

Environment template (REF5)

Institution: University of Derby
Unit of Assessment: Psychology, Psychiatry and Neuroscience (UOA 04)
a. Overview

The REF 2014 submission for UOA 4 comprises research by the Centre for Psychological Research, one of six University-approved Research Centres, which has an inclusive membership of University staff and postgraduate research students across several subject groups including Criminology, Education, Health, Psychology, and Sport and Exercise. Within the Centre, research ‘clusters’ (special interest groups) reflect interdisciplinary themes and areas of developing research. The Centre aims to provide:

- Support and development for psychological research, especially in key priority areas.
- The best possible environment for postgraduate training in psychological research.
- A community that promotes engagement between more and less experienced researchers.
- Continuing professional development in research, especially for early career researchers.

b. Research Strategy

Development and planning

In RAE 2008, sub-panel K noted “a range of levels of quality across outputs” and “strong work in the areas of clinical and health psychology”. Since then we have:

- Recruited early career and experienced researchers, increasing the number of category A staff returned from 12 in RAE 2008 to 16 in REF 2014, including seven early career researchers.
- Appointed James Stubbs as Professor of Obesity.
- Appointed Abigail Locke of Huddersfield University as Visiting Professor of Social and Health Psychology.
- Increased the number of psychology PhD students from eight in 2008 to 20 in 2013.
- Increased the number of psychology PhD studentships from two in 2008 to six in 2013.
- Strengthened research skills and research methods training for postgraduate researchers.
- Improved PhD supervisory capacity, training and support.
- Improved psychology research laboratory equipment and facilities.
- Increased external collaborations and links with the NHS, the voluntary sector and industry.

The University allocated 80% of the QR income from RAE 2008 to Research Centres and Groups. The Centre for Psychological Research used that income to fund:

- Research projects leading to high quality outputs and/or external funding applications.
- Two postgraduate research assistant posts and a post-doctoral research fellow post.
- Training for staff and PhD students in acquisition and analysis of electroencephalographic (EEG) data and source localisation.
- Equipment purchases for research laboratories.
- A four-year (new route) PhD studentship.
- Research training, dissemination and support for psychology PhD students.
- Annual psychology research away days and interdisciplinary research events.
- Travel and other staff expenses to facilitate external collaboration, research training, development and dissemination.

Key aims for the Centre for Psychological Research over the next 5 years include:

- Promoting interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary research.
- Increasing the social and economic impact of psychology research.
- Maintaining PhD student recruitment and improving progression and completion rates.
- Improving the online and outward facing profile of the Research Centre.
- Developing research in cyberpsychology, forensic psychology, and psychology of paranormal phenomena.
- Continuing to improve psychology research laboratory facilities and equipment.

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Research clusters within the Centre

Research clusters are thematically organised to facilitate inter-disciplinary collaboration and external engagement. Clusters include researchers who were returned in REF 2014 as well those who were not. Psychology PhD students each belong to at least one research cluster. Each cluster is led by a member of staff in psychology, and cluster meetings and events are designed to support publications, funding applications, and collaborative, interdisciplinary projects.

The **cognitive psychology** cluster includes Frances Maratos and Ed Stupple. Key themes for integrative and collaborative research are fast and slow cognitive processes, the role of working memory in higher-order cognition, emotion and cognition, and cognitive processes in student learning, and there are interdisciplinary links with colleagues in Sports Science for research on performance under pressure.

The **critical and social psychology** cluster includes Carrie Childs, Jenny Hallam, Marek Palasinski, Claire Hampson, Lisa Orchard and Zaheer Hussain. Key themes are applied research, language and interaction, and conceptual issues in psychology. The group organised two very successful conferences on Applied Qualitative Research in Psychology, held at the University of Derby in June 2012 and June 2013, with national and international delegates.

The **cyberpsychology** cluster includes Zaheer Hussain, Marek Palasinski and Lisa Orchard. Key themes are internet and online gaming addiction, cyber bullying, and the impact of the internet and social networking on identity, wellbeing and behaviour.

The **health and wellbeing** cluster includes James Elander, Claire Hampson, David Sheffield and James Stubbs. Key themes are eating behaviours and obesity, chronic pain management, infancy and maternity, and the physiological aspects of stress and coping.

