

<p>Institution: University of Reading</p> <p>Unit of Assessment: 31 Classics</p>
<p>a. Overview</p> <p>Our UoA comprises Reading's Classics Department as well as one member of staff based in Economics. Reading's Classics Department is a constituent unit of the School of Humanities (alongside Philosophy and History), which in turn is part of the Faculty of Arts, Humanities, and Social Science. Our UoA benefits from firm institutional links with neighbouring departments, including (apart from Economics) Archaeology, History of Art, English, History, Modern Languages, Politics, and the Henley Business School. It also enjoys long established links and collaborations with the British Schools at Rome and Athens, the University Ca' Foscari-Venice, and with a growing number of universities across EU. Our research community draws its strength from a culture of academic rigour, intellectual creativity, and inclusiveness. At the core of the UoA are 13 full-time, permanent, and 1.5 FTE non-permanent research-active staff. It also encompasses the emeriti, the student body, and the alumni of the Classics Department. During the REF 2014 cycle, the core team has been enriched by a team of sessional lecturers, 3 Teaching Fellows, 1 British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow, 1 Early Career Researcher, and 1 Visiting Fellow in Modern Greek, continuously funded by the Greek government.</p> <p>All staff engage in both individual and collaborative research. Collaborative research activities within our UoA are organised around three main research strands that reflect both the breadth and the main centres of gravity of our research: Language, Text, and Power; Art, Religion, Society; Reception Studies and the Classical Tradition. We actively contribute to Reading's interdisciplinary research centres and groupings, including Reading's Classics-based Centre of Hellenic Studies, 'Language, Text, and Power' (Faculty Research Theme, initiated by Classics), the Centre for Literacy and Multilingualism, the Centre for Economic History (currently led by Classics), the Graduate Centre for Medieval Studies, the Early Modern Research Centre, and 'Minority Identities' (Faculty Research Theme). Our central role within this environment gives us a competitive edge, attractive to senior researchers, postdoctoral researchers, and doctoral students alike. The Ure Museum of Greek Archaeology, the fourth-largest collection of Greek ceramics in the UK, is central to the UoA's identity and research environment.</p>
<p>b. Research strategy</p> <p>The Classics Department, administering 350+ students enrolled in its 9 single and joint honours and 4 PG-taught programmes each year, is the main centre of gravity of our UoA. It has long established itself as a synonym for rigorous, world-leading research in Classics. Its research strategy systematically prioritises the dynamic development of this position. Leading to RAE 2008, our strategy had prioritised two areas: (i) a rigorous staffing policy that systematically looks for, and promotes, research excellence [cf. section c.i] and (ii) the sustained development of a research environment, which enables excellent staff to develop and to succeed in their activities. During the REF 2014 cycle, we have systematically focused on our research environment's strengths, bolstered those wherever and whenever possible, and thus given a clear, distinctive outline to our research profile. Consequently, within the last decade our UoA's greatest strength has become the thoroughly inclusive nature of our approach to the discipline, from the Bronze Age to the legacy of the ancient world and the discipline of Classics up to the present day, as reflected in the breadth and depth of our output portfolio [REF2]. In order to harness the full potential of the UoA's expertise, we furthermore recognised the need to identify and to support research synergies within and beyond the Department, and that focuses on those areas of research in which the UoA clearly distinguished itself. The success of this strategy is evident in our research groupings (see below) and in these headline figures: During the assessment period members of our UoA published in excess of 250 substantial academic outputs in world-leading outlets, disseminated their research through 400+ presentations worldwide, organised 12 high-profile international events at Reading, and engaged in competitive and collaborative research (cf. section d., below).</p> <p>We recognised that individual research has a strong presence in this UoA and we support this through a generous research leave scheme, internal funding opportunities, and peer support. Areas of current leading and distinctive individual research include, <i>inter alia</i>, the Roman economy (Marzano, Dark), Plutarch and Graeco-Roman Historiography (Duff), Latin Epigraphy (Kruschwitz), the Levant and the rise of Islam (Papaconstantinou), the Hellenistic Far East (Mairs),</p>

history of religion and Biblical Archaeology (Dark; cf. **REF 3a**), and the use of digital modelling of ancient architecture and settlements (Nicholls; cf. **REF3b CS-2**).

