

Institution: University of Bristol
Unit of Assessment: 20 – Law
<p>a. Overview</p> <p>Part of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Law, the University of Bristol Law School provides a highly supportive and stimulating environment for legal research of all kinds and for colleagues at all career stages. We have built within the School research communities, known as ‘primary units’, which nurture the research potential of all our staff and postgraduate students. These formal groupings are further supplemented by a range of discussion groups, seminars and cross-cutting thematic and interdisciplinary endeavours within and beyond the School. Since 2008, as the School has expanded, there have been substantial investments in research, including a £3.1 million refurbishment of the library. As we demonstrate below, we now have a genuinely excellent infrastructure, with comprehensive support for grant applications, cutting-edge projects and dissemination of policy-related research coming from the School, Faculty and wider University.</p>
<p>b. Research strategy</p> <p>Evaluation of Post 2008 Strategy:</p> <p>In 2008 our overarching aim was to ‘facilitate high-quality research across a broad range of legal scholarship’. Our specific objectives were as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. To maintain and develop existing areas of research strength – such as commercial law and socio-legal studies – and to expand these through strategic appointments and internal collaborations;</i> <p>With buoyant student admissions we have been able to make excellent senior and ECR appointments which strengthen our research expertise in both the commercial law field (Arzandeh, Butler, Gammage, Ireland, Raczynska, Sergakis, Subramanian) and in socio-legal studies (Conaghan, Pieraccini, Prabhat, Psygkas and Wells). Layard (a socio- legal scholar specialising in land law) joins the School in January 2014. We have connected with colleagues beyond the School, as illustrated by collaboration between medical lawyers (Bibbings, Laing, Quick) and the Centre for Ethics in Medicine (Huxtable and Quigley, also entered in UOA20).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>2. To promote and sustain a supportive and stimulating research environment, capable of attracting and retaining staff of the highest quality, while fostering the development of early career researchers (ECRs);</i> <p>Greater investment from the School, Faculty and University in research leave and other funding has allowed us to nurture ECRs while maintaining the research capacity and trajectory of longer-term members of staff. Our one year in four study leave policy has been of particular assistance as has encouragement of all staff, ECRs included, to apply for external funding [see d. below]. Our research environment has also been enhanced by the consolidation of our distinctive primary unit (PU) groupings (in commercial relations, criminal justice, regulation and governance and EU and international law). PUs offer staff opportunities for mentoring, presentation of research, as well as discussion aimed at the refinement and improvement of research projects [see c. below]. We have also built cross-cutting research centres on IT and Law (CIL), Human Rights and Implementation (HRIC), and the Study of Law and Religion.</p> <p>The success of these strategies is reflected in our:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Much improved funding record, including notably the awards received by our ECRs and their research outputs (outlined in c., d. and e. as well as REF2), • internal promotions record (McDermont, for example, has risen from ECR appointed in 2004 to Chair in 2013, having attracted extensive external funding for highly innovative research endeavours) and • capacity to attract the highest quality staff (for example, Conaghan, Ireland, Layard and Wells). <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>3. To expand and strengthen our postgraduate research (PGR) student community and the research environment;</i> <p>We have successfully increased our total PGR numbers from 14 in 2001 to 40 in 2009 and over 50 today. At the same time, we have strengthened our PGR community. We continue to attract excellent applicants who often bring prestigious funding, and we offer them comprehensive training via the ESRC-approved MSc in Socio-legal Studies and the teaching delivered through the SouthWest Doctoral Training Centre (SWDTC). This is now being complemented by the School’s participation in the newly created AHRC SouthWest and Wales Doctoral Training Partnership (SwwDTP) from 2013. The University of Bristol Doctoral College also created in 2013 offers</p>

university-wide learning opportunities, and we provide dedicated legal training at School level through our primary units for research students (PURS). The success of these efforts has led to excellent completion rates, publications and, for many, career progression to academic positions both in our own institution and beyond. [See c.ii below.]

4. To enhance our international reputation through support for international collaborations (particularly, involvement in European research projects), and further publicising our research through conferences and improved website facilities.

Since 2008 the School has fostered several international collaborations. The Human Rights Implementation Centre (HRIC), led by Evans and Murray, has made Bristol a crucial meeting place for international policymakers and academics; it also showcases their research [REF3a]. Boeger, Charlesworth, Giliker, Novitz, Prosser, Syrpis, Villiers and Wells have been leaders in European and comparative projects, ensuring burgeoning connections with a wide range of countries [see e. below]. Website resources have been improved through:

- the University's introduction in 2012 of the web-based PURE system, 'Explore Bristol Research', to gather and offer accurate, timely and readily accessible information,
- the Faculty's creation in 2013 of a web-based policy resource, 'PolicyBristol',
- publication of key research reports on the HRIC (Evans, Long, Murray, Steinerte) and main School websites [e.g. Hitchings and Masson – REF2],
- proactive use of project-based websites such as that enabled by the Leverhulme Trust 'Voices at Work' grant: www.voicesatwork.org.uk [see e. below].

