

<p>Institution: UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM</p>
<p>Unit of Assessment: C20 Law</p>
<p>a. Overview: Over this REF period UoB has invested heavily in Birmingham Law School (BLS), with strategic appointments allowing us to cultivate a vibrant and inclusive research environment that values diverse forms of doctrinal, theoretical and socio-legal work. Since 2008 BLS has been located within the College of Arts and Law (CAL), which plays a strategic role in directing and supporting humanities research, and facilitates collaboration across UoB, as well as offering administrative support for research. BLS has a well developed but constantly evolving research infrastructure that now includes four research Institutes/Centres and five more informal research clusters, which evidence particular research strengths in Commercial and Economic Law; Criminal Justice; European Law; International Law; Health law; Judicial Administration; Jurisprudence; Legal Education and Professions; and Public Law and Human Rights.</p>
<p>b. Research strategy: <u>RAE 2008 Commitments & Developments:</u></p> <p>In the RAE2008 submission our future commitments included fostering established research specialisms (e.g. Criminal Justice, European Law) while developing new areas (e.g. International Criminal Law) and ensuring that adequate mechanisms were in place to support excellence in research. Due to UoB investment we have made strategic appointments in the key areas highlighted in our 2008 plans, which have revitalised the three existing research centres and generated an innovative new Centre for Professional Legal Education & Research (CEPLER). We have also established enhanced mechanisms for research governance and support (see section c). As regards delivering on our commitments in 2008, the major planned outputs outlined in 2008 have all materialised (monographs by Boyron, Cryer, Harris-Short and Rubini in REF2) as have our plans for development of research specialisms. Over this REF period we have thoroughly overhauled our research strategy (with external input, as part of a major review of the Law School in 2012) and sought to map it onto UoB's vision in <i>Shaping our Future: Birmingham 2015</i> which aims to ensure that, 'By 2015, [UoB] research will place our faculty at the global forefront of their disciplines, will foster international connections, and will set international agendas rather than follow them.' Our research strategy aims to produce high quality outputs (some with demonstrable policy relevance/impact), increased generation of external funding and recruitment of excellent staff and doctoral researchers (DRs). It is designed around three main cross-cutting research themes - judicial administration of law; law in action; and law, politics and human values, which incorporate the research of all BLS colleagues, working within and across our four Research Centres and five research clusters. Key achievements since 2008 include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a carefully targeted expansion of the Law School which has strengthened our research specialisms, resulted in a stronger international vision for our research, diversified our research methodologies, and facilitated collaboration across and beyond UoB; • improved support for research within the School and as part of the new CAL structures; • the development of CEPLER and a rejuvenation of the existing Centres, with key strategic appointments at all levels and a broadening of their research focus and vision; • a significant increase in recruitment of doctoral and postdoctoral researchers, and access to research-council funded studentships as a result of securing recognition of a new socio-legal pathway as part of the ESRC Birmingham Doctoral Training Centre in 2012, and playing a key role in the successful AHRC BGP2 Three Cities Consortium bid to the second round of the AHRC block grant competition in 2013. <p>A key mechanism for delivering our research strategy is the research infrastructure which comprises four dedicated Centres/Institutes in the following fields:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CEPLER represents a significant investment by UoB (£300k pa for 5 years). Directed by Harris-Short, it was inaugurated with a major conference on 'Access to Justice in an Age of Austerity' in November 2012. Its research strategy is in the early stages of development, but it expands our expertise in legal administration by embracing research with and about the legal profession, broadly defined to encompass the judiciary, tribunals, the bar, solicitors, prosecution authorities, probation services etc. CEPLER provides a focus for ongoing BLS work in this field, such as Sommerlad and Vaughans' socio-legal research on legal aid, access to justice and the legal professions, together with Gee and Lee's research on the processes of judging and judicial independence and Young's work on judgecraft. It builds on strong regional links with the legal professions in the Midlands but incorporates a global vision, informed by e.g. Sommerlad's work with the International Legal Aid Network and on professional identity

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and diversity with the RCLSWG on the Legal Profession.