The **mental health** cluster includes Frances Maratos and Paul Gilbert. Key current themes are affective disorders including depression, dysphoria and anxiety, and compassion-focused psychotherapy.

The **nature connectedness** cluster includes David Sheffield, Jenny Hallam, Miles Richardson, Claire Hampson and Daphne Kaklamanou, plus researchers from Biology and Education. Key themes are increasing people's involvement with natural environments and promoting pro-environmental behaviour.

The **pedagogic psychology** cluster includes James Elander and Ed Stupple, plus researchers from Education. Key themes are virtual learning, educational transitions and academic writing.

The **psychology of paranormal phenomena** is a developing research cluster led by a former Editor of the European Journal of Parapsychology. Cluster members conduct research to explain purportedly paranormal phenomena and investigate psychological mechanisms of paranormal beliefs and experiences. In March 2010 the cluster ran an HEA-sponsored multi-institution conference on qualitative methods and parapsychology.

Mechanisms for developing, promoting and disseminating research

University mechanisms include:

- The open access University of Derby Online Research Archive (UDORA), established in December 2011 to make research outputs and other products more widely available.
- An annual University Research Conference, at which psychology is actively and consistently represented.
- A significant Central Research Fund that is used to develop and promote research by supporting staff and PhD students (see section on People, below).

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- Numerous University events to promote and support research in which psychology researchers participated, for example an External Funding Conference (February 2011), an Introduction to UDORA (January 2011), and a Writing Retreat (April 2011).
- An Annual University Research Review published each summer, to profile research at the University for internal and external dissemination.

Centre for Psychological Research mechanisms include:

- Monthly meetings for all members, and an Annual Psychology Research Awayday. All psychology researchers, including PhD students, participate in decision-making about research planning, prioritisation and spending, and Research Centre aims and objectives are reviewed annually. In November 2010 there was also an additional interdisciplinary Research Awayday, organised jointly by the Centre for Psychological Research and the Biological Sciences Research Group.
- A very active programme of psychology research seminars, with internal events to discuss work in progress and about 12 visiting speaker events per year. Invited speakers since 2008 include professors Charles Antaki, Graham Hitch, Mark Conner, Zoltan Dienes, Colin Feltham, Charles Marsden, Lin Norton, David Nutt, John Wearden, and Robert West.
- A detailed Research Centre Annual Report that is submitted to the University Research Committee, detailing the activities and achievements of psychology researchers.

c. People, including:

I. Staffing strategy and staff development

University staff strategy and development for research includes:

- A *Research for Learning and Teaching Fund* (part of the University's Central Research Fund, which derives from HEFCE QR funding), with an annual value of about £225K, gives all staff, but particularly less experienced and early career researchers, experience in writing grant applications and provides funds for small scale research projects.
- The University has greatly strengthened the culture of making external research grant applications. There was a three-fold increase in the value of applications made in 2011/12, as well as a three-fold increase in new external funding secured. It is important to note, however, that the official figure used is the *accounted funding* which tends to smooth out year-to-year volatility.
- A Peer Review System for external grant applications was introduced in March 2012, in which a Panel of 24 specialists critically assess draft applications to help ensure the highest quality. There is also an annual conference of key workshops to help refine bid-writing skills.
- The University Research Strategy, approved by Academic Board in March 2013, sets specific targets for staff engagement in research and staff development in research.
- The University has provided a series of professional development workshops focused on the needs of early career researchers since 2005, and in August 2010 the professional development support for researchers was strengthened with the launch of an assessed credit-based level 7 *Academic Practice in Research* programme, which includes modules in, for example, *Research Supervision*, *Research Leadership*, and *Research Risk and Enterprise*. Members of the Centre for Psychological Research are active in the programme both as enrolees and contributing tutors. The *Research Supervision* module is led by an experienced supervisor from psychology. The credit-bearing programme is complemented by workshops in advanced research practice on such topics as research ethics and intellectual property rights.

Psychology Subject Group staff strategy and development for research includes:

- An Assistant Head of Subject with a specific brief for research, to recognise research in workload planning and subject group management, including staffing and staff development.
- Four full-time PhD studentships for graduate teaching assistants during the last five years, funded from the Subject Group budget.
- Approximately £500 annually per member of staff to attend national or international conferences where individuals can disseminate their research, funded from the Subject Group budget.