With regard to **collaborative research**, we since RAE 2008, have rigorously assessed our position and organically developed our research priorities, so that they best capture the present configuration of our UoA and offer challenging perspectives. We have identified and bolstered three main operational areas, or **research groupings**, that stand out due to the prolific, high-profile research they generate. The vitality and creative potential of our research groupings, as relevant to REF 2014, is reflected in the following headline figures:

Language, Text, and Power is our UoA's platform for our world-leading work related to ancient linguistics and literature, including on documentary material, as well as on our emphasis on ancient performance cultures. The group, which both spearheaded and continues to drive a Reading Faculty Research Theme of the same name, comprises the UoA's linguists (Dickey, Duff, Kruschwitz, Mairs, Papaconstantinou, Rutherford) as core team as well as members of staff with cognate research interests, including Drama and Imperialism/Postcolonialism (Carter, Goff, Vasunia). This group is also actively involved in the activities of the University's Centre for Literacy and Multilingualism. Members of this research community have published 6 substantial volumes during the assessment period: **2009**: *Wandering Poets in Ancient Greek Culture* (Rutherford with R. Hunter); *Euripides: Trojan Women* (Goff); **2010**: *The Multilingual Experience in Egypt from the Ptolemies to the Abbasids* (Papaconstantinou); **2011**: *Why Athens? A Reappraisal of Tragic Politics* (Carter); **2012**: *Ps-Dositheus: The Colloquia. I* (Dickey); *Plutarch: the Age of Alexander* (Duff). Related to this theme, we have also published numerous cutting-edge articles on ancient linguistics, organised four major events related to the shared research interests of this grouping's membership, in addition to regular research seminars: *Luwian Identities* (Rutherford, 2011); *'Language, Text, and Power' Researchers Night* (ERC-funded, Kruschwitz, organised with E. Mijers, History); *Philology and Empire* (Vasunia); *The Reception of Greek Lyric Poetry* (part of the Greek Song Network series; Rutherford); *Herodotos and Plutarch* (Vasunia/Duff in collaboration with Reading doctoral researchers). Research funding attracted by this group during REF 2014 includes Kruschwitz's British Academy Small Research Grant award for the project 'Fake Latin'.

Art, Religion, Society reflects the UoA's world-leadership in the study of the networks, cultural practices, and belief systems of the ancient world as well as their material culture. This grouping, with Aston, Marzano, Nicholls, Rutherford, and Smith as its core members, benefits from the presence of our Ure Museum as well as the related Centre for Byzantine and Late Antique Studies (Dark). Key publications of this group, supplemented substantial articles to sit alongside this production, include: **2009**: *Becoming Byzantine: Children and Childhood in Byzantium* (Papaconstantinou with A. M. Talbot); *Oxford Handbook of Hellenic Studies* (Vasunia with G. Boys-Stones and B. Graziosi); **2010**: *Blackwell Companion to Aphrodite* (Smith with S. Pickup); **2011**: *Mixanthropoi. Animal-Human Hybrid Deities in Greek Religion* (Aston); *The Archaeology of the Hellenistic Far East: A Survey* (Mairs); *The Gods of Small Things* (Smith, with M. Bergeron); **2012**: *Polis and Personification in Classical Athenian Art* (Smith); *Le Proche-Orient de Justinien aux Abbassides* (Papaconstantinou et al.); **2013**: *Constantinople: Archaeology of a Byzantine Megapolis* (Dark); *State Pilgrimage in Ancient Greece* (Rutherford); *Harvesting the Sea: The Exploitation of Marine Resources in the Roman Mediterranean* (Marzano). Major events organised during the assessment period include: *Aphrodite revealed: a goddess disclosed* (Smith with Pickup, then MA student); *Gods of Small Things* (Smith with Bergeron, then Doctoral Researcher); *Celebrating the Reading Aulos* (Rutherford); *Viewing the Divine* (Turner, then British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow, Harden, Doctoral researcher); *Lesbos between East and West* (Rutherford); *The Dynamics of Ancient Mega-cities, States and Economic Crises, and Empires in Crisis* (Dark).