- **Institute of Judicial Administration (IJA)**: Since its inception in 1968 the IJA has garnered an international reputation for initiating and co-ordinating research on all aspects of the administration of civil and criminal justice in England and Wales and positioned BLS at the forefront of externally funded socio-legal research. Over this REF period we have strategically recruited international researchers and forged new links to European networks and institutions (e.g. the **Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Criminal Law**) with the aim of 'internationalising' the Centre's work. This resulted in the IJA's re-launch in 2012. Reflecting new foci it is now co-directed by Gee and Wade, each responsible for one of its main research strands on **judicial politics** and **criminal justice policy**. Research outputs have been underpinned by external funding, e.g. Gee's AHRC Large Grant (2011-14) with colleagues from London University on 'The Politics of Judicial Independence in Britain's Changing Constitution'; EuroNEEDS - an empirical study by Wade assessing the case for an integrated European criminal justice system, co-financed by the Hercule programme of the European Commission and the Max Planck Institute. In addition to peer-reviewed outputs, IJA members have produced important policy reports (e.g. Wade for the European Commission on a European Criminal Justice System; Young for the Northern Ireland Court Service on Legal Aid decision-making). The IJA has hosted major conferences e.g. 'The Challenges of Transnational Investigations', funded by the Hercule programme of the European Commission (2013), with selected papers to be published in the *European Journal on Crime, Criminal Law and Criminal Justice*.
- The **Centre for Health Law, Science and Policy (CHLSP)**, directed by McHale, emerged from the former Institute for Medical Law, with the name change reflecting a broader research base resulting from targeted appointments in the field. CHLSP has a strong multi-disciplinary ethos, which feeds into the wider CAL research theme of **Health, Wellbeing and Value**, and has allowed the forging of strong cross-campus links with Philosophy & Theology, in addition to attracting members from the health professions and sociology, who attend informal 'brown bag lunch' work in progress sessions. CHLSP's inaugural Wellcome Trust-funded conference has produced an interdisciplinary volume on regulating complementary medicine co-edited by McHale (forthcoming 2014). Members are well networked locally and globally. E.g. McHale and Smith participate in a Midlands Consortium of Health Lawyers, awarded AHRC funding for a seminar series on 'The Influence of Faith and Belief on the Formulation, Content and Operation of Health Law in the UK' (2012-4); McGuinness co-ordinates an international research network on 'Reproductive Justice' formed at a workshop on 'Abortion and Reproductive Justice' in September 2012, funded by the Wellcome Trust and **Institute of Advanced Studies (IAS)** at UoB (see below). Two **AHRC International Research Networks** on 'ReValuing Care' and 'Legal Epidemiology' (led respectively by Harding and McIvor) reflect the inter-disciplinarity of this Centre, and has seen Law participate in cross-UoB funding bids, such as the recent bid to establish a Synthetic Biology Research Centre at UoB (see section d ii below).
- **Institute of European Law (IEL)**. Founded in 1989, now under the directorship of Trybus, the IEL, as one of the UK's first European Law Centres has made a sustained contribution to the research base of the discipline. Its research focus ranges from the theoretical to the political e.g. Arnall's work offers both a theoretical analysis of EU judicial architecture, while also addressing the 'real world' question of access to justice and effective dispute resolution in the EU. In addition to six annual lectures, the IEL has hosted three biannual international conferences at Birmingham on broad themes (e.g. 'The Treaty of Lisbon', 'Integration or Disintegration'), as well as specific topics (e.g. 'the Microsoft case' in 2008), many of which have spawned collaborative publications (e.g. Rubini (ed) *Microsoft on Trial*, 2010; Edward Elgar; Trybus & Rubini (eds), *The Treaty of Lisbon and the Future of European Law and Policy*, 2012, Edward Elgar). Members have also contributed to major studies, e.g. Trybus and Rubini to the European Defence Agency's *State Ownership and Control of the European Defence Industries Study* (2008) and Trybus to the Commission's *Toolbox for Secondary Objectives in Public Procurement Study* (2008).

The profile-raising work of the Centres has been supported by the development of five more informal and primarily inward-facing **research clusters**, which bring together groups of colleagues working in **Commercial & Economic Law, Criminal Justice, International Law, Jurisprudence,**

and **Public Law & Human Rights**. Members of the Research Centres/Clusters meet regularly both to host external speakers in these fields and to discuss recent developments and colleagues' work in progress, including book proposals and funding bids. They thus play a key informal mentoring and nurturing role in delivering our research strategy and facilitating collaboration, in addition to the more formal research governance and mentoring outlined in section c.

