

Institution: The University of Edinburgh
Unit of Assessment: 21 Politics and International Studies
<p>a. Overview</p> <p>The submission includes 35 staff (34.05 FTE), all based in the Politics and International Relations (PIR) department within the School of Social and Political Science (SSPS), one of 11 Schools in the College of Humanities and Social Science. We are a pluralistic department, with particular expertise in Territorial Politics, EU Politics, Public Policy, International Ethics and Security Studies. Our research is structured as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three interdisciplinary institutes provide hubs for research on our key topics: the <i>Europa Institute</i> (EU Politics), the <i>Academy of Government</i> (Territorial Politics and Public Policy) and the <i>Just World Institute</i> (International Ethics). • Five centres at School or College level support interdisciplinary research on Africa, the Arab World, Latin America, Russia and South Asia. • Staff are also active in a number of more <i>informal research clusters</i> hosted by the department: Elections, Public Opinion & Parties; Gender & Politics; International Political Economy; International Relations; Migration & Citizenship; Political Theory; Quantitative Research Methods. <p>In 2008 SSPS moved into the Chrystal Macmillan Building, restructured and refurbished through a £14.3 million University investment.</p>
<p>b. Research strategy</p> <p>Politics and International Relations (PIR) has been transformed over the past decade, evolving from a mid-ranking department of just 16 staff which was graded 4 in RAE 2001, to a 30-person department that ranked 10th in RAE 2008 (based on volume of 3*+4*). Through a combination of outstanding new appointments, inspiring leadership and focused research support over the REF period, we have grown into a vibrant community of international scholars, whose work is characterised by its international and comparative orientation, and its focus on the particular challenges of governance at subnational regional, European and international levels.</p> <p>Our research strategy since 2008 has sought to maintain our upward trajectory, through 16 new appointments (10 of which are newly created posts), and a series of innovations in the way we support research. Tangible results of this strategy include the appointment of 3 senior colleagues with strong international reputations in our core areas (Cram, Kaarbo and Mitchell); a more than 4-fold increase in research funding compared to the RAE period; a more than 3-fold increase in PhD awards; the hosting of 12 post-doctoral fellows on competitive external awards; and a marked improvement in the quality of our publication outlets (see data in c.i).</p> <p>Building on the plans set out in our RAE 2008 Future Strategy, in Summer 2008 we adopted a 5-year Strategy for PIR, which set out a number of cross-cutting priorities, and more targeted plans to develop research in particular areas. Our 3 cross-cutting priorities were as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Providing tailored support to enable our staff to realise more ambitious research goals. Early in the REF period we improved mentoring and peer review structures (described in c.i), and introduced a more rigorous workload model that protects research time. At the same time, we consciously fostered a research culture in which staff have the confidence and support to target top publication outlets and competitive funding programmes. As a result, staff have become more skilled at planning their research, taking the time to engage in thorough internal review before submitting outputs and applications, and focusing on fewer publications but in higher quality outlets. Measurable outcomes include: the high quality of outlets in which our research is published (see c.i); the fact that 83% of staff in post by May 2013 have secured external funding to support their research over the REF period (see d.); the fact that staff have held 10 prestigious externally funded fellowships over the REF period (see c.i). 2. Increasing the level and diversity of external research funding to support innovative research, through providing support for buy-outs, research assistance, data collection and field work. We have introduced more comprehensive support for grant applications (see d.); and we have drawn on a range of services and seed funding to underpin successful bids for large-scale collaborative projects, such as the €1.5m FP7 Integrated Project on multilateralism in EU external relations (MERCURY), led by Aspinwall and Peterson. These measures have contributed to a

Environment template (REF5)

430% increase in research income over the REF period, compared to the RAE period (see REF4), drawn from a broad range of UK and international sources.

3. Investing in **institutes** as the main engine for interdisciplinary and international collaboration and outreach. Our 3 PIR-led institutes – the Academy of Government, the Europa Institute (co-run with Law) and the Just World Institute – are increasingly assuming the role of catalysts for new research initiatives, as well as venues for hosting collaborative projects, integrating PGRs and research fellows, and providing professional support for grant management, events and knowledge exchange. Over the REF period we have made strategic investments in each of these institutes.