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Centre for Psychological Research staff strategy and development for research includes:

- QR funds are used to enable psychology researchers to attend training and development events related to research, and in April 2010 were used to provide *Scan School Derby*, a week-long training programme in the acquisition and analysis of electroencephalographic (EEG) data and source localisation.
- The Centre organises workshops on topics including bid-writing, conference presentation, acting as a peer reviewer and responding to peer review, Zotero, and writing for publication. These include workshops with external presenters/facilitators, such as the Midlands Research Development Service (RDS) workshop on NIHR bid-writing, held in February 2012.

c. II. Research students

Doctoral research training

In September 2008 the University introduced the four-year New Route PhD, for recent graduates who have not taken a master's degree, which runs alongside the Traditional Route PhD. The New Route has two stages. The first involves a taught programme comprising Level 7 modules including research methods, planning and managing research, research ethics, information literacy, research leadership, risk and enterprise, the art of thesis writing, and getting research published. All modules are credit based and are delivered online with complementary class room workshops, which are repeated each term for each new cohort of students. Workshop attendance is mandatory for all FT PGR students on the Traditional and New Route PhD, to ensure that face-to-face tuition complements online learning. In the first stage of the New Route PhD, students also undertake the first part of their independent research, which, on completion of the taught components, is submitted as a thesis for the award of MRes. The second stage is the continuation and completion of the independent research for submission as a Doctoral thesis.

The New Route PhD programme compares favourably with the Economic and Social Research Council-recommended PGR training programme requirements, and represents a step change improvement in our support for PGR students since RAE 2008. The first cohort of New Route PhD students have all now completed the MRes Stage and are progressing towards PhD completion.

Providing effective supervision for research students is a priority for the University and the Centre for Psychological Research. Supervisory teams combine experienced and less experienced supervisors, and staff supervising PhD students for the first time must attend a short course provided by their faculty, followed by the Research Supervision module from the Academic Practice in Research programme (see earlier).

Research student culture

Since 2008, the University has improved the physical environment for PhD students by re-equipping two large PGR offices to accommodate about 40 FT students, and introducing a code of practice for conduct in the PGR offices which is working well. PGR Network events are held each term to help PGR students mix across disciplines.

Since 2010, the University has sponsored an annual 'New Horizons' PGR Conference, organised by students with guidance from the Head of Research, at which research students present their research. These are extremely well organised with very efficient session management and a great atmosphere. In 2013, the University hosted the annual East Midlands PGR Conference. These and other events contribute to an active, positive research student culture, and provide experience of conference organisation, writing abstracts for competitive application, presenting talks and chairing sessions. Since 2010 the University also provides eight conference grants of up to £250 each year for PGR students to attend external conferences at which they are presenting papers.

PGR students are represented on the University and Faculty Research and Research Degrees Committees. Anonymous annual PGR student satisfaction surveys show increasingly high levels of satisfaction and experience. In 2011, for example, when there were a record 61 returns

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(representing over 50% of PGR students), 85% of respondents reported their experience as excellent or good.

All PGR students in psychology are PhD students who are actively involved in the Centre for Psychological Research. This includes participation in the activities for early career researchers as well as in the research clusters. The Centre also attracts overseas research student placements, including from Coimbra University, Portugal, and the Université Laval, Quebec, Canada, and in 2010 the Centre hosted a research student placement funded by the Leonardo da Vinci programme.

The Centre provides active support for PhD student achievement and progression, and 10 of the 20 Psychology PhD students registered in 2013 have successfully completed the progression event associated with transfer from MPhil to PhD, including one awarded PhD in August 2013 and another making minor amendments following Viva Voce examination in November 2013.

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

Research income

Research income declared in REF4b comprises:

- £11,052 of a total grant of £82,345, awarded by the Leverhulme Trust for collaborative research on wellbeing and its relationship to processing of threat and safeness (we have declared the amount allocated to University staff costs, the remainder being associated with costs allocated or incurred by the Mental Health Research Unit).
- £22,842 of a total grant value of £26,717, awarded by the Midlands Allergy and Asthma Research Association for research on children's, adolescents' and parents' understanding of food allergy (we have declared the income received by the census date for a project that is ongoing).
- £24,000 for a grant awarded by SENSE for a project on the use of Haptics by people with acquired dual sensory loss.
- £5,000 for a grant awarded by the Higher Education Academy for a project on problem-based learning in virtual interactive educational worlds for sustainable development.
- £72,166 of a total grant value of £99,000 for a grant awarded by the Institute of Occupational Safety and Health for a grant awarded for research on postural break taking behaviour (we have declared the income received by the census date for a project that is ongoing).
- £59,336 for a grant awarded by the Write Now Centre, London Metropolitan University for research to assess the impact of the Write Now Centre of Excellence in Teaching and Learning.

