

<p>Institution: University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI)</p> <hr/> <p>Unit of Assessment: 28</p> <hr/> <p>a. Overview</p> <p>Modern Languages and Linguistics at the University of the Highland and Islands (UHI) is represented by eight Category A researchers in Celtic Studies. Seven of the eight Category A researchers work at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig UHI (SMO), the National Centre for the Gaelic Language and Culture in Scotland, on the Isle of Skye, while the eighth is based at Lews Castle College UHI (LCC), on the Isle of Lewis. The spectrum of expertise includes Historical Phonology (Cox), Early Modern and Modern Scottish Gaelic Literature (Ó Baoill, Bateman), Medieval and Modern Gaelic Highland History (Stiùbhart), Cultural Landscape (Cheape, Stiùbhart, Bateman), Sociolinguistics (Armstrong, Smith-Christmas), and Musicology (Purser, Cheape).</p> <p>The two Colleges and the UHI administration executive have inter-locking Celtic Studies and UHI-wide research strategies, staffing and research policies, and support functions. Celtic Studies research strategy is determined by researchers and postgraduates in the Research Committees of SMO and LCC, and is underpinned by College strategies, policies and support systems. It links directly with UHI research aims, structures, research policies and support mechanisms, in order to build a research-based university at UHI, with an international reputation for research excellence.</p> <hr/> <p>b. Research strategy</p> <p>1. <u>Achievement of research aims during 2008-13</u></p> <p>In seeking to build an internationally excellent, research-based university, three inter-locking research aims were specified in the University's submission to Celtic Studies in the 2008 RAE: to strengthen and develop research capacity and infrastructure, increase research collaborations and improve research quality and quantity. Significant progress has been made in all three aims in the REF period, resulting in, for example, 5 major national, inter-university research and knowledge exchange (KE) projects with bases at SMO, 100+ published articles and books, identification of 22 research-active staff - of whom 8 are being submitted to the current research assessment (doubling the number submitted to the RAE 2008), and the trebling of research and KE income.</p> <p>Research capacity was strengthened and research collaborations built by the award (2009) of the £5.29m Gaelic research capacity-building project, Soillse, an inter-university socio-linguistic project based at UHI and involving a partnership with the Universities of Edinburgh, Glasgow and Aberdeen. Soillse has become a major research consortium that works with the public, voluntary and private sectors to provide an evidence base for policy and practice in language development and community initiatives in Scotland. Soillse has brought a number of research appointments to UHI colleges and augmented pre-existing capacity in language policy and planning, community development, media studies, and Gaelic education.</p> <p>Capacity and collaborations were further strengthened by the location of four national, inter-university collaborative research and KE projects at SMO: Faclair na Gàidhlig (FnaG)/the Dictionary of the Scottish Gaelic Language (to develop an electronic historical dictionary of Gaelic), Ainmean Àite na h-Alba (AÀA)/Gaelic Place-names of Scotland (to give authoritative advice on Gaelic place-names in Scotland), TOOLS/POOLS-T (to develop online database language learning/teaching resources), and Tobar an Dualchais (TAD)/the Well of Heritage, an online digitisation project to access the sound recording archives, for Gaelic and Scots, of the School of Scottish Studies, BBC and the Campbell of Canna Collections. This site now holds 33,000 tracks with 11,500 hours of sound recordings, offering a huge research resource in phonology, musicology, onomastics and folklore, freely accessible on the world wide web. These four projects provide significant new infrastructure which supports the development of high quality research.</p> <p>Window to the West (WTTW), an AHRC project involving the University of Dundee and SMO (funded during 2006-10, but on-going until 2014), and with additional artistic collaborations with Profs. Watson and MacLean, has been highly innovative and sector-leading because of its inter-institutional, inter-disciplinary approach in challenging the misconception that the Highlands, though rich in music and poetry, have no visual traditions, and because of its wider impact through exhibitions, seminars and publications.</p>