New initiatives and priority development areas post 2013:

We aim to maintain and extend the School's reputation as a leading national and international centre of excellence through:

1. Reinforcement and construction of areas of research excellence

Increased UG and PG recruitment has provided a financial basis for expansion, enabling us to build upon existing areas of excellence and to develop new ones: :

- *corporate governance and labour law* (Conaghan, Ireland, McVea, Novitz, Sergakis, Syrpis, Villiers, Wells)
- *European and international governance* (Acosta, Boeger, Butler, Capps, Evans, Gammage, Murray, Prosser, Skordas, Syrpis, Villiers)
- *feminist and gender theory* (Bibbings, Conaghan, Seabourne, Wells)
- *human rights* (Evans, Gammage, Greer, Long, Murray, Novitz, Prabhat, Steinerte, Wells),
- *IP and IT law* (Charlesworth, Novitz, Subramanian)
- *the law of obligations* (Butler, Conaghan, Giliker, Laing, Oliphant, Stanton),
- *legal and regulatory theory* (Burnside, Capps, Conaghan, Cowan, Hitchings, Layard, McDermont, Masson, Morgan, Prosser, Rivers),
- *medical law and ethics* (Bibbings, Huxtable, Laing, Quick, Quigley), and
- *migration law* (Acosta, Novitz, Prabhat, Skordas).

These research groupings combine the expertise of ECRs and more senior staff, offering scope for interaction and project-building. We will be further exploring the potential for research themes to develop across PUs, as has been achieved by the Centre on Law and Religion. The recent study by Laing, Murray and Steinerte also blends expertise on mental health and international standards on torture. We recognise that experimentation and diversity will contribute to the vitality and sustainability of our research community.

2. Development of funding opportunities to enable research of depth and significance

Our external research funding has more than doubled during this REF period (£2.2 million over five years - approximately £440,000 per year - compared with £1.5 million over seven years, £214,000 per year, in the last REF period), while extensive research-related funding has been generated through the HRIC [see d. below]. When McDermont's ERC and ESRC projects are fully underway in 2013-14, alongside other grants, our research revenue will have increased substantially again [see d. below]. We attribute this growth in external funding not only to the efforts of individual staff (such as Evans, McDermont and Murray), but to an active research culture oriented towards awareness and utilisation of varied grant-related opportunities, including those for:

- individual research (through externally funded AHRC and Leverhulme fellowships as well as those offered within the University) [see c., d. and e. below],
- seminars and conferences within the UK and beyond (whether enabled by external funding

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or Bristol's own Institute of Advanced Studies grants) [see e. below] and

- large-scale project-based research undertaken both by experienced researchers and ECRs [see again e. below].

We will continue to pursue a variety of funded endeavours assisted by the proactive approach to training, review and information dissemination led at University-level by the Research Enterprise and Development division (RED) and at School level by the Research Committee and through our PU groups [see d. below]. While the reputation of our research centres (particularly that of the HRIC) assists us in attracting funding, our ambition is still to escalate our grant activity through widening our funding sources and looking towards greater collaboration with key stakeholders and policy-makers, such as research linked to communities pursued by McDermont [see d. and e. below]. Market research by PolicyBristol in 2013 has particular significance for us in terms of crafting a basis for future income and mapping onto our commitment to policy-related research.

3. Policy-related research which demonstrates the wider relevance of our studies

Building on recent successes, we are exploring further engagement with users to promote cutting-edge, policy-relevant research. The School will utilise PolicyBristol's service which flags new legislative proposals and their passage through Parliament, highlighting opportunities to respond to calls for consultation or select committee evidence. We know there is scope to achieve impact by feeding into such processes [see Wells in REF3a/b]. The School's Research Committee can authorise discretionary funding for time-sensitive research (e.g. in 2013 research conducted by Masson into new pilot schemes regarding procedural reforms in care proceedings). Not all policy-related research has an immediate impact, and we are also determined to engage in longer-term scholarly work which critically examines assumptions that underlie national, regional and international legislative or other policy agendas. The aim is to use our PU research communities as the basis for individual and collaborative reflection, as well as policy-related engagement on such issues.

c. People:

i. Staffing strategy and staff development

Staffing policy

To attract, recruit and retain staff of the highest calibre, the School has built a stimulating and supportive intellectual environment, while offering an excellent research infrastructure. We help staff at all career stages to develop as researchers, putting particular emphasis on our ECRs. Wherever possible, we appoint to permanent contracts to provide the security and stability that underpins high quality research. Generally, we deploy fixed-term teaching-only contracts only to cover temporary secondments and buy outs from research grants. Mindful of the importance of succession planning, our recent appointments reflect a healthy demographic spread. For example, in the REF period we have recruited both highly promising ECRs as lecturers (Acosta, Arzandeh, Butler, Gammage, Pieraccini, Psygkas, Raczynska, Sergakis) and experienced, established academics able to offer mentoring (Conaghan, Ireland and Wells, with Layard to join in 2014). Inter-disciplinarity within the School is evident through joint appointments with Sociology (Naughton) and Engineering (Charlesworth). We seek to foster postdoctoral ECR research (for example, Fortin working on multi-stakeholder governance of biofuels, British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow since 2011; and Palmer researching the distinctions between sex and sexual violation as ESRC Postdoctoral Research Fellow 2012-13).