Reception Studies and the Classical Tradition brings to the fore the UoA's outstanding research in the areas postcolonial studies, imperialism, and the history of ideas (core members: Carter, Goff, Harloe, Vasunia). The team's key publications include: **2010**: *Classics and National Cultures* (Vasunia with S. A. Stephens); **2011**: *India, Greece, and Rome 1757–2007* (Vasunia with E. Hall); **2012**: *Thinking the Olympics* (Goff with M. Simpson); **2012**: *Thucydides and the modern world*: (Harloe co-edited with N. Morley); **2013**: *Your Secret Language: Classics in the British Colonies of West Africa* (Goff); *Winckelmann and the Invention of Antiquity: History and Aesthetics in the Age of Altermumswissenschaft* (Harloe); *The Classics and Colonial India* (Vasunia). Members of the group (Carter, Goff, Harloe, Vasunia in Classics; Foxley (History), Cromartie (Politics)) initiated the international *Legacy of Greek Political Thought* Network (funded by the British

Academy Small Research Grant scheme), which brings together 51 scholars from 24 universities worldwide. Annual workshops were organized in Reading (2011), Bristol (2012) and Cambridge (December 2013). Publication of proceedings of the first workshops is currently discussed.

The relevance of our priority areas is further reflected in their role in our **research seminar series** in which more than 120 speakers from over 85 universities worldwide have presented during the assessment period. The events are expressly linked to our research groupings, and invitations are sent out accordingly. All research areas actively involve the UoA's postgraduate studentship, and we have found these three distinctive areas to be attractive to postgraduate applicants. Both individual and collaborative research are of the greatest importance to this UoA and are fully supported at all levels of the University.

Building on the vitality and sustainability of our research groupings and the dynamics of this shift from predominantly individual research pre-RAE 2008 to a significantly more integrated research culture, the future goal of our research strategy is to develop large collaborative projects that fully utilise these research synergies within and outside the UoA. External funding track record is thus one of the key priority areas for the post-REF 2014 cycle. Papaconstantinou's and Dickey's appointments [see c.i.] mark the beginning of this second phase of our research strategy with its emphasis on attracting competitive research funding.

Another element of our future strategy is to raise the profile of our research community further and develop our web-presence, not least with a view on the impact-bearing potential of our digital research activities. A first step in developing a strategic web-presence was taken on occasion of the institution of the Annual Percy Ure Lecture as a distinguished, named lecture series. This series was instituted to commemorate the legacy of Reading's first professor of Classics, his lasting impact, and to honour the remarkable tradition of Classical Scholarship at Reading on occasion of the Department's centenary celebrations in 2011. While the lectures themselves typically attract an audience of 75+ from our neighbouring disciplines and from interested parties well beyond Reading, we have also made them available to the wider public via the Department's YouTube channel (5000+ views). Web presence can change how we present our research and how we reach out to different audiences, and therefore as part of our impact-focused web strategy we are currently evaluating different possible routes, such as Massive Open Online Courses as part of the University's FutureLearn platform or the dissemination of special lectures through existing channels like YouTube or iTunes U.

c. People, including:

The following presentation will focus on academic staff and doctoral researchers, as required by the format of this template. It is impossible for us, however, altogether to exclude our studentship or our retired staff from this presentation. We foster intellectual curiosity and rigorous research skills from the earliest stages, actively investing in future generations of outstanding scholars. This is reflected in our active engagement with Reading's distinctive Undergraduate Research Opportunity Programme, which has led to more than 10 funded undergraduate research placements and jointly authored publications during the REF 2014 period, contributing to a stream of driven young researchers who have subsequently embarked on higher degree programmes at leading UK Universities. Moreover, the Classics Department has, for several years now, supported undergraduates to attend at the British Conference of Undergraduate Research (five over the last three years alone), two of whom had their papers published subsequently. Our hiring and appointment policy is driven by a focus on international research excellence and the desire to enhance and support the diverse and complementary skills and strengths of our community.

i. Staffing strategy and staff development

The UoA, with the Classics Department at its heart, derives its particular strength from its staffing and the team spirit that drives our group, from the studentship to the professoriate. Our staffing policy is systematically and decidedly designed to sustain, to develop, and to future-proof this strength. The result of this is a challenging, driven, yet wholly supportive and enabling research environment, characterised by an inclusive and communicative approach.