Research and project income received during the census period that is not declared in REF4b because it was associated with pedagogic or teaching-related research projects, includes:

- £42,356 income to the University of Derby from a total grant value of £199,852 for a grant awarded by the Higher Education Academy National Teaching Fellowship Scheme Project Strand in June 2008 for a collaborative project on students' transitions to university writing and assessment.
- £5,980 for a grant awarded by the Higher Education Academy Psychology Network in July 2008 for a project on improving psychology students' critical thinking.
- £26,000 income to the University of Derby from a total grant value of £38,385 for a grant awarded by the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC): Users and Innovation Programme, in September 2008 for a project to develop problem-based learning in virtual interactive educational worlds

Research infrastructure and facilities, including for research students

In 2008, a Cognitive Research Laboratory in psychology was established, funded by the University through a successful £37,752 capital bid by psychology researchers. This provided dedicated

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cubicles equipped with PCs and other facilities for computer-based cognitive psychology and other experiments.

In 2009, the Human Psychophysiology Laboratory was established, funded by the University through a successful £46,000 capital bid by psychology researchers. This provided sound attenuated facilities including a research grade, 64-channel cortical electrophysiology recording system, and a cold pressor for pain studies. This was extended using £25,000 from a capital bid for enhancing EEG – STIM hard and software (E-prime and Amos), and Electrodermal activity monitor for assessing skin conductance. A member of staff in psychology provides regular EEG research methods training sessions for PhD students and staff researchers, covering use of the equipment, data preparation and processing, various forms of analysis, and fundamentals of neurophysics.

Additional capital and other funding supported the purchase of cardiovascular monitoring equipment: Portapres BP monitor and 3 Accutrack ambulatory blood pressure monitors. This equipment has helped establish and support collaborations with the Pain Management Program at the Royal Derby Hospital, the Sport and Exercise Department at Staffordshire University, and additional work with patients.

In Summer 2013, a further set of psychology labs were established at a cost of approximately £150,000, including over £60,000 of new experimental equipment: a research grade TOBII Eye-Tracker; a new Finometer - Hemodynamic monitoring system; perceptual and web-licences for experimental generation (Inquisit v4) and questionnaire-based (Qualtrics) software. Over £40,000 of other new experimental facilities are also available to psychology staff researchers, including 10 student-grade eye-trackers (grin-bath) and April-age health software.

The Centre for Psychological Research also benefits from collaborative arrangements with Aston University and the University of Oxford that provide access to MEG and fMRI equipment. For example, Frances Maratos conducted pilot MEG brain scanning research in collaboration with University of Oxford, studying *attentional factors in face processing* at The Oxford Centre for Human Brain Activity (OHBA) and is involved in a number of on-going brain-imaging collaborations with colleagues at Aston University (part-funded by a Compassionate Mind Foundation Grant).

In terms of **research governance**, the University policies for research ethics, governance and good practice (latest edition 2010), and procedures for cases of alleged misconduct in research (latest edition 2009), are in compliance with the Research Integrity Concordats (2009 and 2012). The staff development programme in Academic Practice in Research outlined above contributes to one important part of the Concordat.

There are comprehensive policies and procedures for **research ethics**, with a University Research Ethics Committee (UREC) and Subject Research Ethics Committees (SRECs) in each school. The Psychology Research Ethics Committee (PREC) deals with individual applications from staff and PhD students and is one of the largest and most active SRECs.

e. Collaboration and contribution to the discipline or research base

Members of the Research Centre collaborate with NHS service providers, primary care trusts, patient support groups, local and district government groups, and nature conservation organisations such as the RSPB, Wildlife Trusts and The National Forest. There is a strategic research partnership between the University and Slimming World, a national commercial weight-management organisation. There are also international collaborations with researchers at Shanghai Normal University, China; Bonn University, Germany; Sapienza University of Rome, Italy; Combrria University, Portugal; Fribourg University, Switzerland; the University of Florida, USA; the Universidade de Brasilia, Basil; the Danish Institute of Preventative Medicine; and the International Consciousness Research Laboratories. Indicators of recognition of individuals' contributions to the discipline and research include:

- Sally Akehurst won the Sportesse Sport Science award for the best oral communication at the British Association of Sport and Exercise Science Annual Conference (2010), and gave invited

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talks at the Welsh Archery Association All Wales Coaching Conference (2009), the Derbyshire Sport Coaching Conference (2012), and the Derby County Football Association Referee Development Conference (2013).