Staff development

All colleagues belong to one of our primary unit (PU) research communities, which reflect four (broad research interests of the School: commercial relations, criminal justice, regulation and governance and international and EU law. Each PU runs separate monthly meetings, bringing together colleagues in a supportive space. PU meetings range from individual presentations of proposed research papers and funded project applications to more focussed policy-based sessions discussing particular research strategies or initiatives to be taken at School, Faculty or University level. The Heads of each PU (HPUs) assist in a wide range of other activities including:

- mentoring and annual staff review,
- consultation and advice on research policies,
- assistance with study leave and promotion applications,
- coordination of peer observation of our research-informed teaching and
- participation in policy and decision-making within the School's Research Committee.

Generous funding to support research, totalling £1500 per annum, is provided by a mixture of a

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School-level individual annual research allowance and Faculty funding. Significant discretionary 'seed' funding is also available for activities which further the research objectives of the School, Faculty and University. [See b. above and d. below.] All staff engaged in research are eligible for one year's study leave in four, funded by the School. This policy is assisted by the university-wide competition run by the Institute of Advanced Studies (IAS), which provides grants for year-long research fellowships at all career levels. We also assist colleagues to seek external funding.

ECRs

We seek to nurture and foster the development of our ECRs by ensuring that they are swiftly and fully integrated into the School. They are actively incorporated into our internal PU research clusters, offering all academic colleagues (hired on whatever contractual basis) the opportunity to discuss their research interests. In this way, ECRs are provided with technical support, advice, encouragement, and mentoring. On appointment ECRs are given:

- reduced teaching loads (by a third),
- a mentor to guide them in both teaching and research and
- specific training and targeted assistance for ECR grant applications [see d. below].

ECRs are encouraged to participate both in PUs and in the School-wide research seminar programme, which involve presentations by external speakers and by a range of Bristol colleagues – again, at all levels of seniority. This enables new colleagues not only to get feedback on their work but to forge links with colleagues working in related areas. Of our eleven current ECRs (including post-doctoral fellow Fortin and HRIC researcher Steinerte), nine have submitted outputs for the REF. The remaining two ECR colleagues (Butler and Gammage) were only appointed on 1 September 2013, having completed their doctoral theses earlier in the year.

Equality and diversity

The School has embraced promotion of equality and diversity. Colleagues joining the School over the last five years come from a range of different ethnicities (including Greek, Indian, Iranian, Irish, Italian, Polish, and Spanish). Over 50% of the School's academic staff is female and nine of the School's 21 professors are women. The School encourages flexible working arrangements to accommodate family, health and other needs. Our workload model ensures the fair and transparent allocation of teaching and administrative duties to all staff. We seek to encourage awareness of equal opportunities, addressing structural barriers to research excellence for under-represented groups. Part time colleagues (who are predominantly female) are entitled to the same research funding allowance as others, while the School's study leave entitlement applies to all research active staff, ensuring that leave is available to those with caring responsibilities or whose ability to work full time is affected by other factors, such as disability.

Research-only staff funded on external grants

We recognise, in accordance with the Concordat, that project-based researchers are integral to our endeavours. Research-only colleagues have been employed in the HRIC to work on various grants and have been encouraged to act as PIs (for example, Long and Steinerte); others have been appointed on a short-term basis in relation to particular projects (such as Pieraccini's research assistant for her ESRC Future Leaders project). The University's redeployment policy allows us to prioritise hiring of researchers who have worked in other parts of the University, offering continuity in their careers (an example is Sales working on McDermont's projects). We remain committed to assisting them in their career development; for example, the collaboration of Evans and Murray with Steinerte and former research assistant, Hallo de Wolf.

Research quality and integrity

Comprehensive support for and advice on grant applications is provided to staff at all career stages from a mixture of School, Faculty and University sources. At School level advice is available from the Research Director working in conjunction with colleagues experienced in refereeing submissions for research funding bodies (such as Cowan, Pieraccini, Masson and Prosser as ESRC peer reviewers). An internal peer review system operates for all ESRC applications and is strongly recommended for all externally funded applications. The University's Research and Enterprise Development (RED) and Finance divisions provide detailed assistance to those drafting funding applications. Specialist advice on policy-related research and impact-related activities (see b. above) is available from a variety of sources including the School's Impact Director, RED, the Centre for Public Engagement and Policy Bristol.