Additionally, new appointments in 2007 (Cheape, Stiubhart, Forrest) and 2012 (Ó Baoill) have strengthened research capacity in the submitting unit. The importance of developing research strategy has been underlined by three new strategic appointments – Prof. Robertson (SMO Principal, 2009), M. Rayner (UHI Dean of Research, 2010), and Prof. Bryden (UHI V.P. Research, 2013) - and by the appointment of experienced, external researchers to the SMO Board of Directors. Research policies have become more strategic, focussing on achievement of research excellence and greater KE activity through, e.g. the introduction of research mentoring, research-based promotions, increased importance of research activity in recruitment and annual appraisals, and more emphasis on research training, dissemination and communication with research users and partners, conference funding and sabbatical opportunities. Further evidence is provided in Sections 'c-e' of this document. **Research quality and quantity** has improved, boosted by new postgraduate and researcher numbers, the staff development strategy above, postgraduate completions, and a better research infrastructure, including new research accommodation, additional specialist library holdings, scanning of special collections for internet access, greater online research materials, and searchable catalogues. The quantity and quality of research has been further strengthened through greater coordination of postgraduate support in the UHI Graduate School, which was launched during the REF period, and through postgraduate completions.

2. Research aims and strategy for 2014-19

Celtic Studies at UHI aims to publish and disseminate research that is of international significance and excellence, and that builds on relationships with, and is of benefit to, other sectors of society. These aims will be achieved through the following objectives and indicators.

- i. **Strengthen staff and postgraduate development strategies and structures**, to build research capacity and, thus, enable staff and postgraduates to reach their potential in the delivery of high quality research outputs and impact. Indicators include: a new staff research development strategy that formalizes the career development structure for all staff (including Early Career Researchers (ECRs)), that sets out indicators of research success and entitlement to training, sabbaticals and research leave, that strengthens the research mentoring system, and that guides academic staff recruitment policy. Individual staff research plans will be agreed and monitored. Postgraduate training needs will be reviewed annually; and marketing of postgraduate research opportunities in the main areas of staff expertise will be improved. SMO/UHI will compete to win a share of the AHRC Block Grant Partnerships 2 PhD funding award (26 scholarships) to Celtic Studies in the UK, and will pursue other research scholarship monies.
- ii. **Secure continuation funding for, and develop research outputs from, existing research and KE projects, and develop new research projects.** Indicators will include: sustainability for Soillse, TAD, and AÅA projects; a postgraduate degree course with the University of Edinburgh, based on TAD materials; increased academic publications from existing projects; and increased research council funding applications for sabbaticals and new research projects.
- iii. **Collaborate with others in order to build new areas of research expertise and an international reputation for research excellence.** Indicators will include: sustaining pre-existing collaborative projects and seeking new partnerships with other universities to make funding bids to UK and EU bodies, with support from research and finance services in SMO and the expertise of UHI Research Office.
- iv. **Pursue greater KE** through a new KE strategy and KE Centre, focussed around the priority research areas and developing impact from them, through, e.g. a publications dissemination strategy, an annual community lectures programme, greater media presence, and increasing interaction with businesses and agencies through sharing of buildings, facilities, services and research knowledge, on campus at SMO and at UHI. Areas of national and international importance are responding to the National Gaelic

Language Plan (2012-17), and to the situation of minority languages internationally.

- v. **Develop research infrastructure** to support research excellence, through expanding specialist collections, increasing availability of online general and specialist resources (especially journals, through Open Access), new purpose-built accommodation for research staff and postgraduates in an Administration, Research and Knowledge Exchange building at SMO, and up-to-date Information and Communications Technology across UHI.