In the run-up to RAE 2008, the University of Reading had made a significant investment in its Classics Department, reasserting its vision for the future. In 2007, four appointments were made at lecturer level, supplementing and expanding Reading's research strengths in the areas of Greek Religion and History (Aston), History of Scholarship and the Classical Tradition (Harloe), Latin

Language, Literature, and Epigraphy (Kruschwitz), and Roman Social History and Architecture, enhanced through digital modelling (Nicholls). During the REF 2014 period, we had four opportunities to develop our staffing portfolio further, and in all four cases strategic appointments were made, based on the UoA's desire to invest in scholars whose ability was evident from a sustained record of rigorous, innovative research with a proven potential for world leadership as well as potential for collaboration vis-à-vis our research priorities: **Marzano** was appointed at Lecturer level in 2008 (*vice* Gradel). We thus strengthened our expertise through the appointment of a highly experienced, internationally acclaimed Roman economic and social historian and trained field archaeologist whose award-winning research stands out due to its use of archaeological, historiographical and epigraphic material. **Papaconstantinou** was appointed at Reader level in 2010 (*vice* King). The appointment allowed us to reassert our expertise of the area of Graeco-Roman late antiquity, adding significantly to the Department's initiative *Language, Text, and Power*, and strengthening our ability to cover aspects of post-pharaonic Egypt (with Rutherford, Vasunia, later supplemented with Mairs). **Mairs** was appointed at Lecturer level in 2012 (following elevation of Carter to Associate Dean). The appointment allowed us to extend our expertise to Hellenistic history, adding to the Department's significant strength in ancient linguistics and our related grouping *Language, Text, and Power*, bolstering further our collaboration with Archaeology (most notably in the areas of Graeco-Roman Egypt and the Hellenistic 'Far' East, areas that are further supported in Classics by Rutherford, Papaconstantinou, and Vasunia). **Dickey**, an established world-leading expert in ancient linguistics, was appointed at Professor level in 2013, as an active investment in the Department's and the Faculty's *Language, Text, and Power* research theme as well as its performance in attracting competitive research funding.

The Department's rigorous quality-driven appointment policy is complemented by a support structure that ensures that outstanding researchers at various stages of their careers can further develop their high-profile research at Reading. RAE 2008 endorsed the UoA's commitment to provide a supportive environment for early career researchers, and this continues to be the case. We have consistently and proactively included our postdoctoral researcher (Turner), our fixed-term teaching fellows (Campbell, Coombe, Roselaar), and our Early Career Fellow (Pezzini) in our research environment, to support their career development actively and with due regard to their respective career needs. The UoA's commitment to equal opportunities in recruitment and support of research staff is evident in the composition of the UoA and in the promotion of its staff members.

All new staff are assigned mentors for research and teaching, as appropriate to their respective career levels. We actively engage with career development, with clear procedures for career progression of all staff at different stages at their careers. All staff who had not yet passed their probation for the RAE 2008 (Aston, Harloe, Kruschwitz, Nicholls; subsequently: Marzano) have since passed with flying colours. Following their appointments, Aston and Marzano have completed the Postgraduate Certificate in Academic Practice, while Mairs is about to complete. To further develop their skills 15 academic staff, 4 postdoctoral researchers, 17 sessional teachers and 5 clerical staff have attended a total of 330 training courses (256, 18, 33, and 23 respectively) during the REF 2014 cycle. In this period eight staff were promoted based on their performance (Aston, Carter, Duff, Kruschwitz (twice), Marzano (twice), Nicholls, Smith, Vasunia).

In addition to many informal discussions, all members of the UoA invited to formalised meetings with the Head of Classics and a sub-set of the departmental Research Committee, as part of an on-going staff development review process, to reflect on their personal development in general and discuss their research plans (short-, mid-, and long-term), with a view to increase quality and quantity as a result of this process. All staff are required to reflect in detail on all aspects of their research performance and the progress that has been made. We have thus actively developed a culture fundamentally built on dialogue, transparency, and collegiality.