Socio-legal research is a key area of expertise in the School and we take the ethical integrity of research seriously. The Research Ethics Committee (LREC) reviews every research proposal

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(whether from staff or students) involving human participants. Additional oversight applies to students whose applications must be signed off and submitted by their supervisor. Guided primarily by the University's Ethics of Research Policy and Procedure and the SLSA Statement of Principles of Ethical Research Practice, the LREC also draws upon other ethical codes and relevant legal guidance. A detailed guidance pack (including past successful applications) is provided via Blackboard resources and advice offered within 10 working days. More complex applications or issues are referred for advice (or appeal) to Faculty and University research committee level (that includes independent lay member participation). Post ethical approval, all research involving human participants must be registered centrally with RED.

Evidence of success

The success of our staffing and development policies is evidenced, inter alia, by:

- internal promotions (Capps and McDermont, both now professors, were PhD students and ECRs in the School with access to leave and funding opportunities) and appointments to chairs elsewhere (Baughen at Swansea, Syrett at Cardiff, Tsagourias at Glasgow),
- significant ECR awards from the AHRC and the ESRC (Boeger, Pieraccini, Vaughan – the latter's award went with him to Birmingham) [details at d. below],
- AHRC research leave funding received by senior researchers (Hill, Seabourne and Villiers) and IAS Research Fellowships to Skordas, Charlesworth, Boeger, Novitz, Giliker, Villiers, Masson during the current REF period,
- visiting fellowships held by Bristol staff, such as: Capps (Lauterpacht Centre of International Law, Cambridge), McVea, (Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, London), Burnside and Wells (School of Law, University of Queensland), Greer (University of Wollongong, NSW, and International Institute of Human Rights, Strasbourg), Masson (University of Sydney); Novitz and Syrpis (University of Melbourne Law School), Prosser (College of Europe, Bruges), Skordas (Osgoode Hall, York University, and Harvard),
- visiting research fellows hosted by the School including: Calabro (Italy), Colombo (Italy), Connolly (Australia), Forsyth (Australia), Fudge (Canada), Gomez-Tomillo (Spain), Gonzalez-Diaz (Spain), Gonzalez-Pascual (Spain), Janal (Germany), Lambropoulos (Australia), Lucidi (Italy), McCrystal (Australia), Olivier-Muralt (Switzerland), Pardo Alvarez (Spain), Pettit (USA), Riquleme (Spain), Schmidt (Germany) and Wildhaber (former President, European Court of Human Rights). Those visiting the HRIC over the past year include Beirne, Casale, Haenni Dale, Hallo de Wolf, Kicker, (Rod) Morgan and Murphy. We also regularly host scholars on exchange arrangements from Nanjing (China) and Niigata (Japan).

ii. Research students

The School has successfully expanded and strengthened its PGR community during the REF period, with the recruitment of exceptionally high calibre students [see b. above]. Effective support and monitoring procedures have to date resulted in a 100% completion rate within the allotted period of four years' study for those commencing their studies in the REF period.

Prestigious and competitive studentships

Some students are self-funded but the majority receive scholarships, including highly competitive external funding. Early recognition of the excellence of the MSc in Socio-legal Studies gave us a substantial number of ESRC 1+3 PhD students, now replaced by SWDTC funding, soon to be supplemented by opportunities to be presented by participation in the AHRC SWWDTP [see b. above]. Doctoral funding has also previously been received from the AHRC, the ERC and national scholarship schemes from other countries. The University offers PGR scholarships and the School appoints Graduate Teaching Assistants providing teaching experience alongside PhD work.

Support for PGRs and contribution to doctoral programmes

All PGRs have two supervisors and we have excellent collaborative interdisciplinary supervisory arrangements with other Schools and other universities in the South West, enabling students to undertake ground-breaking interdisciplinary research with dual supervision. SWDTC training and core units are compulsory for ESRC students and are strongly recommended to all PGRs. They can also attend appropriate units in the MSc, LLM and MA programmes. PGRs are grouped in a Primary Unit for Research Students (PURS) for each year of their doctoral studies. These groups enable a mixture of presentations on individual research and generic skills training appropriate to their stage of research (e.g. research planning, publishing from the PhD, future career applications and applying for post-doctoral funding). The PGR Director chairs these meetings in the first year,

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while the delivery of basic training is provided by an ECR who completed his doctorate in the School; second year meetings are chaired by the Director of Graduate Studies and the third by the Research Director.

PGR progress is closely monitored with:

- a norm of two supervisory sessions per month with more intensive supervision at key times,
- an annual progress review (twice-yearly for ESRC students) led by the PGR Director and monitored by the Faculty Graduate Dean,
- a demanding upgrade/review process during the second year, including submission of a report of 10-15,000 words and a meeting with a panel of internal examiners, which produces a detailed report and advice for the student.