Within the three overarching research themes we seek to develop the theoretical, international, interdisciplinary and applied aspects of our research at Birmingham. E.g. the **judicial administration of law** theme draws together strands of legal scholarship typically pursued in isolation, allowing for a systematic focus on a neglected dimension of legal life. At the heart of this project are the two dedicated research centres IJA and CEPLER, which in their engagement with judges and legal professionals and focus on 'real world' issues such as access to justice demonstrate our commitment to addressing the **law in action**. Similarly, **criminal justice** scholarship at BLS has always boasted a strong empirical focus, evident today in the work of Sanders, Treadwell, Young and Wade which explores at both national and supranational levels contemporary issues in crime, policing and justice, including access to criminal legal aid, prevention of terrorism, prosecution of health professionals and urban rioting. The **commercial and economic law** cluster addresses the political and socio-economic significance of commercial regulation, ranging from domestic contract law and the sale of goods to WTO disputes. E.g. Rubini's work investigates linkages between trade, climate change and renewable energy which engages with NGOs and policy actors such as the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development, while Dragneva's ESRC-funded research on economic integration and legal harmonization has led to collaboration with the Russian and Eurasian programme of Chatham House. A focus on law in action is also evident in the work of the work of **CHLSP**, addressing issues such as reforms to the NHS governance and healthy aging (McHale), access to abortion services (Fox, McGuinness) and the challenges of caring for those with dementia (Harding). Our third theme **Law, politics and human values** connects with the others by systematically examining the values and ends pursued by and through law, whilst reflecting upon the nature of legality and its place within the human condition. This research encompasses both applied research, which seeks to elucidate the fundamental values that underpin legal responses, as well as more abstract and philosophical reflection. BLS has a longstanding interest in relationships between the state and the individual, as refracted through the interface between law and politics. The **public law and human rights** cluster researches enduring theoretical questions regarding the appropriate roles of judicial and political institutions, but also more contemporary questions of institutional design, nationally and internationally. Scholars take theoretical (e.g. Gee, Norton), comparative (Boyron) and doctrinal (e.g. Freedman, Guliyeva) approaches to issues of regulation and institutional design, feeding into debates on the nature of the state at national and supranational levels. Building on a distinguished tradition of jurisprudential reflection on the nature of law, the work of the **jurisprudence** cluster addresses issues that include analytical foundations of the liberal legal order (Byrne, Rodriguez-Blanco, Coyle); the nature of justice, care and vulnerability (Coyle, Fox, Harding); law as a theologico-political problem (Coyle); and participates in the broader inter-disciplinary **CAL research theme of Justice and Conflict** (led by Coyle). The **International Law cluster** similarly engages with the philosophy of international law and its development, interpretation and application (Cryer, Orakhelashvili) as well as the impact of politics, international relations and the media on the work of international institutions (Calamita, Freedman).

Research trajectory 2014-20

In order to **sustain research excellence**, BLS research themes facilitate rather than determine research priorities, and many colleagues participate in more than one of the groupings. Our future strategy depends on three key elements: production of high-quality outputs (some with impact), recruiting high-quality staff and DRs, and generating increased research income. This will be achieved through our research structures (principally leadership and mentoring), collaborative research events, and the administrative and financial support provided by the CAL and the R&KT office. The forward-looking **aims of BLS research strategy** therefore are:

- to continue to develop our research strengths, particularly in the nine key research specialisms (and others which may emerge organically), via our established national and international networks (including our research council-funded networks, our contacts with the regional, national and global legal professions).
- to support multi- and interdisciplinary research including building on existing, funded networks

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and developing new links through e.g. UoB's **Institute for Advanced Studies (IAS)** which was established in 2012 to support multi-disciplinary research and facilitate cross-institutional collaboration (e.g. McGuinness' reproductive justice network above); and strategic partnerships e.g. with Nottingham University; Jinan University, China.

- to build upon recent successes in grant capture e.g. sharing best practice both formally and informally amongst staff; and developing success with smaller grants or pump-priming money from CAL into more ambitious funding bids. In 2013 we created a new dedicated post of Deputy Director of Research (Funding) to encourage and support external funding bids, liaise closely with the CAL R&KT office and and oversee the peer review process.
- to increase further our DR community, and focus on attracting excellent students with external funding now that we have secured access to ESRC and AHRC funded studentships. A key component of our strategy to recruit excellent DR students in an increasingly competitive market is through the provision of excellent, research-led PGT programmes, and encouraging promising students to develop doctoral projects with potential supervisors. We are actively developing partnerships with external partners, through CEPLER and other research strands, which have potential for collaborative doctoral awards e.g. with the Equality and Diversity office of the Bar. Opportunities for recruiting overseas DR students with funding from their home countries will be fully explored, as will possibilities for doctoral student partnerships with international institutions (e.g. Emory University; University of Technology, Sydney as well as collaboration with the Brazilian funding council CAPES - see c.ii).

c. People, including:

i. Staffing strategy and staff development:

BLS currently has a well-distributed profile with twelve Professors, two Readers, eight Senior Lecturers, twenty Lecturers, two Birmingham Research Fellows, one early-career Leverhulme Research Fellow and four teaching fellows. We adhere to UoB guidelines on equality and diversity and strive to create an inclusive and supportive environment which is diverse in terms of ethnicity, belief and sexuality. Since RAE 2008 the gender distribution of BLS staff has significantly improved, and is now 50% female, including five female professors (c.f. one in 2008) and six female senior lecturers. The age profile of the UoA has also changed since 2008 with the appointment of several ECRs. A recruitment emphasis partly determined by the research vision of globalising our curriculum and research activities means that our cosmopolitan staff are now drawn from 16 legal jurisdictions. We are working to improve our representation of BME staff, which currently stands at 15%. In 2012/13 a BLS **Equalities and Diversity Officer** was appointed as a liaison point for staff (and students) with diversity concerns and a remit to keep policies around recruitment and promotion under review. She acts as an ex officio member of a new recruitment committee set up to advise the Head of School. BLS actively engages with broader UoB strategies to develop diversity and equality policies, e.g. McHale is a member of the **Athena Swan Working Group** which aims to extend good employment practices concerning women in higher education. We have a **transparent workload allocation model** and policies concerning **representation** in senior administrative posts, and on committees and interview panels.

Staff recruitment and retention:

Staffing policy is governed by the application of three principles: excellence in recruitment, retention and promotion. In common with most law schools, BLS has experienced a degree of staff turnover during the REF period. This has created the opportunity to appoint high calibre new staff to consolidate or rejuvenate existing research specialisms, and to cultivate new areas of research strength. We have retained most of our leading scholars; e.g. only two professors have departed (in one case to legal practice), and two have retired, but continue to participate in the research culture. Eight professorial appointments have been made, in line with our research strategy designed to promote or consolidate research strengths and offer leadership. In recruiting at senior level we seek to identify a history of/potential for research leadership, as well as excellence in research. E.g. over this REF period all but one of our seven external professorial appointments were established Chairs with track records of research leadership. We have delivered on commitments in the 2008 RA5a to strengthen the fields of **Criminal Justice** (appointing Sanders, Treadwell, Young); **International Criminal Law**, (Orakhelashvili, Wade); **European Law** (Dragneva, Guliyeva) and **Commercial Law** (Dragneva, Vaughan, plus a pending professorial appointment in December 2013). We have also developed important new foci of research expertise. Appointments in **Health Law** (Fox, Harding, McGuinness, McHale, McRae) prompted

the establishment of CHLSP, while the recruitment of Sommerlad, Vaughan and Young has added important new dimensions and socio-legal expertise to our research on the **legal professions and legal education**, and will play a crucial role in developing CEPLER. Methodologically, the appointment of several researchers with **socio-legal** expertise (Dragneva, Fox, Harding, Layard, Sanders, Sommerlad, Treadwell, Young, Vaughan) has re-invigorated Birmingham's historical position at the forefront of socio-legal studies.

During the review period BLS has also appointed ECRs of exceptional promise. The **Birmingham Fellows scheme** highlights UoB's commitment to nurturing and creating pathways for the next generation of researchers. BLS has secured two fellowship appointments in a competitive process - McGuinness (health law) and Pemberton (criminology, returned to Social Policy UoA) - in key areas of research strength. Fellows are appointed to permanent academic posts, centrally funded by the University, and have five years with protected time focused on the production high-quality research. This allows these outstanding, high potential, ECRs to establish themselves as rounded academics who will go on to make a full contribution to research, teaching and academic citizenship. Clear support mechanisms exist for all ECRs. ECRs who are not Birmingham Fellows benefit from reduced teaching (70% of the standard load in year 1; 80% in year 2, 90% in year 3) and administrative loads. ECRs are not required to lead large core modules, and we strive to ensure that they have opportunities for repeat teaching and are not spread across more than three subjects to protect research time. To gain experience of doctoral supervision, ECRs are encouraged to take on second supervisor roles with experienced supervisors. ECR mentors arrange meetings at least three times annually, in addition to annual meetings with the Head of School and Head of Research. Any concerns regarding progress are identified early and support is offered to improve performance. BLS financially supports and encourages conference attendance for ECRs to encourage networking and experience of presenting.