- The new **Academy of Government** (AoG) was created in 2011 to support research and impact-related activities and provide professional training across a wide range of policy-related areas, including Public Policy and Territorial Politics. Run by Jeffery, Hepburn and McEwen, AoG is taking a leading role in debates on the UK's constitutional future, including through hosting a new £2.5m ESRC multi-institutional consortium on the future of the UK/Scotland.
- In 2008, the **Europa Institute** – the UK's oldest EU studies centre, co-led by Damro (with colleagues in Law) – took the strategic decision to move from a centre primarily devoted to delivering events and teaching, to one whose core function was research. To underpin the shift it successfully bid for Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence status, which provided €75k for research seminar series and a visiting scholars programme.
- In 2008, the **Just World Institute** (JWI, led by Hayward) was set up to provide a hub for research on International Ethics. Since then, research on questions of justice and human rights has burgeoned across the university, prompting the establishment of a university-wide Global Justice Academy in April 2013. This is one of 4 Global Academies tasked with building multi-disciplinary responses to complex global challenges (the other Global Academies cover areas of Development, Health and the Environment). JWI is helping shape this ambitious programme for delivering research and impact.

Alongside these cross-cutting priorities, we have made targeted investments to nurture or consolidate world-leading research on **specific themes**. The department has particular strengths in 4 (overlapping) areas of research: Territorial Politics, EU Politics, Public Policy and International Ethics. The priority in these areas has been to win external funding, to lead international collaborative projects and networks, and above all to produce research findings that are transformative. A few examples can illustrate success in achieving these goals:

- PIR is an international leader in research on **Territorial Politics**, and continues to have a transformative impact on research on multi-level governance, political behaviour and political culture. Through a series of projects funded by ESF, ESRC, Leverhulme and FP7 worth over £2m, our research has challenged the bias in political science towards 'methodological nationalism'. For example, the €500k ESF-funded project Citizenship After the Nation-State (CANS), led by Jeffery and Henderson, collected rich data across 14 regions in Europe on regional attitudes towards citizenship and political participation. The survey has been extended to Brazil and North America with the support of over £70k ESRC and North American funding. CANS is having a substantial impact on debates on national identity (see case study on the 'English Question').
- **European Politics** staff have been applying innovative methodological approaches to analysing EU identity and institutions. Together with the University of East Anglia, Peterson co-led a major survey of Commission officials, the most comprehensive attitudinal survey ever undertaken of almost 2,000 officials, funded by a £257k ESRC grant (see also 'European Commission' case study). Cram's appointment in 2013 brings to the department frontier research on the geopolitics of European identity. Soon after her appointment, Cram was actively supported in developing a successful proposal for an ESRC Transformative Research Grant. The grant, worth £250k, is one of just 20 awards granted across the UK covering all areas of social science.
- In the area of **International Ethics**, research by Cripps and Hayward extends Hayward's ground-breaking work on environmental rights to produce radical new ideas about collective responsibilities for mitigating climate change, and an ecological perspective on global justice and human rights. This research, funded by grants from the BA and Leverhulme worth £388k, has established the Just World Institute as an international hub for research linking environmental ethics and justice. Our earlier career colleagues are also having a growing impact in this area: Thaler's pragmatist theory of judgements of political violence has been awarded a £74k Marie

Environment template (REF5)

Curie Career Integration Grant, while Duncanson is extending her innovative work on gender and the military through a £9k BA-funded project on the deployment of women soldiers in Afghanistan.

- Colleagues working on **Public Policy** have made a distinctive contribution to the political sociology of knowledge utilisation. Boswell's research exploring the symbolic functions of research in policymaking, funded by a €974k FP7 grant, is now being followed up through a new £415k ESRC project on the Politics of Monitoring. Freeman's typology of 'embodied', 'inscribed' and 'enacted' knowledge, developed as part of a major FP7 project on Knowledge and Policy (£198k to PIR), is providing a framework for comparative analysis across education and health sectors.

The PIR Strategy Group continually reviews how we are developing and supporting research. In 2013 we began planning for a new institute on **Security Studies**. With the appointment of 8 new staff over the REF period (Birdsall, Duncanson, Gebhard, Guillaume, Hönke, Kaarbo, Saouli, Stein) we now have expertise in numerous aspects of security, including feminist, poststructuralist and psychological approaches to security policies and practices, counter-terrorism, peacekeeping and war. Staff are engaged in a range of exciting projects: Hönke co-directs (with Tanja Börzel) a project on companies and security governance in Sub-Saharan Africa as part of a major €500k DFG grant; Kaarbo conducted a £28k Turkish Scientific Research Council project on the role of personality in Turkish foreign and security policy; Neal was co-I (with Jef Huysmans) on a £32k ESRC network on Critical Methods in Security Studies; and Stein co-leads a £38k AHRC network on State Power and People Power in the Middle East. The institute will support and foster new research collaborations across these areas, and meet growing demand in Scotland, UK and EU for specialised knowledge on security. One early success of this initiative is the £28k ESRC Seminar Series on security in Scotland awarded to Neal, Kaarbo and Raab in 2013.

We will continue to monitor performance in all 5 areas through tracking grant applications and income, research outputs, PGR and PDRF engagement, events and knowledge exchange.