Contribution to the research environment

Arrangements to ensure full integration of PGRs into the research life of the School include:

- drop-in clinics provided as an opportunity to ask questions or share concerns,
- encouragement to attend relevant conferences (a budget of £500 and further discretionary support),
- desk space in shared offices, and smaller offices for those in the final year or engaged in teaching,
- inclusion in the School research seminar series, invitations to staff PU research presentations and opportunities to present research to other students,
- thematic discussion groups bringing together research students and staff, such as the Socio-legal Reading Group and
- an elected student representative for the Staff Student Liaison Committee and School Meetings.

Summer schools and exchanges have been organised to encourage students to travel and engage with PG students from other institutions. For example:

- as a member of the Legal Research Network consortium the School assists in attendance at events such as the 2013 summer school in Lille,
- presentation of papers by students at the Law and Society Association Annual Conference in the USA,
- work placements, such as Batt (HRIC doctoral student) who as visiting fellow at the University of Gambia in 2012-13 assisted in establishing their first law review and headed the research and publication committee and
- placement of PhD student, (Lydia) Morgan as British Research Council Fellow at the Library of Congress Kluge Center in 2013-14.

Evidence of a strong PGR research culture

Many Bristol PGRs have obtained academic posts. Examples in this REF period include Arzandeh and Gammage in the School, Buchan at Sheffield, Grady at SOAS (following a post at the Law Commission), Malkani at Birmingham, Moore at UCL, Palmer at Sussex, Russell and Synge at Cardiff, Hayes is a postdoctoral Law and Society fellow at Cardiff (following an internship at the International Labour Organisation, Geneva). PhD graduates have used their doctoral research as a basis for work in legal policy, for e.g. Katsapaou worked at the UNHCR after completing a thesis on non-refoulement. Book contracts have been offered by Hart Publishing: Newman for an ethnographic study of defence solicitors and Palmer on the boundary between sex and sexual violation. Students have published sole-authored work on their research (e.g. Cram in the *Howard Journal of Criminal Justice*) or jointly with their supervisors (e.g. Arzandeh with Hill and Hayes with Novitz).

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

Research funding

The Law School has had outstanding success in attracting new funding. For example: :

- Early career awards for Boeger, co-investigator on a project relating to governance of telecommunications in Europe (AHRC £88k); Pieraccini, PI on socio-legal exploration of the Marine Protected Areas network in English seas (ESRC Future Leaders £213k); and Vaughan awarded a Future Leaders grant in 2013, which he took to a post at Birmingham.
- HRIC projects (led by Evans, Long, Murray and Steinerte) including 'Soft Law in International Human Rights Law' (AHRC £592k); 'National Institutions under the OPCAT' (AHRC £476k); and research-related funding for 'Developing Torture Prevention

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Mechanisms' (European Commission Partnership 1.2 million Euro), and 'Harnessing African Institutions for the Prevention and Combating of Torture' (European Commission, 1.2 million Euro).

- Investigations by McDermont into 'New Sites of Legal Consciousness – a case study of UK advice agencies' (ERC1.02 million Euro) and 'Productive Margins: Regulating for Engagement' (ESRC £2.4 million), which will extend beyond the REF period.
- Family law projects, such as Masson's 'Parents' Representation Study' (ESRC £244k) and 'Families on Edge of Care Study' (ESRC £330k), and also Hitchings' work in a consortium led by Exeter University (Ministry of Justice £150k) and with Miles, University of Cambridge (Nuffield Foundation £70k).
- Medium-sized grants, such as Charlesworth's work on 'Digital Lives' (AHRC £195k) and Cowan's on 'Rent arrears management practices' (Tenants Services Authority £100k), as well as Cowan's Leverhulme project on 'Shared Ownership: Crisis Moments' (£72k).
- Contributions to European Commission and other Europe-wide collaborative or comparative research (see for example, Giliker, Novitz, Prosser, Villiers, Wells in e. below).

Infrastructure supporting a vital and sustainable research environment

We have an exceptional infrastructure for research at Bristol in terms of space and facilities, as well as strong financial and administrative support, including:

- The Wills Memorial Building, which offers an attractive environment for staff and PGRs, with generous office space and computer provision. The Wills Library, refurbished in 2012-13 at a cost of £3.1 million, gives first class physical and online access to a wide range of material, facilitating research wherever staff and students are located. Virtual resources are vital, given the extent to which we travel [see c. above and e. below].
- The University's Research and Enterprise Development (RED) division, comprising over 80 staff, which works with academics and researchers to grow and sustain funding of significant projects, identifying opportunities, advising on development of proposals, coordinating large bids (such as those led by McDermont), negotiating collaborative contractual relationships, assisting project management and improving impact. RED liaises with PolicyBristol, the Centre for Policy Engagement and the School's Research and Impact Directors to raise colleagues' awareness of funding and research possibilities and assists in the specific provision of training to ECRs and PGRs.
- University Research Institutes (Cabot and Elizabeth Blackwell), which provide strategic funds to develop new research opportunities in environmental and medical-related issues, crossing traditional disciplinary boundaries.
- Bristol's Institute of Advanced Studies (IAS), which funds fellowships for study leave [see c.i. above], but also research fellowships for visitors to Bristol, such as the Benjamin Meaker Fellowship taken up by Wildhaber [see c.i above] and seminar series utilised by Bibbings and Huxtable, Charlesworth and Quick [see e. below] .
- The University's Centre for Public Engagement and the Faculty-level PolicyBristol initiative, which assist in developing 'pathways to impact' in research proposals and communicating research findings to a wide audience.
- An extensive University Staff Development programme, which provides tailored training in research methods and project management.
- Substantial research-focussed financial support for staff at all career levels and for PGR students [see c.i and ii. as well as this section].

Strategies for generating grant income

A precondition for leave under the School's one year in four policy is attendance at an annual RED-led seminar on funding sources, so as to encourage consideration of opportunities that might be available. The Research Director, Impact Director and HPU's also offer project-specific funding advice and, within the Research Committee, propose colleagues for IAS Fellowships. ECRs are specifically encouraged to pursue early career funding opportunities, enabling them to take study leave earlier than would be expected and to gain buy outs in teaching [see Boeger, Pieraccini and Vaughan above]. School engagement with professional organisations, such as the International Law Association, the Society of Legal Scholars and the Socio-Legal Studies Association [see e. below] has also helped to generate awareness of smaller travel grants and seminar-oriented funding, which can offer a first step for ECRs to build their career and funding profiles. The

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University's timely discretionary 'seed funding' grants have had valuable effects. For example:

- the HRIC received £160k from the University of Bristol Vice-Chancellor's Initiative Fund and has since gone on to gain major funding from the European Commission; and
- a knowledge exchange project involving the Bristol Energy Project (McDermont and Morgan) was assisted from the University's Enterprise & Impact Development Fund.

Initiatives are also taken at Faculty and School level [see recent funding of Masson's 2013 empirical research in b. above]. We further appreciate that community engagement (like that pursued by McDermont) can open up previously under-utilised opportunities for valuable research and funding. We will be exploring this potential further with PolicyBristol.

e. Collaboration or contribution to the discipline or research base

Work with other researchers: locally, nationally, regionally, internationally

Locally, McDermont and Morgan's research [see d. above] draws on community-based engagement and support, thereby enriching local policy decision-making.

Nationally, members of the School have many connections with other academic institutions, for e.g. Bibbings and Conaghan contributed to the Feminist Judgment Project; Giliker was part of the European Legal Development project, an AHRC funded project run by the Cambridge Law Faculty; Ireland is a member of the inter-disciplinary Critical Corporation project based at Cass Business School, London. Collaboration includes the co-authorship of key textbooks, as well as the creation of various networks [discussed below].

Regionally and internationally, Giliker has been leading the Contractual Remedies part of the European Common Core Project and has contributed to projects organised by the Institute for European Tort Law, Vienna, where Oliphant is currently on secondment; Novitz has been the UK representative in projects based in Oslo (FORMULA) and Brussels (ETUI/Commission funded, 212k Euro) examining free movement and labour market governance; Prosser led one theme of a major FP6 project (bringing 193k Euro to the School), while Villiers has explored enhanced European business review requirements (bringing 60k Euro). She is now working on the international comparative project 'Towards Sustainable Companies' based in Oslo. Wells has been a national point of contact in an EU funded project on liability of legal persons across EU jurisdictions based in Ghent. Internationally, the reach of the HRIC in terms of academic and policy engagement has been extensive [see REF3a, d. above and further below].

Support for research collaboration and interdisciplinary research

University 'seed' funding has made interdisciplinary research undertaken by McDermont and Morgan possible [see d. above]. The Cabot Institute has enabled collaboration between scholars in different parts of the University with an interest in environmental research, offering the new Renkei Researcher scheme enabling visits to Kyoto for Pieraccini as an ECR and Sargoni as a PGR. The IAS has facilitated and supported events led by Bibbings and Huxtable (on palliative care), Charlesworth (on peer review) and Quick (on public health). Moreover, from 2013, PolicyBristol, provides targeted support to enable staff to work with public policy stake-holders.