Our UoA supports academic staff with generous financial contributions towards their expenses, which typically is spent on publications, academic travel, additional equipment, or conference attendance. This is supplemented by our active engagement with competitive funds made available centrally, including buy-out arrangements (supported by the Research Endowment Trust Fund, RETF) to support the completion of research projects and to facilitate the writing of grant applications, and RETF travel grants. We operate a generous research leave scheme that allows research-active members at all career stages to focus on their research projects for one term in seven. This is underpinned by the active support members receive when awarded prestigious fellowships (Rutherford and Vasunia: AHRC; Duff: von Humboldt; Marzano and

Rutherford: ISAW).

Two areas in which we seek to build on our strengths and to enhance our performance indicators are the following: (i) attraction of competitive research funding (on which see below, section **d.**), and (ii) further development of the UoA's profile in Latin literature, especially for the time of the Roman Empire and in the area of Roman Late Antiquity.

ii. Research students

Reading's Classics Department is the creative hub of our UoA, bringing together researchers in the field of Classics, regardless of their respective levels of seniority. It is in this particular composition of our community that the Department finds its vitality and ability to develop new initiatives. The tightly-knit community of staff and our studentship, in particular our Master's students and doctoral researchers, thus form our daily academic experience. This is reflected in the Classics Society (re-established in 2011, which now spans all students, from Year 1 of Undergraduate studies to PhD students and, in fact, recent alumni/alumnae). It is also reflected in a highly active and widely subscribed Facebook page maintained by the Department.

In 2008-13, 17 students have started and 11 completed a doctoral degree in Classics, with 90% having passed with no or minor corrections. Postgraduate students who come to Reading are made feel welcome, with dedicated briefing sessions and a departmental postgraduate welcome reception. All research students are assigned a team of two supervisors (with one member of staff as the lead supervisor), and supervision takes place in the form of tutorials as well as occasional team meetings to discuss their work. Progress is monitored through regular meetings, engagement with Reading's system of an annual progress report, and the 'confirmation of status'. All doctoral researchers are subject to a learning needs analysis, determining any professional training that they will receive, and all our doctoral researchers are given the opportunity to develop teaching skills, taking on seminars and, depending on performance, even entire undergraduate modules of their own design. Funded and unfunded PhD students have access to generous travel funding. Reading's Graduate School offers workspace, room for cross-disciplinary exchange, and a state-of-the-art doctoral training courses beyond their academic discipline.

All our postgraduates are consistently and continuously encouraged to make best use of our open-door policy, to see academic staff at all times and to discuss their work (and problems) with them without any sense of territorialism in our Department. This message is reinforced throughout their time at Reading. Research students, at MA and PhD level, form a core part of our invited audience for Research Seminars as well as any Work-in-Progress papers (in Classics as well as the School of Humanities). Attendance and active engagement in debate is encouraged for both groups at Research Seminars as part of their professional development. MA students subsequently get a regular debriefing organised by our Director of PG studies. Moreover, all students are invited to join the speaker and academic staff at a drinks reception and at dinner (subsidised) after the paper (including the Ure Lecture).

The Department provides regular clerical support for the students' independently organised Work-in-Progress papers (usually 3-4 per term, including both MA and PhD student presentation). Academic staff join regularly, but allow students to make this 'students only', should they prefer to do so on occasion. This is in addition to the departmentally organised annual postgraduate conferences, which we have advertised in the Classicist-List since 2011.

Members of staff have co-authored publications with their PG supervisees, including the edition of the proceedings of co-organised conferences (Smith). Academic staff and PG students (occasionally even UGs) frequently co-organise group activities, e.g. Latin reading groups (Kruschwitz, Coombe), Latin prose composition (student-led), and Gender studies group (co-organised by Turner and current doctoral researchers). Two of our doctoral researchers (Fletcher, Karapanagioti) have organized a conference on 'Herodotus and Plutarch' in October 2013. This research environment has encouraged PhD student participation at international conferences and their success in winning competitive scholarships at international research centres (Fletcher: Library of Congress, Washington DC; Lloyd: Fondation Hardt, Geneva; Karapanagioti).