Alongside these 5 areas we host a number of **informal research clusters** which either support research on particular methodological or theoretical approaches; or on topics that promise to yield innovative research, often in areas that cut across the core themes listed above. For example:

- The International Political Economy cluster supports cutting-edge work on market-based banking, including through Hardie's collaboration as co-I in Edinburgh Sociologist MacKenzie's €2.25m ERC Advanced Investigator Grant. It also hosts Damro's innovative research on 'Market Power Europe', which won EUSA best paper award in 2011.
- Within the Gender and Politics cluster, Mackay co-directs the international network on Feminism and Institutionalism (more than 40 members across Europe, North America and Asia), whose work on the study of gender and politics is recognised as a new approach in the leading political science methods textbook (Marsh and Stoker, Palgrave).
- Elections, Public Opinion and Parties members have been especially active in research on political parties, including March's major work on the European radical left (Routledge 2011); Mitchell's definitive work (authored with Bennie and Jones) on the Scottish National Party (OUP 2011); Odmalm's ESRC-funded project (£289k) on party positioning on the EU and immigration; and Henderson and Hepburn's work with colleagues in Canada comparing voting behaviour and parties in Scotland and Quebec, funded by a SSHRC Canada research grant (\$100k).

Research clusters regularly organise seminars and PhD workshops, host websites and blogs, and provide peer feedback on research in progress. They are monitored by the PIR Strategy Group to ensure they are meeting objectives and receiving appropriate support.

Our **priorities for 2014-20** are to consolidate the research strategy put in place over the current REF period, including further building the capacity of the AoG and developing the new security studies institute. In addition, we will:

- Continue to support grant applications, with emphasis on broadening interdisciplinary collaboration within and beyond the College. In particular, we will promote collaboration with the physical and life sciences, e.g. on topics of climate change and environmental ethics (Cripps, Hayward), neuro-politics and identity (Cram), and the use of science in policy (Boswell, Freeman).
- Intensify interdisciplinary collaboration on strategically important regions, notably BRICs and the Middle East. Building on existing cooperation across the College, we will actively support collaborative funding bids with colleagues working on Brazil/Mexico (Aspinwall, Hardie, Jeffery),

Environment template (REF5)

Russia (March), India (Swenden), South Africa (Hoenke) and the Middle East (Saouli, Stein).

c. People

i. Staffing strategy and staff development

The period 2008-13 has seen considerable expansion, especially in the area of International Relations. This has been enabled by the burgeoning success of UG and taught MSc Programmes in IR. Between 2008-13 we created 6 new posts to strengthen our profile in IR, security studies and Middle East Politics (adding to the 4 already created in 2006-7). The School also established a new Chair in Public Policy (Mitchell), and 2 further posts to retain high-achieving PDRFs (Cripps: Political Theory and Hepburn: Territorial Politics). In addition, we appointed 2 Chancellor's Fellows (Oberman and Thaler), selected from a pool of over 200 candidates on the basis of their outstanding research achievements and potential. These fellowships are part of a major University investment in 150 5-year fellowships in 2013-14, which are anticipated to lead to permanent lectureships. The School also invested in 3 new post-doctoral fellowships to support excellent scholars in launching their academic careers (Martin, Rommerskirchen and Wilson).

At the same time, PIR has seen just 5 departures (Johnson and Fabre, now chairs in Oxford; Dannreuther and Howarth, to chairs in Westminster and Luxembourg Universities; and Molloy, to a readership in Kent). Our successful retention of early and mid-career staff attests to our lively and supportive research environment, and good prospects for career development. Three of our Lecturers have been promoted to SL in the past 5 years, and 4 SLs to Chair. Two of our mid-career staff were awarded the Chancellor's Rising Star award, a single annual University-wide prize for staff showing exceptional potential (Johnson in 2011, Hepburn in 2012).

Demographic profile: over the REF period the UoA has matured from a predominantly early and mid-career department, to one with a good balance of staff at all levels of seniority: 10 professors, 8 senior lecturers, 14 lecturers/Chancellor's Fellows and 3 PDRFs. We are the 5th ranking UK Politics department for 'female presence' (Bates et al. 2012, *Politics*), and have made particularly good progress on the proportion of women professors, with 3 promotions and a new appointment bringing the total to 4 out of 10. We are a cosmopolitan department: 15 of our 35 staff are non-UK-born, drawn from 8 countries in Europe, North America and the Middle East.