In RAE 2008 BLS committed to the development and maintenance of an infrastructure designed to support research excellence. We have since strengthened research governance mechanisms. Research is managed by a Head of Research, assisted by Deputy Heads of Research, with responsibility for research funding and PGRs. They report to a Law School Research Committee that has been significantly revamped since 2008. Staff at all levels are represented, with three positions (one each for professor, reader/SL and lecturer) by election. The committee oversees BLS research strategy, which builds on College and University strategy and is updated every two years. The strategy is delivered through individual monitoring and support. All colleagues complete an annual research questionnaire (detailing research outputs, dissemination, funding applications and impact) that provides a basis for discussion and constructive feedback at annual meetings with the Head of School and Head of Research. Additionally, research is a key component of the annual system of PDR for all staff. Each non-professorial member of staff is allocated a research mentor (usually a specialist in their field) responsible for arranging meetings which occur at least annually (or for ECRs three times annually) to discuss research and offer advice. Mentors are also responsible for peer review of small funding applications. The College Research Director and BLS Head of Research are available for mentoring and staff development advice, while the research centres/clusters play a more informal mentoring role. For several years the School has employed a **Full-time Research Associate** to provide research support to all colleagues. For many post-holders this has been a springboard to a full-time academic post E.g. de Cogan (Research Associate 2011-12) secured a Leverhulme early career fellowship for his postdoctoral work on tax law, enabling him to remain at BLS. In general we are committed to retaining and promoting those who excel at research. E.g. In this REF period, Harris-Short has been promoted to Chair, Rubini and Saidov to Readerships and Lee and Mclvor to Senior Lectureships. We have also appointed Teaching Fellows and Postgraduate Teaching Assistants to full Lectureships (Freedman, Guliyeva, Norton) as a result of careful mentoring.

ii. Research students

BLS is committed to recruiting excellent postgraduate students and developing its vibrant community of doctoral researchers (DRs which has significantly increased since 2008). There are currently 62 DRs (16 of whom are PT) including home, EU and international students (a total of 38 nationalities). Over this REF period we have actively worked to increase our share of externally funded DRs. For instance, we successfully applied for recognition of our new Socio-Legal pathway on the **ESRC Birmingham Doctoral Training Centre (DTC)** in 2012. Two studentships were

secured in our first year as part of the DTC, commencing in 2013/14. From 2013/14 we have one **AHRC grant-linked studentship**, and in 2012-13 participated in the successful **AHRC BGP2 Three Cities Consortium** bid to the second round of the AHRC block grant competition. Additionally for 2013/14 BLS also secured a highly competitive and prestigious **UoB DR Elite scholarship** (one of only five available across UoB) and a UoB-CAPES Brazil Scholarship (one of ten co-funded international scholarships). We also make generous provision of **Postgraduate Teaching Assistant scholarships** (PTAs). There are currently 12 PTAs: their scholarship covers tuition fees and a maintenance grant set at research council equivalent rates. PTAs teach c. three hours per week, acquiring vital skills-development for academic careers. Recruitment of overseas students is facilitated through fee-waiver scholarships to make up the difference between home and overseas fees for research students awarded PTA posts within BLS, and an innovative **Distance Learning** PhD route (first intake in 2012/13) and which enables full- or part-time study by overseas students without requiring UK residence. This has attracted eight students (2 part-time). All DRs are allocated a supervisory team, including a lead and second supervisor with complementary expertise. The PGR Director provides generic support to all PGR students, and they have access to a dedicated BLS welfare tutor. Robust yet supportive procedures are in place to monitor and ensure DR progression and completion at appropriate rates. Record keeping of supervision meetings using the online PGR management system, and six-monthly progress reviews form the basis of this performance management. Students who do not progress satisfactorily are identified early and supported to improve their performance. If a student is assessed as giving cause for concern, additional progress review monitoring will be undertaken at regular intervals until the student is performing satisfactorily. Alongside this, a robust process of academic warnings and sanctions is in place for students who continue to underperform. All DRs undergo a rigorous progression review at the end of their first year, requiring submission of a 6000 word conversion document and a panel interview which offers feedback on the project and progress. DRs enjoy dedicated space within BLS, and are an integral part of BLS research centres/clusters. Alongside formal training requirements in generic research skills, research ethics, methodologies and research design, DRs use the Vitae Researcher Development Framework as the basis for their annually reviewed **Development Needs Analysis (DNA)**. It enables DRs to identify their individual training, networking, development and support needs across all aspects of doctoral research. DRs organise a series of work in progress seminars and a more formal annual conference facilitated by BLS, both designed to develop presentation and research leadership skills. DRs are required to present two seminars during their three years of study. They are encouraged to participate in relevant conferences and skills workshops including, for example, the SLSA PG workshop (to be hosted by BLS in 2015). Additionally, DRs can apply to BLS and CAL for funding to support attendance at national and international conferences. UoB is committed to preparing our research students for work within and beyond academia. To this end, the **CAL Graduate School** runs employability seminars on a bi-weekly basis bringing in field-leaders from business and the professions, while UoB's **Career Service** offers one-to-one and group sessions and law-specific advice is available from the BLS careers officer and via CEPLER. We aim to develop research capacity by funding DRs to e.g. write research blogs, do support work on funding bids, and by supervisors co-authoring publications.