c. People, including:

i. Staffing strategy and staff development

Investment in staff is of critical importance if they are to reach their potential. The SMO and UHI staff development strategies aim to create stability and sustainability in staffing levels, build research experience in order to produce research of the highest standard, develop research mentoring skills, and plan for succession. At SMO, virtually all academics are recruited to permanent contracts, and their performance is monitored and subject to annual appraisal. A succession strategy for research is planned for 2014, as part of a college succession planning initiative. Improving research achievement at SMO is secured through line management mentoring, funding for conference attendance and training, and through a Research Mentoring Scheme, where less experienced researchers are paired with senior researchers. Mentoring has been boosted through the appointments of a Soillse senior research professor (Prof. Johnstone, 2010), Prof. Ó Baoill (2012), Prof. Cheape (2007), Prof. Robertson (2010), and Prof. Dunbar (2010-June 2013). Professors Cheape, Cox and Robertson have also taken up line-management/advisory roles on three inter-university projects located at SMO (TAD, AÀA, FnaG).

Access to training, funding and remission from other duties for research activities contribute to improved research skills through the free, annual UHI Staff Development Conference, the UHI Conference and Travel Fund (up to 80% support for one event per year), the SMO Staff Development Fund (up to 100% support for travel and conference/training costs, for one or more events per year), and the UHI Sabbatical Scheme. Four SMO staff members were awarded sabbaticals of 4-6 months' duration in the census period.

Both SMO and UHI have Equal Opportunities policies which feed into the staff development strategies, promoting equal access to, for example, training and promotion, irrespective of gender, age, ethnicity, disability, employment status or location. The tenets of the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers is incorporated into the UHI and SMO Research Strategies and supporting policies, and through the annual appraisal system. UHI supports equal opportunities for women and is working towards Athena Swan recognition. Additionally, all staff are eligible to apply for flexible working, and for statutory entitlements to maternity, paternity and adoption leave, 'Keeping in Touch' days (with full pay), and a childcare voucher scheme.

Researchers have annual appraisals to review achievements (e.g. peer-reviewed publications, invited plenaries and lectures, conference participation, grant applications and outcomes, research income), and training/support requirements. Appraisals also help to identify potential cases for salary increases and promotions. Promotions in the REF period include: Stiùbhart (to senior lecturer and researcher, 2012), Armstrong (researcher, 2011); and Cheape, Cox, Dunbar and Robertson (professorships, 2009-11).

The submitting unit was relatively small and had no ECRs in the RAE 2008. Currently, there are three ECRs, with a fourth ECR due to begin at SMO in September 2013. Two ECRs are Soillse staff members and are line-managed by a Soillse and SMO/LCC staff member. Emphasis is placed on supporting ECRs to produce peer-reviewed articles and monographs, developing collaborations, and bidding and working on research contracts and grant applications. ECRs are given carefully measured opportunities to acquire experience of teaching, research contracts for policy bodies, and postgraduate supervisions (as third supervisor). Armstrong, for example, has taught one undergraduate module in the third year of his tenure, has had a significant but prescribed role in three research contracts, and became a PhD third supervisor in year three of his post. All the Soillse ECRs and PhDs can participate in a placement scheme with relevant public authorities and development bodies, and already have linkages with public agencies through an

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emphasis in their research topics and fieldwork on K.E.: Landgraf, for example, worked with schools and education departments in three local authority areas during her doctorate; and, as an ECR in 2013-14, she will produce a monograph based on her PhD findings (for use by teachers, and informed by conversations with Stòrlann, the national body producing Gaelic materials for schools), and will create two new Continuing Professional Development modules for teachers.

ii. Research students

UHI Celtic Studies was validated by the University of Aberdeen for delivery of MPhil and PhD degrees in 2006, and was successfully re-validated in 2011. Two of the three students reported in the RAE 2008 successfully completed their doctorates. Since the RAE, numbers have doubled, to six students. Four are part-time, so the FTE total for 2012/13 is 3. Six of the eight Category A staff are supervisors. The target for the next REF is to ensure the successful completion of the current student cohort and, once again, to double current numbers (at least). This aim will be helped by SMO/UHI's participation, from 2014, in the AHRC-funded, Block Grant Partnership 2 award for 26 PhD scholarships, and through making applications to other research councils. Two postgraduates are fully funded by Soillse, and one other receives fees support from SMO's Staff Development budget. One of the completions during the REF period was fully funded by SMO. The above underline SMO and UHI's commitment to growing the postgraduate cohort.