Indicators of wider influence and contributions to the discipline or research base

Interdisciplinary research:

The many examples of active interdisciplinary engagement include: Charlesworth's contribution to the interdisciplinary Bristol Security Centre, one of just eight Academic Centres for Excellence in Cyber Security Research selected by GCHQ (in partnership with the RCUK Global Uncertainties Programme and the Department for Business Innovation and Skills (£50k); Huxtable's role in a multi-centre programme to guide health service priorities for preventing suicide in England (NIHR - £1.8 million); and Rivers' organisation of two symposia: 'Religion in a Liberal State' and 'Religious Toleration in Comparative Perspective' with Evans (Law), Modood (Sociology and Politics) and D'Costa (Religion and Theology), resulting in a jointly edited publication, *Religion in the Liberal State*, with CUP in 2013.

Existing networks and clusters:

The collaboration (from 2013 onwards) of the GW4 universities (Bath, Bristol, Cardiff and Exeter) provides fresh impetus for research across these institutions, with joint ventures initiated by company lawyers (PhD student Russell, also a lecturer at Cardiff, and her supervisor, Villiers) and tort lawyers (Giliker, Laing and Stanton). The School's family lawyers (Hitchings and Masson) are already part of an established network which includes GW4 institutions and has obtained funding for work from the AHRC, ESRC, Leverhulme Trust and the Ministry of Justice. GW4 complements the University's existing international commitments as member of the World Universities Network

(WUN) which offers opportunities for research exchange undertaken by Gammage in a visit during her doctoral research to the University of Cape Town. The School has also been the base for the Leverhulme Trust funded International Network on 'Voices at Work' (£84k). The Law School's Innocence Project (led by Naughton) is networked domestically with 26 other universities through the Bristol coordinated Innocence Network UK (INUK).

Relationships with third sector, industry and commerce:

Our extensive relationships with the third sector, industry and commerce reflect the School's diverse range of scholarship. These include the following:

- **Acosta** (through the consultancy project Itineris) has been advising the Brazilian Government on the reform of its current Immigration Law in 2012-13;
- **Bibbings** is leading widening participation work, such as Access to Law, Pathways to Law and the Meriton Enrichment project;
- **Boeger** has advised the European Commission on *Evaluation of the Body of European Regulators of Electronic Communications* (2012);
- **Burnside** has assisted the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) and HM Prison Service;
- **Charlesworth** (who heads our Centre for IT and Law) is a member of Vodafone UK's roundtable expert group on child online safety, privacy and data security and provides specialist advice on intellectual property related issues to the Higher Education Academy;
- **Cowan** was a Member of the Expert Panel, Housing and Communities Analysis, Department for Communities and Local Government (2007-10);
- **Evans** is a member of the Foreign Secretary's Advisory Group on Human Rights and was a member of the Organization on Security and Co-operation in Europe, Advisory Council on Freedom of Religion and Belief from 2004-13; a member of the UN Sub-Committee for the Prevention of Torture (SPT) since 2009; he has been Chair since 2011. He is Vice Chair of the Meeting of Chairs of UN Treaty Bodies and will become Chair in 2014;
- **Greer** has advised the Palestinian Centre for the Independence of the Judiciary and the Legal Profession;
- **Laing's** British Academy funded research (2011-12) led to an invitation to advise the Care Quality Commission with **Murray** (2012-13);
- **Masson** was specialist adviser to the Justice Committee's Inquiry into operation of the Family Courts, the Academic Member of the Family Justice Council (2004-2011) and an adviser to the Council of Europe on child protection and human rights;
- **McVea** is a member of the Advisory Board of the Hedge Fund Society;
- **Murray** is a member of an Advisory Panel, University of Groningen, on OPCAT in health care in the Netherlands and was consultant on 'Freedom of expression in Africa and Europe', EU/African Union funded consultancy, November 2011 – January 2012;
- **Novitz** has assisted the International Commission for Labour Rights (New York), the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF, London) and is an Executive Committee Member of the Institute of Employment Rights;
- **Skordas** has been a member of the Immigration Policy Advisory Group to the Prime Minister of Greece;
- **Wells** was a member of the interdisciplinary IBAHRI task force on Illicit Financial Flows, Poverty and Human Rights led by Pogge, with a Final Report launched in Boston (2013).

Academic collaborations, seminars, conferences and their success:

For many years, the School has held an EU-International Law Forum consisting of a one or two day conference, each one funded from the previous edited book generated by the Forum. Most recently, the 2011 Forum on 'International Responsibility: EU and International Perspectives' led to the publication of an edited volume by Hart in 2013. Major conferences hosted by the School include the SLS annual conference in 2012 and a student-led conference on 'Media and the Law' in 2013, attracting participants from across the UK, including the Chief Constable of Avon and Somerset and a Supreme Court judge. PhD students, Kakoullis and Palmer, organised and presented at a Roundtable on Socio-Legal Studies: Methodology and Discipline at the SLSA Annual Conference in Sussex (2011). Gammage, while a PhD student, organised a European Governance Research workshop in 2011. A wealth of other events are either hosted at Bristol or organised by staff based in the Law School. Some are related to larger research projects: Masson,