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

(i) Research income:

A key part of our recruitment strategy has been to appoint colleagues with a track record of generating research income, so that the School can benefit from the expertise of appointments (notably Dragneva, Harding, Layard, Sanders, Young) who have successfully captured major external funding. The support of the dedicated CAL **Research and Knowledge Transfer (R&KT) Office** has also been crucial to our efforts to secure external funding. Our research funding strategy embeds funding applications as a routine aspect of research activities and seeks to translate success in obtaining **pump-priming money from CAL** (e.g. to Gooch and Treadwell for a pilot study investigating how young Muslims in the Midlands region experience the criminal justice system, May 2013) and the award of small grants into larger, more ambitious applications (e.g. Rubini's application for a BA mid-Career fellowship, submitted September 2013, built on the award of a BA small grant in 2010 to support his project on regulation of subsidies in the WTO). We have put in place support mechanisms, including revised procedures for peer review of grant applications, to ensure constructive input from mentors and experienced peer reviewers prior to the

submission of funding bids. We are committed to encouraging research funding applications both by sole researchers and those working collaboratively within BLS or across disciplines in the College/University and beyond. Recent successes include: **Dragneva's** ESRC Grant No. ES/J013358/1 on 'Russia and the EU in the Common Neighbourhood: Export of Governance and Legal (In)Compatibility' (£379,036), **Layard's** ESRC mid-career Fellowship on Localism, Law & Governance (ES/J004642/1) Jan 2012-Dec 2013; (£213,752); **Rubini's** AHRC Fellowship (£63,280; 2011) to complete his forthcoming CUP monograph on *Regulation of Legitimate Subsidies in the WTO*, **Vaughan's** ESRC future Leader's Fellowship on Lawyer's Influence on Corporate Decision-Making (£235,000; 2013-16) and **Mclvor's** International Research Network on Legal Epidemiology (£33,000; 2012-14). To build on these successes we have organised a number of internal BLS events, including a research funding seminar (June 2013) where colleagues who have secured research funding from various sources (AHRC, ESRC, British Academy, Wellcome Trust) shared experiences and offered tips. Colleagues are also encouraged to attend research workshops organised by the University's Research and Innovation Services, which offer advice and practical guidance on funding applications, and the management of research projects.

(ii) Research infrastructure:

BLS strives to ensure that its vibrant research environment is underpinned by a strong research infrastructure supported through the following mechanisms:

Within BLS:

1. We have a generous leave scheme whereby all research active staff may apply for one term of University-funded research leave after three years of teaching to complete substantial research outputs/large funding applications, or commence major new projects.
2. In addition to regular staff seminars (latterly organised in conjunction with research cluster leaders), presentation of work in progress and more specialised research activities conducted under the auspices of Centres, School-wide research-focused events are organised periodically. For example, we have held Research Away Days to discuss BLS research strategy and new ways of fostering and sustaining the research environment (June 2013); research impact events to discuss dissemination of research, outreach to key stake holders and pool ideas about evidencing impact (Feb 2012; Feb 2013) and framing book proposals (Dec 2013).
3. All staff enjoy a **research allowance** of £650 pa to spend as they choose on research support, a **book allowance** of £200 pa and can also apply for additional funding to the **BLS Research Support Fund** to support participation at international conferences, research assistance by DRs, pilot projects, research-related travel. Each research cluster/Centre is allocated £1000 pa to support research events.

Within CAL:

1. Research is supported by the **CAL R&K Office**, established in 2009 with a complement of six staff (one dedicated to BLS) to help in preparation of funding bids. It has built up significant expertise in funding applications to UK research councils, in particular, and been instrumental in facilitating successful funding applications.
2. Several BLS researchers have benefitted from a **CAL R&KT fund** designed to support larger projects, new strategic initiative and impact activities. There are four funding deadlines p.a. and funds are awarded on a competitive basis across the college. E.g. Hunt and Wade have been funded for a project on the consequences of using counter-terrorism powers at ports, airports, and other border crossings in the UK, France, Germany, Spain and Italy (May 2013).
3. Additional research support is provided through CAL **Undergraduate Research Scholarships** which enable academics to bid for funding to enable high achieving final year undergraduates to undertake research projects for academic staff. BLS has been awarded three in the past two years.