Potential students approach SMO to discuss the proposed research topic before applying formally through the UHI Graduate School and the UHI Research Degrees Sub-Committee (RDSC), which assesses applications according to the applicant's academic qualifications, the quality of the research proposal, and availability of a strong supervisory team. SMO and RDSCs' work is governed by UHI human resource policies on, for example, Equal Opportunities, ensuring equity for all students and supervisors, regardless of gender, age, and ethnicity, with clear procedures for requesting temporary suspensions for personal or academic reasons. This is monitored through the RDSC and through the University of Aberdeen.

Every student is paired with at least two senior academics in their research area. Ensuring the quality of supervisory expertise and monitoring student supervision is supported by mandatory training for supervisors and through supervisory team selection criteria. External supervisors are recruited to ensure that students receive the best supervision (currently from the Universities of Aberdeen, Dundee, Queen's Belfast, and Edinburgh). Postgraduate progress and supervisory support are monitored regularly through the RDSC and the SMO Research Committee.

Emphasis is placed on high quality postgraduate training. Training needs and resources to be put in place are identified by the Postgraduate Structured Management Framework. UHI Graduate School runs an annual training programme in key postgraduate research skills, such as time management, career planning, and writing for an academic audience. Students attend and are strongly encouraged to present their research at the fully-funded, annual, UHI postgraduate conference as well as the biennial UHI research conference. UHI provides 50% funding for one external conference/training event per postgraduate each year, and SMO also provides funding (100%) for one further event per year. SMO runs two Gaelic-medium training days for postgraduates annually, offering specialist training in, for example, Gaelic academic terminology, and using the Celtic Studies specialist library resources. Students are required to present their research twice a year, and to take part in the annual SMO research seminar series. Soillse provides postgraduates with bi-monthly training opportunities through 1-2 day events involving student presentations and sessions with invited, internationally-recognised speakers.

Postgraduates at SMO and LCC benefit from a Gaelic-speaking environment, in visually breath-taking, culturally- and historically-rich Gaelic-speaking islands. They have immediate access to Gaelic communities, and have projects which impact on the life and wellbeing of those Gaelic communities. Postgraduates have dedicated office space alongside the core research-teaching team, thus stimulating academic exchange. Each has an individual computer, resources and technological links, including full access to the SMO specialist library and library resources across UHI, as well as library resources (online and on-site) at the University of Aberdeen. Other online databases of resources are fully accessible on the UHI and SMO websites.

Career development for postgraduates includes offering them limited teaching opportunities and appointing graduates to academic posts. For instance, Armstrong taught two undergraduate modules during his doctorate, and, following completion of his PhD, he was appointed as a Soillse Research Fellow at SMO. It is confirmed that the next PhD student to complete, in August 2013, will also be appointed as a researcher. Postgraduates are also invited to take part in research

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projects run by senior staff, to develop their knowledge of post-doctoral research.

Postgraduate links with policy-makers are strong: Soillse PhDs are part-funded by two Gaelic sector development bodies, who interact, alongside other agencies, with students at Soillse meetings and seminars. A new scheme of placements has been developed in 2013 for Soillse researchers. Other Celtic postgraduates have presented their research to industry, e.g. the history of art postgraduate has presented her research to staff of the National Galleries of Scotland.

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

SMO and LCC are inspiring places for Celtic research, being situated in a visually stunning archipelago of islands, where native Gaelic is spoken and Gaelic culture is strong. The location is a rich research resource for staff and visiting scholars and is a powerful symbolic location for Gaelic research initiatives. Over the REF period, SMO's location and research reputation have attracted investment in national projects and, therefore, significant research and KE income, staff expertise and collaborative research partnerships. The significant new projects are FnaG (£674k), TAD (£2.3m), and AÀA (£304k). SMO has also succeeded in retaining the Lèirsinn research contract with MG ALBA (the Gaelic national broadcasting body) and the BBC (£560k). Two European-funded, online database development projects, to assist language teachers in creating multi-media webpages for language learning, POOLS-T and TOOLS, brought in £239k of project funding.