Over the period covered by the REF 2014, Reading has made significant progress with high-quality student recruitment at PhD level, and we continue to develop avenues to address this aspect. We have established an intensive Latin Summer School, tailored towards the needs of graduate students who wish to read for higher degrees, with a hope thus to be able to showcase the UoA's expertise in a range of areas that may prove to be attractive to potential applicants. We

Environment template (REF5)

have also created a School-funded Ure PhD studentship, giving successful candidates the opportunity to marry doctoral research with professional development as assistant Museum Curator, at our Ure Museum.

Reading's Classics Department was part of Reading's successful AHRC block grant bid (and renewed success for a consortium bid under BGP2, October 2013). Under this heading we have been successful in securing four AHRC-funded PhD studentships (2008: Coombe; 2010: Fletcher; 2012/3: Cook; 2013: Ferritto) as well as one MA studentship (2011: Worsley). Due to the high level of excellent applicants in Classics, the University has offered internal MA funding in 2012 (Richards) and funded Research Studentships to Classics applicants in 2009 (Harden), 2010 (Robson), 2012 (Camaioni), and 2013 (Chepel; Grana Nicolaou; Keitel; Newell; Prouatt).

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

Integrated in our overall research strategy, our UoA engages in externally funded research and recognises its importance as a yardstick for the competitiveness of our staff. Since RAE 2008, this UoA has systematically increased its activities in this area, and will continue to do so through a more targeted approach, building on existing strengths and cross-institutional collaborations. The most recent step towards achieving this aim was the appointment of Dickey (see above, section c.i), who currently holds a £40,000+ Leverhulme fellowship (to be held 2013–5, just outside the census date), in a strategic move to bolster Reading's world leadership in ancient linguistics.

In addition to the indicators in REF4, and to substantial amounts of internal funding obtained from competitive sources within the University, we have successfully attracted funding for *Researchers Night* (ERC, €90,000, Kruschwitz), *Singers of Lazpa: Lesbian Lyric in its Anatolian Context* project (Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, CAD\$62,000, Rutherford), *The Reception of Josephus in Jewish Culture* (AHRC, £139,000, Rajak), *Greek Song Network* (€15,000, Rutherford), a Visiting Fellow in Modern Greek (Dr Tzanidaki, approx. £35,000 p.a., ongoing). Duff obtained a two-years' fully funded Humboldt-Fellowship (2007-9), and Marzano (2010) and Rutherford (2013) obtained funded Visiting Research Fellowships with the Institute for the Study of the Ancient World (ISAW) at New York University. Papaconstantinou obtained a Fellowship with the Aga Khan University, London, in 2011-2 (£30,000).

Further generators of streams of funding are the Ure Museum (cf. below and REF3a and cf. REF3b CS-1) and our PG studentship (above).

Our UoA is fortunate to have all staff offices, the Ure Museum of Greek Archaeology, and common space for undergraduates and postgraduates staff physically located in the same part of the Humanities and Social Science building on Reading's Whiteknights Campus, close to the main library, all neighbouring academic subjects, and the Graduate School. This arrangement enables us to live our vision of an integrated, creative community of practitioners in Classics.

Our Ure Museum hosts the fourth-largest collection of Greek Ceramics in the UK, is equipped with state-of-the-art IT facilities, and is in heavy use for research seminars, small-scale symposia, acting as a busy hub for our academic teaching and outreach activities (REF3a for more detail). The museum offers opportunities for PhD projects, for professional development in the curatorial sector, and together with the other museums at the university is at the centre of the new BA in Museum and Classical Studies and the new PhD in Collection Based Research.

When research expertise has the most natural synergies with colleagues outside the Department, the University assists the development of research centres, which provide the infrastructure for research and facilitate joint PhD supervision between different Departments/Schools). One such case is the Centre for Economic History, which brings together staff from Classics (Marzano; Director from October 2013), History, Economics (Dark, member of our UoA), Business School, and Archaeology. The Centre also facilitated the enlistment of staff outside Classics to contribute to the teaching of the new MA in Maritime Trade and Navigation.

e. Collaboration or contribution to the discipline or research base

Reading's Classics Department and its academic members are fully integrated in the fabric of the scholarly community, nationally and internationally, making significant contributions to the discipline as well as taking on international leadership responsibilities.

We entertain close links with the British Schools at Rome and Athens, with Reading staff serving on relevant committees (Aston) and contributing to the Schools' provision (Nicholls, Smith). These links extend to our taught provision, and thus form a partnership of eminent strategic value.