Across UoB:

1. UoB has university-wide **Research and Innovation Services** to offer support on large cross-campus bids. E.g., McHale and McGuinness (Law) with Widdows (Philosophy) and Viant (Biosciences) developed a work package on 'Governance' for a BBSRC/EPSRC bid to establish a UoB Multi-Disciplinary Synthetic Biology Research Centre led by Professor Tim Dafforn in Biosciences (submitted September 2013).
2. Dedicated **travel funds** exist to facilitate research visits and collaborations with **North American** and **Indian** institutions. BLS colleagues have successfully availed of this to support participation at the American and Canadian Law and Society Association Annual Conferences; and research visits by staff to e.g. Delhi, Harvard University, Notre Dame and the University of Virginia.

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3. The **Institute of Advanced Studies (IAS)**, has funded a number of seminars led by or involving BLS staff, and facilitated research visitors. (E.g Coyle was funded to run a cross-UoB seminar for scholars with diverse interests in Vulnerability theory in July 2012 led by Professor Martha Fineman, Law, Emory). Subsequently as part of a competitive process Fineman has been appointed as an inaugural **IAS Distinguished Visiting Fellow** in Sept-October 2014 to consolidate this emerging inter-disciplinary research strand.

(iii) Research facilities

BLS's own well-equipped building was substantially refurbished in 2012. It houses our PGR community and the Harding Law Library. Provision is made to increase spending annually on law holdings, which have also been strengthened in line with the growth of new research specialisms. E.g. in 2006-7 this stood at £146,820 (with a School subvention of £65,000); by 2012-13 this figure had risen to £271,688 (with a College subvention of £20,000). The range of electronic resources available to legal researchers has also risen dramatically over the last five years. BLS has a dedicated Library Subject Advisor physically located within the Law School and fully integrated into its research culture. More generally, UoB has one of the largest UK academic libraries, boasting an outstanding research collection, incorporating 2.7 million items, over 50,000 scholarly journals (electronic and print), and access to 275,000 e-books.

e. Collaboration or contribution to the discipline or research base**Collaborations:**

A key strength of BLS research over this REF period has been collaborative work with colleagues across UOB, locally in the Midlands region, throughout the UK and internationally. **Within UoB** we have developed research collaborations with the Centre for Russian and East European Studies, Geography, Philosophy/Global Ethics, Political Science and International Studies and Social Policy. Many of these collaborations have been fostered by the **IAS** which has funded several research events and visitors (see above). Within the **Midlands region** we have developed strong community links; e.g. via **CEPLER** which has fostered collaboration with the local, as well as national and international, legal profession; while the **Midlands Consortium of Health Lawyers** has formalised research links with health law scholars in midlands universities, through funded research events, from which future collaborative outputs are planned. **National collaborations** include Layard's interdisciplinary research with colleagues at Bath, Edinburgh, Exeter and Glamorgan, funded under the **AHRC's Connected Communities** scheme which explores the operation of local governance, particularly in land use; and the close connections built with the **British Institute for International Comparative Law (BICL)** London, where Calamita is currently seconded as Director of the investment Treaty Forum for five years. At the **European level**, IEL members actively participate in international research networks which have produced significant collaborative research, e.g. Boyron and Trybus belong to the **Global Public Contracts Network** coordinated through the Chair of Public Contracts at the Ecole des Sciences Politiques (Paris) which has published several treatises on public contracts (e.g. Trybus, et al, (eds) *EU Law of Public Contracts* (2013). Trybus also belongs to the **European Public Procurement Law Network** directed by the University of Turin which has produced collaborative volumes, e.g. Caranta and Trybus (eds) *The Law of Green and Social Procurement in Europe* (2010). In 2013 BLS was the first UK Law School to be admitted to the **Euro Group for Animal Law Studies** which will hold its inaugural conference in Basel in April 2014. **Internationally** our two AHRC International Research Networks on Legal Epidemiology and ReValuing Care have fostered close links with colleagues at **Cape Western University** and the **University of Adelaide**, in particular. CEPLER is actively developing links with US universities e.g. it will host a joint symposium on diversity with **Fordham Law School** (Autumn 2014). BLS has also developed close links with **Emory Law School**, that will be consolidated by Fineman's appointment as an IAS Distinguished Visiting Scholar (see d.ii.3).

Our thriving **Visiting Scholars Scheme** enables leading scholars in law and allied disciplines to visit Birmingham to undertake research and contribute to the research culture of the School. We have hosted visitors who have spent periods ranging from a few weeks to 12 months to BLS to work collaboratively with BLS colleagues. Over this REF period visitors include Prof Sabela Oubiña Barbolla (University of Madrid); Dr Madeleine Campbell (Wellcome Trust Fellow, Royal Veterinary College); Prof Jenifer Corrin (University of Queensland); Prof Maneesha Deckha, (University of Victoria, BC), Prof Tomonobu Ishida (Aichi Gakuin University, Japan) and Dr Priscilla Smith (Senior Research Fellow, Yale University).