SMO and UHI have demonstrated substantial commitment to research development through leading initiatives and financially investing in them. The largest research development has been Soillse (£5.29m), with 50% coming from public sector agencies, the Scottish Funding Council, Bòrd na Gàidhlig and Highlands and Islands Enterprise, and match-funding from the participating universities. SMO has committed £295k, UHI £165k, and LCC £90k to employ a research professor, senior research mentor, a research manager, admin assistant, 2 ECRs and 4 PhD students. A sustainability plan is currently being developed for Soillse. SMO has put further financial resources into staffing by supporting a British Academy Mid-Career Fellowship (£76k from the British Academy, with an additional £42k from SMO); and SMO staff initiated collaborative working between SMO staff and two external academics, resulting in two RSE European Visiting Research Fellowships (2013).

Research council funding was received for SMO staff involvement in Window to the West (WTTW) (£67.5k, 0.6FTE). SMO and UHI are currently working to acquire more research council funding in the next REF period, including a successor project to WTTW. In summary, research income in the census period has increased by 350%, from the RAE 2008 figure of £1.56m, to £5.4m. This past year alone (2012-13) has produced £1m of research-related income.

SMO Specialist Library resources continue to be developed, guided by the SMO Library Advisory Committee. The chairperson is also secretary general of LIBER (Ligue des Bibliothèques Européennes de Recherche), and chair of CERL (the Consortium of European Research Libraries), ensuring that SMO Library's strategic planning and policy development is guided by European best practice. SMO Library has membership in both LIBER and CERL. The SMO Library is scanning important Celtic research materials, thus enabling online access for staff and students from its website. There has been international interest in, for example, the scanning of the complete collection of the 19th century MacTalla, a Gaelic newspaper published in Canada (1892-1904). A Catalogue of SMO Special Collections has been completed and is open to anyone, worldwide. Exhibitions are held annually on an aspect of the SMO Special Collections, and are frequently accompanied by research lectures. The internationally important MacCormaig and Celtica special collections are accessed by staff, students and visiting researchers. Library resources in Language Policy and Planning have been increased through acquisitions guided by the Soillse Research Professor, and through personal bequests: the gifting of the research papers of Prof. Kenneth MacKinnon, the leading socio-linguist of Gaelic in Scotland in the twentieth century, and the gifting of the Dr. Farquhar MacIntosh personal papers on Gaelic education in Scotland. Lews Castle College library has recently acquired the Frank Thompson Collection, with a variety of language, literature, linguistics and historical research materials relating especially to the Western Isles. The UHI library website links to online resources, including journals, and to searchable catalogues of academic and national libraries, through the UHI Online Resource Collections, that includes the British Library Electronic Online Service.

Further resource investments at UHI include £100k in PURE, an advanced research

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information management system, over £1m in a UK sector-leading virtual conferencing system, RefWorks, and NVivo and SPSS computer programme licenses for staff and postgraduates.

Research facilities at SMO have improved substantially: the Fàs building (2009) provides offices for Lèirsinn, AÀA, TAD, Soillse and FnaG. A further £6.6m has been secured (2013) to improve research/KE office accommodation in a new 'Administration, Research and Knowledge Exchange (ARKE)' building, placing 10 research staff in purpose-built offices alongside local commercial businesses. The environment and facilities attract large numbers of national and international academic conferences.