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for example, has held conferences and seminars connected to the Families on the Edge of Care project (2011-12). As PI for the 'Voices at Work' project (2010- 2013), Novitz has co-organised (with Co-I Bogg, Oxford) events in Oxford, Toronto, Melbourne, and London, leading to a number of special journal issues (in the *Comparative Labor Law and Policy Journal*, *Adelaide Law Review*, and *Osgoode Hall Law Journal*), as well as a co-edited book on *Voices at Work* (forthcoming from OUP, 2014). Novitz organised a British Academy funded conference on 'The Role of Labour Standards in Development' (2009) followed by an edited collection (British Academy/OUP, 2011), and in 2013 co-organised (with Bogg, Oxford and Dukes, Glasgow) a seminar on the scholarship of Bob Simpson, sponsored by the *Modern Law Review*. A research workshop on 'Judiciary, Legislature and EU Internal Market' held by Syrpis at Antwerp led to a CUP publication. The HRIC has organised workshops, training events and conferences in places as diverse as Addis Ababa, Cairo, Cape Town, Nairobi and Prague, culminating in a range of policy papers and publications. Other high profile events organised by staff include: the 2012 BACL Conference on 'Tony Weir and his contribution to comparative law scholarship' (Giliker); the annual events on 'Current and Future Issues in Housing Law' and the SLSA 2012 conference on 'Exploring the Legal in Socio-Legal Studies' (Cowan); the 2012 European Association of Centres for Medical Ethics Annual Conference (Huxtable); and the bi-annual conferences of the Innocence Network (UK) (Naughton).

Editorships: Charlesworth and Stanton co-edit the *Common Law World Review* (based at Bristol); while Conaghan is co-editor (with Cane) of the *New Oxford Companion to Law* (with contributions from over 600 legal academics worldwide). Cowan is General Editor and founder of the Palgrave Macmillan *Socio-Legal Series*. Evans is Co-General Editor of the OUP *Foundations of Public International Law Series*, the General Editor of the *International and Comparative Law Quarterly* and Co-editor in Chief (2012 -) of the *Oxford Journal of Law and Religion*. Murray is editor of the *African Journal of International and Comparative Law* and an editor of the *Journal of African Law*. Rivers is Editor-in-Chief of the *Oxford Journal of Law and Religion* (2011-). In addition, staff sit on the editorial board of a vast range of journals including: *Amicus Curiae*, *Child Abuse Review*, the *Common Law World Review*, *The Company Lawyer*, *Criminal Law Review*, *Ecclesiastical Law Journal*, *German Law Journal*, *Industrial Law Journal*, *International and Comparative Law Quarterly*, *International Journal of Digital Curation*, *International Review of Victimology*, *Journal of Information Law and Technology* (now *European Journal of Law and Technology*), *Journal of Law and Society*, *Journal of Professional Negligence*, *Journal of Social Welfare and Family Law*, *Law and Policy*, *Medical Law Review*, *Professional Negligence*, *Religion and Human Rights*, *Social and Legal Studies*, *SCRIPT*, *Torts Law Journal*, *Tort Law Review* and *Utilities Law Review*. Numerous PhD students, such as Cleridou, Hayes and Godolphin, assisted undergraduates with the creation of a *Bristol Law Journal*, which has received substantial sponsorship from the School.

Significant contribution to professional associations: Many colleagues at Bristol have led the work of the SLS (Wells and Stanton as Presidents 2006-7 and 2011-12, respectively; Giliker and Willmore as subject section convenors). Colleagues have played a key role in the SLSA, Cowan as Vice-Chair (2006-10), McDermont and Morgan as Executive Committee members. Charlesworth as a member of the Media Board of the Society for Computers and Law; Cowan is on the Housing Law Practitioners' Association Executive; Giliker is President of the British Association of Comparative Law; Hitchings has been the academic member on the Family Law Committee of the Law Society of England and Wales and appointed as an advisory board member for the Law Commission (Marital Property Agreements) in 2010; Huxtable is Vice-Chair (Education), Bristol Clinical Ethics Advisory Group and Trustee & Chair of Ethics Forum, National Council for Palliative Care. Syrpis is Treasurer for the Law National Admissions Test (or LNAT). Conaghan is deputy chair of the law sub-panel (REF2013) and served on the Executive of the Committee of Heads of University Law Schools (CHULS) (2009-2011), as Wells continues to do (2012-). Conaghan, Greer and Masson are Academicians of the Academy of Social Sciences.

Cooperation and collaboration on PG training: The School was active in the successful bid made to establish the ESRC SWDTC and now the AHRC SSWDTP [see c.ii above]. These collaborative efforts in PG training offer significant opportunities for staff to offer teaching and supervision across different Schools and universities. We have been key contributors to the delivery of key DTC courses and will seek to make comparable contributions to the new DTP. These connections across our university and to other academic institutions enable our students to benefit from new funded opportunities for creative, original and significant academic endeavours.