- Carrie Childs is the press officer for the Social Psychology Section of the BPS.
- James Elander gave an invited plenary lecture at the 9th International Symposium on Pediatric Pain, Stockholm, Sweden (June, 2013). He is an invited Scientific Committee member for the third annual conference of the Worldwide Initiative on Social Studies of Haemoglobinopathies (WISSH), and an invited reviewer of NIHR grant applications.
- Paul Gilbert is a Fellow of the BPS and the Royal Society of Medicine, and a Foreign Affiliate of the American Psychological Association. He is Visiting Professor at the Universities of Combra, Portugal, and Fribourg, Switzerland. He is Associate Editor of *Psychology and Psychotherapy*, and the *International Journal of Cognitive Therapy*. He was the Editor of a special issue of the *International Journal of Cognitive Therapy* on compassion-focused therapy (2010), and is on the editorial board of *Case Studies* and *Clinical Psychology and Psychotherapy*. His invited keynote talks since 2008 include: the Psychology and Psychotherapy Conference (Buenos Aires, August 2009); the Compassion Conference (Zurich, November 2009); the BPS Division of Clinical Psychology (December 2009); the International Mentalising Research Group (Glasgow, December 2009); the Evolutionary Approaches to Disease and Health Conference (Brunel, March 2010); the BPS Psychotherapy Conference (Durham, March 2010); the Compassion Conference (Helsinki, April 2010); the International Cognitive Therapy Congress (Boston, June 2010); the Compassion Conference (Stanford, February 2013); the Compassion and Empathy Conference (San Diego, February 2013); the Science of a Meaningful Life Conference (Berkley, March 2013); the International Psychotherapy Conference (Frankfurt, June 2013); and the Contextual Behavioural Science Conference (Sidney, July 2013).
- Claire Hampson gave an invited talk at the 37th New Directions in the Study of Alcohol Group Conference (Birmingham, April 2013).
- Zaheer Hussain is a consultant for a US entertainment company in a project to help understand the psychological characteristics of consumers of new interactive technology.
- Daphne Kaklamanou is a member of the WHO Childhood Obesity Surveillance Initiative (COSI) for Greece.
- Frances Maratos was a member of the steering board of the *Oxford Centre for Human Brain Activity* (OHBA), Oxford University, September 2007 to January 2013. Her paper on the identification of angry faces in the attentional blink (REF 2014 output FM3) was featured in *Cognitive Psychology: Applying the Science of the Mind* (3rd Ed., 2012), an international undergraduate cognitive psychology text book.
- Mark Palasinski gave a series of invited lectures on forensic and cyberpsychology at the University of Nanjing, China, in September 2013.
- Miles Richardson is a Fellow of the Institute of Ergonomics and Human Factors, and an invited member of the ISO consumer policy committee task group on Self-Assembly Instructions. He was an invited attendee at the October 2013 parliamentary reception for the launch of the RSPB's Connecting with Nature report.
- David Sheffield was an invited reviewer for the American Psychosomatic Society meetings from 2009 to 2014, and is an invited reviewer of NIHR and ESRC grant applications.
- James Stubbs is a Visiting Research Fellow at the University of Surrey, UK, and a Visiting Senior Research Fellow at the University of Leeds, UK. He was co-coordinator of the behavioural psychology research, technology and dissemination line for the EU Framework 6 Diogenes Programme 2005-2009, and organised and presented the Industry Satellite Symposium for the European Congress on Obesity (2013). He authored the Slimming World company response to the consultation exercise for the UK Government's Healthy Lives, Healthy People White paper (2011), and was an invited speaker at the launch of the all-party parliamentary group on obesity, April 2013.
- Ed Stupple's paper on when belief and logic collide (REF 2014 output ES2) was featured as the Journal of Cognitive Psychology's 'Editor's Choice' in September 2012.