The development of research income, infrastructure and facilities is planned both by the SMO Research Committee and management structures in the College (the Research Coordinator is a member of the SMO Senior Management Team), and by equivalents in UHI, through the offices of the Dean of Research and the V.P. for Research, who manage development of UHI research policy and structures, and the research support functions (including grants support and a European office). All of the elements described in the environment text are interdependent and critical to building research excellence in Celtic Studies.

e. Collaboration or contribution to the discipline or research base

The development of research collaborations, in order to build Celtic Studies research capacity, is a high priority for SMO, LCC and UHI. The University has research and teaching agreements with a number of institutions in the UK, Ireland and Canada, e.g. University College Dublin (UCD), NUI Galway, and St Francis Xavier, Antigonish. Examples of collaboration included two CRF/RSE European Visiting Research Fellowship awards to Irish scholars to spend 3 months each at SMO, working with SMO colleagues on research outputs and a major grant proposal.

In the UK, SMO has an MOU with the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland (RCS) and collaborates with the University of the West of Scotland (UWS), resulting in jointly-organised conferences on Scots and Gaelic song in 2010 (with RCS) and a Sorley Maclean centenary conference (2011, with UWS). In 2011, SMO also hosted the first Soillse international research conference.

SMO has played a leading role in the development and sustainability of important inter-institutional collaborative research projects such as Soillse (which grew out of a review of how to expand Gaelic research at SMO), FnaG and TAD, all managed and run at the College. TAD has brought together different oral archives, academics from UHI and the University of Edinburgh, schools and other archive users, to collaborate, and open up to the public internationally, a huge research resource. FnaG, based at SMO, is an inter-university initiative by the universities of Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Strathclyde and SMO/UHI, to produce the authoritative dictionary of Scottish Gaelic, edited on historical principles and with a structure similar to the Oxford English Dictionary. It draws on lexicographical and research expertise from the universities of Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Glasgow within Scotland, and the Royal Irish Academy and University of Wales, outwith Scotland. The presence of such prestigious national projects on campus contributes greatly to the research environment at SMO.

Between 2006-10, SMO was partnered with the University of Dundee Visual Arts Research Centre in WTTW, an AHRC-funded research project that has contributed to a greater understanding of the place of visual art in Gaelic culture - evidenced in the REF period by a national art exhibition and conference, a co-edited, inter-disciplinary publication (2013), and a forthcoming book, co-written by Bateman, MacDonald and Purser (2014).

SMO continues to derive much of its strength from the knowledge and perspectives within communities, and has undertaken two major research projects with community participation: *Language Attitudes and Abilities* (2010), which has led to the adoption of research recommendations in the *National Gaelic Language Plan for 2012-17*, and research into the language and policy planning training requirements of the whole Gaelic sector in Scotland. SMO staff members continue to offer a strong presence and contribution to the main, biennial Gaelic Studies conference in Scotland, *Rannsachadh na Gàidhlig*, with 17 staff presenting papers in 2010 and 2012.

Over the past five years, staff members have won national and international recognition from peers for their research. **Purser** was awarded the degree of *Doctor Honoris Causa* (University of Aberdeen, 2009), was made an honorary member of the Association for Scottish Literary Studies

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(ASLS, 2011) and of the Saltire Society. **Bateman** was also made an Honorary Member of the ASLS (2012), an Honorary Senior Lecturer at St. Andrews (2006-10), a member of PEN (Scotland) (since 2010), and was a panel member for a research assessment of Celtic Studies research in the College of the Arts, University College Cork (2009). **Cheape** was given a Research Fellowship at the University of Edinburgh (2006-09), is a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London and of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society and Research Fellow of the National Museums of Scotland. Cheape is also a committee member of the Digital Archive of Scottish Gaelic, and has been Historical Adviser to the National Galleries of Scotland, especially for the refurbishment of the Scottish National Portrait Gallery (2008-11).

Three Category A staff members have been external examiners for PhDs: **Cox** (St Andrews, 2010), **Bateman** (Ulster, 2012), and **Cheape** (Oxford, 2009, and Edinburgh, 2012).

