industries to help them develop the skills and practices that can enhance lives and improve career prospects. We regularly host local events such as:

Live at Leeds – The Unconference

The Unconference is a day of music industry panels and networking sessions organised by members of the music team. Now in it's fourth year it runs as part of the Live at Leeds music festival, which takes place every May bank holiday in the city centre. The Unconference builds on and reflects the research and practice of our lecturers who specialise in the modern day music industry.

<http://www.liveatleeds.com/the-unconference/>

Lift Off Festival

The lift off festival runs every May and showcases the work of staff and students from the Performance area via public performances in a variety of city centre venues. Next year it is planned to grow the festival to encompass work across the school including film and music.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/144945322297189/?fref=ts%20>

Light Night Festival

Light Night is organised by Leeds City Council and invites bids from all sectors of the Leeds cultural community to stage events. It takes place on just one night in October and our School has been involved for the past 5 years. The main focus is on the Performance group who put on the largest and most popular events of the festival every year in order to showcase their work.

<http://lightnightleeds.co.uk/>

Member of academic staff hold a number of external examiners posts and are regularly involved with validation and accreditation events. Networking at conferences such as the ARP (Art of Record Production) Conference in Boston, Dr. Robert Davis met Professor Philip McIntyre from Newcastle University in Australia. Through their pursuit of common research aims Professor McIntyre spent 4 months as a Visiting Professor with the music group. His research expertise and good practice benefitted many staff and students that have resulted in further collaborative research outputs. Davis's attendance at the ARP conferences has also resulted in collaborations

Environment template (REF5)

with the University of Nantes in France.

Morey has recently returned from a visit to the University of Newcastle (Australia) where as a visiting fellow, he contributed to research seminars and collaborative initiatives. Morey is also a peer reviewer for the Journal of the Art of Record Production, as well as a peer reviewer for the Art of Record Production Conference paper proposals and proceedings. He has just been appointed to the editorial board of the Journal of the Art of Record Production as copy editor for journal articles.

Brayshaw together with Emeritus Professor Noel Witt have a history dating back to 1996 and their work with a number of Eastern European theatre academies and festivals. Through consortia such as CONCEPTS (Consortium for the Co-ordination of European Performance and Theatre Studies) they have made a number of cultural links between West and Eastern Europe. Brayshaw is also a board member of the Red Ladder Theatre Company in Leeds and the Pigeon Theatre Company in Manchester. She holds consultancies with FLARE festival and is a jury member for Danztine at ACT Festival Bilbao. She is a member of the Dah Theatre Research Community, Belgrade, Serbia and is an assessor for Live Art for the Arts Council England. Brayshaw is now a member of the steering group for new curriculum development in Croatia.

Our research has been published in international peer reviewed journals and conference proceedings including the Art of Record Production and the Audio Engineers Society.

- Thompson and Stevenson have recently returned from San Francisco where they presented their research at the Art of Record Production Conference 2012. Thompson's paper was in collaboration with an Australian University. Stevenson and Thompson are due to present at Art of Record Production Conference 2013 in Montreal.
- Ash and Stavropoulos have carried out a concert tour to Seoul where they performed with their interactive, networked, music performance system Livecell.
- Davis, Moseley, Parker, Thompson and Ward will be presenting papers at the AES Nashville in July 2013.
- Colleagues from the Film School (Carey) have recently collaborated on Jasmina Cibic's 'For our Economy and Culture' the installation has been selected to represent Slovenia at the Venice Bienalle 2013 <http://www.labiennale.org/en/art/>.