All members of academic staff regularly contribute to blind peer review processes of international Classical journals and act as peer reviewers for international presses. Vasunia is general editor of the series *Ancients and Moderns*, jointly published by *I. B. Tauris* and *Oxford University Press*, Duff was commissioning editor for *Cambridge Scholars Press* (until 2012). Goff is on the editorial board of the *Classical Receptions Journal*, Kruschwitz is member of the *consejo asesor* of the Spanish Classical journal *Habis* (Seville) and on the editorial board of the American review journal *Bryn Mawr Classical Review*.

Rutherford and Vasunia are members of the AHRC peer review college. Goff acted as an assessor for the Leverhulme Trust. Marzano was external assessor for the ERC, the Swiss National Science Foundation, and SSHRC-Canada. Kruschwitz and Marzano are on the international advisory panel of the Research Programme *Language, Script, and Acculturation* of Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia. Marzano is member of the Structural Determinants of Economic Performance in the Roman World network comprising 12 universities across the EU and the US. Goff is on the executive committee of the Classical Reception Studies Network. Vasunia is on the Council of the *Hellenic Society* and advisor to the *Centre for the Study of the Ancient Mediterranean and the Near East*, Durham University.

During the REF 2014 cycle, several members of staff have acted as external examiner for PhD theses as well as tenure reviews, nationally and internationally. Duff has been appointed an External Expert by the Hellenic Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (Αρχή Διασφάλισης Ποιότητας Ανώτατης Εκπαίδευσης) and took part in the first External Evaluation of the Department of Philology at the University of Crete. Duff, Kruschwitz, Marzano, and Rutherford took part in the recent Italian quality assurance exercise of the Agenzia di Valutazione del Sistema Universitario e della Ricerca (ANVUR 2004–10).

Carter, Goff, Harloe, and Vasunia have spearheaded the international network *Legacy of Greek Political Thought*. Following an initial workshop, for which British Academy funding was obtained via the Small Research Grant scheme (2011), the network is now fully established and has gained significant momentum. Vasunia is co-founder of the international Imperialisms Network, based in Reading (which so far has held no less than six international workshops/conferences). Rutherford is involved, as Co-I, in the *Singers of Lazpa: Lesbian Lyric in its Anatolian Context* project. Nicholls is an active member of the London-based History of the Book network, and Mairs is involved in the recently instituted Oxford-based AHRC-funded project 'Greek, bilingual and trilingual inscriptions on stone from Ptolemaic Egypt (323-30 BCE)'. Goff is a Research Associate of the Department of Greek, Latin and Classical Studies, University of the Free State, Bloemfontein, SA and gave 2 invited papers, including one keynote, at the annual conference of the Classical Association of South Africa, in Bloemfontein, in 2013.

Marzano was awarded a Honourable Mention and Silver Medal at the Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (Rome) at the Premio Romanistico Internazionale Gérard Boulvert ceremony in 2010. Kruschwitz and Marzano were elected Fellows of the Royal Historical Society in 2011; Marzano was elected Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries in October 2013.

Spinning off from our connections with Archaeology, Classics staff are involved in the international Meroe Archival Project (launched by Boozer [originally Reading, now CUNY], involving Nicholls, Rutherford, Papaconstantinou, and Mairs from Classics). A second, related connection that we aim to utilise is a rapidly-emerging research strength in Egyptian/Near Eastern studies (resulting from the appointment of Prof. Matthews in Archaeology).

During the REF 2014 cycle, we have established 4 ERASMUS links with Universities and research institutions on the Continent and maintained previously existing ones (UA-Barcelona, ICAC-Tarragona, La Sapienza, Università del Salento-Lecce). This has resulted in over 20 staff mobilities (in either direction), diversifying our research experience and establishing potential for further research collaborations, also making us extremely attractive for international research students to come to Reading for at least a term: during the REF 2014 cycle, we welcomed 12 junior researchers, typically studying at PhD level or at postdoctoral level, who chose to come to Reading for a term or more. Finally, we have launched a new collaborative MA (Res) programme with the University Ca' Foscari of Venice in Ancient Maritime Trade and Navigation, based on research specialism in the department (Marzano).