Staff are regularly invited to deliver guest lectures at national and international conferences: **Stiùbhart**, to the 32nd Annual Meeting of the Celtic Studies Association of North America, at the University of California Los Angeles (2010), the Maritime Memorates Project, University of Ulster (2011), the annual Celtic-Slavonic Conference, St Petersburg, and to the Centre for Advanced Welsh and Celtic Studies in Aberystwyth (2010); **Cox**, to the international conference 'Earliest Strata of Place-names in Ireland and Scotland' for the 17th Annual Conference of the Society for Name-Studies in Britain and Ireland, Queen's University, Belfast (2008), and, at the University of Glasgow, to the Scottish Place-Name Society (2009); **Armstrong** to the Language and Politics Symposium on the Gaeltacht and Scotstacht, at Queen's University, Belfast (2010) and an invited presentation at three national Bòrd na Gàidhlig conferences (2010-11); **Smith-Christmas** on Gaelic in Scottish Identity for the BBC/AHRC (2013); **Bateman**, at the National Galleries of Scotland (2010), the ASLS conference 'Crossing the Highland Line' (2012), and for the British Council in Israel and India; and Purser, to the South African College of Music (2010), and at Trinity College, Dublin (2010). Four staff have been invited to give plenaries: **Bateman**, in Galicia, on her creative work (2011); **Purser**, the Tannahill Lecture in the National Library of Scotland (2011) and plenary at the Òran/Sang Conference (2012) held at SMO; **Stiùbhart**, the Angus Mathieson Memorial Lecture in Glasgow University (2011), and plenary to the Scottish Gaelic Networks Symposium in Glasgow (2009); and **Cheape**, to the UHI Centre for History on 'Reassessing the 17th Century' (2010).

Five Category A staff have editorial or advisory roles for significant journals and publishers. **Cox** was editor of 'The Scottish Gaelic Studies' section of *The Year's Work in Modern Language Studies* (2008-10); **Cox** is also co-editor of *The Journal of Scottish Name Studies*, was an editorial board member of the same journal from 2006-09, and has been an advisory board member of *Ainm* since 2006. Cox is also an academic referee for *Scottish Gaelic Studies*, the *Gaelic Books Council*, Birlinn and Blackwells; and he is a regular reviewer for *Scottish Gaelic Studies*. **Ó Baoill** was a co-editor of *Scottish Gaelic Studies* (until 2011). **Ó Baoill** is a reviewer for *Scottish Language* and *Scottish Gaelic Studies* (since 2011), a language consultant and member of the Faclair na Gàidhlig advisory board, and is a member of the executive council of the Scottish Gaelic Texts Society. **Stiùbhart** has been a regular reviewer on Scottish subjects for *Beascna: Journal of Folklore and Ethnology*, University of Cork. **Cheape** co-founded and co-edited the *Review of Scottish Culture (ROSC)*, 1984-2013, and was sole editor of *ROSC* Volume 23 (2011); he was also a reviewer for Manchester and Edinburgh University Presses in 2010, and regularly peer-reviews for other professional journals. **Bateman** co-edited *Rethinking Highland Art* (2013), and has experience as a peer reviewer for *Scottish Gaelic Studies*, *Aiste*, and for the *French Review of Scottish Literature*.

Research excellence has also been marked through awards: **Cheape**, the Anthony Baines Prize for an Outstanding Contribution to Musicology, from the Galpin Society of London and Oxford (2009); **Armstrong**, the Dr John Sinclair Prize for Linguistics (2009), and **Purser**, the Washington Area Music Award for Folk-Trad Recording (2010).

Several staff members have had prominent roles in research committees. **Cox** was made an advisory board member to the Manx Dictionary in 2011; **Stiùbhart** is an Executive Committee member of the Scottish Gaelic Texts Society and a Steering Committee member of the Scottish Catholic Historical Society; **Cheape** has been a Steering Group member of Tobar an Dualchais and of the Edinburgh University project, Collecting Cultures (2008-13).