In turn several BLS colleagues have held **distinguished visiting positions** at e.g Antwerp Law

Faculty; Adelaide University, UCLA, Emory Law School; European University Institute, Florence; Kennedy Institute of Ethics, Georgetown; World Trade Institute, University of Berne.

(ii) Contribution to discipline base

All research-active staff play an active role in the academic community beyond UoB through significant editorial and/or reviewing roles for a wide range of academic publishers. The breadth of engagement and the depth of peer esteem is apparent in the selection below:

Editing:

Six BLS colleagues edit/co-edit leading peer reviewed law journals: *European Law Review, Journal of Conflict and Security Law, Journal of International Peace-keeping, Journal of Legal Pluralism, Jurisprudence, Social and Legal Studies.*

22 colleagues serve on journal editorial boards: e.g. *Crime, Law & Social Change; Feminist Legal Studies; Foro* (law journal of Universidad Complutense de Madrid), *Howard Journal of Criminal Justice; International Business Law; International Review of Victimology; International Journal of the Legal Profession; Journal of African Law; Journal of International and Comparative Law; Journal of Law and Society; Law, Social Justice and Global Development; Macquarie Law Journal; Medical Law Review; Tort Law; Yearbook of International Humanitarian Law.*

Four colleagues serve on editorial boards for book series (for e.g. Hart, OUP); **four colleagues have guest-edited special journal issues** (for e.g. *Medical Law Review, Cambridge Quarterly of Healthcare Ethics, New Criminal Law Review*).

Refereeing for Research Councils, Journals and Publishers:

9 members of the UoA serve on peer review panels (e.g. AHRC; Australian Research Council; Czech Science Foundation; Danish Council for Independent Research; ESRC, Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences); **32 members of the UoA have refereed for a total of 109 peer reviewed journals** and **31 have reviewed monographs** for a total of **20 publishers** including CUP; Elgar; Hart Publishing; OUP; Routledge; University of Columbia Press.

Membership of National and International Committees:

Sanders chairs **CHULS (Committee of Heads of University Law Schools, (2011-13)**; Lee sits on the **Society of Legal Scholars (SLS) Executive Committee** and currently convenes its **Torts** subject section having previously convened **Jurisprudence**; while Sommerlad convened its **Profession, Practice and Ethics** section until 2011. Harding and Layard sit on the **Socio-Legal Studies Association (SLSA) Executive**, while Bental is the current **PGR representative** for the SLSA. Pemberton is membership secretary for the **Social Policy Association**. Sommerlad convenes the Legal Professional Identities and Values section of the RCSL WG on the Legal Profession.

Conferences and Academic Events Organised:

Members of the UoA organised **23 major conferences and seminar series**. E.g. **funded events** include: 'Judges and Jurists', Law Society, 2009 (**SLS**); 'Caring about Social Interconnection' Adelaide, 2013; 'Law & Epidemiology' Paris, 2013; 'Law and the Regulation of New Health Technologies' Birmingham, 2013 (all **AHRC**); 'Regulation and Professionalisation in Complementary Medicine' Birmingham, 2011; 'Reproductive Justice; Birmingham, 2013 (both **Wellcome Trust**); 'Political Power of Tax Complexity' Birmingham, 2013 (**Social & Legal Studies**) and a number of IEL conferences (see section b above, with **Jean Monnet funding**).

HEI Consultancies:

Six BLS colleagues have served as external assessors for senior posts at **30 UK** and overseas universities; **six** have served as **external programme reviewers** at **nine UK** institutions and **eight** have acted as external REF readers at **twelve** other Law Schools.

Examination of Doctorates:

BLS colleagues served as external examiners for **64 UK doctorates** and **17 non-UK doctorates** at universities including Barcelona, Cape Town, Madrid, Melbourne, University of West Indies. Most colleagues serve as external examiners for taught undergraduate or postgraduate degrees.

Prizes in REF period:

BLS scholars have been awarded the **SLSA prize** for "outstanding socio-legal scholarship in the award year" on 3 occasions in this period. Layard won the articles prize in 2010, and Fox (with Thomson) in 2013; Harding won both book prizes (for book and book by an ECR) in 2011; McRae won the **Institute of Mental Health** prize for 'best overall publication flowing from work during doctoral studies' in 2013.