Our staff development strategy involves a rigorous approach to mentoring and peer review, especially for **early- and mid-career researchers**, involving several strands:

- All early career and newly appointed staff are allocated a mentor to advise on career development and research strategy. In addition, new lecturers benefit from induction and promotion advice through the Lecturer Support Group, set up by the head of department in 2010.
- In 2011 our appraisal system was made more rigorous, to involve mandatory annual reviews for all staff, including discussion of research strategy and goals, and drawing up personal and professional development plans.
- A number of institutes and research clusters organise regular seminars to discuss work in progress (Transatlantic Seminar Series, Territorial Politics, EPOP, Europa Institute, International Relations, Political Theory, Migration & Citizenship), though the main forum for discussion remains our lively PIR Research in Progress series, a weekly seminar which always generates frank and rigorous discussion on ongoing research, as well as publication strategies, grant applications, using new media, and achieving research impact.
- In 2010 we identified a need for more detailed and focused peer review of grant proposals, book proposals and pre-submission articles, and to this end launched a series of 'masterclasses', through which staff receive rigorous feedback from 2-4 colleagues. We have now organised around 16 masterclasses, and it is becoming standard practice to solicit this kind of feedback before submitting publications or grant applications.

Our investment in support for early and mid-career staff has paid off, with staff becoming far more ambitious and successful in their publication outlets. Staff now routinely publish their work in top outlets (e.g. monographs with Cambridge, Oxford, Harvard and Stanford University Presses) and in top journals (e.g. *Ethics*, *European Journal of Political Research*, *European Union Politics*, *Governance*, *International Security*, *International Political Sociology*, *International Studies Quarterly*, *World Politics*). Indeed, 40.5% of the papers (articles and single chapters) submitted in REF2 are published in the top 20 journals in political science, IR, ethics and public administration (Google Scholar h5-index).

Staff have also had significant funding success (see c.), including holding 10 PIR-based **prestigious research fellowships** over the REF period: Cripps held a BA Post-Doctoral Fellowship; Hepburn held a Leverhulme Early Career Fellowship; Hayward held a BA Senior Research Fellowship; Hayward and Molloy held Leverhulme Trust Research Fellowships; Johnson held a Branco Weiss Fellowship; McEwen held an ESRC Scotland Senior Fellowship (Mitchell will commence one in September 2013); Jeffery held a Fernand Braudel Fellowship at the EUI (Damro will take one up in 2014); Boswell held a Marie Curie Excellence Grant (the predecessor of the ERC Starter Grant); Henderson held a Marie Curie International Incoming Fellowship; and Thaler will commence a Marie Curie Career Integration Grant in October 2013. Within the REF period we hosted 12 postdocs on Leverhulme, BA, ESRC, Marie Curie and Royal Society awards.

Since 2010, we have rolled out more systematic support for **research skills development**, through 3 initiatives. (1) In 2009 the School (together with Law) was awarded a major ESRC grant to support quantitative methods research and training. The Applied Quantitative Methods Network (AQMeN) brings together 8 Scottish universities to train and support academics and PGRs working with quantitative methods. It was awarded £3.4m follow-on funding in 2012. (2) Complementing AQMeN, in 2011 Henderson established a School-level Quantitative Methods Research Group, to provide more flexible and tailored support for colleagues and students working with quants. (3) The 3rd component is a School-wide initiative launched in 2010 by Mackay (as Head of the Graduate School) to roll out methods training as part of CPD for all staff. This involved reconfiguring existing PG courses into blended learning modules which can be accessed online. Supported by Henderson's £96k ESRC grant, we have also considerably expanded the School's Core Quantitative Data Analysis course. Five staff have benefited from additional methods training over the REF period (Boswell, Cram, Neal, Odmalm and Stein), and we are encouraging more to do so through offsetting participation in workload allocation.

We will intensify our focus on quantitative methods over the next 5 years, through a new Q-Step Centre (one of 15 awarded across the UK, funded by ESRC and Nuffield). This will bring £239k to PIR to appoint a new lecturer in quantitative methods and transform UG methods teaching, offering new opportunities and incentives for staff to hone their methods skills.

Equality of opportunity is critical in a department with almost 40% women, a young demographic, and thus a high number of maternity leaves and a demand for flexible working. We have supported staff through 11 maternity leaves over the REF period, and 5 staff have benefited from temporarily reduced FTE, which they have been able to adjust as childcare requirements change. Two of these colleagues, Birdsall and Duncanson, were initially appointed to a job-share post as Teaching Fellow in 2009, an arrangement which was carried over to their appointment to tenured lectureships in 2010. As their circumstances changed, they have been able to increase their contracts to 0.7 and 0.9 FTE respectively. Recognising the challenges of parenthood for young and mid-career researchers, we have expanded the role of our Women and Equalities Officer to provide individual meetings for staff prior to, and on their return from, maternity leave. The School and College promotions systems is keen to minimise the detrimental effects of maternity on career development, and we are pleased to say that 3 of those who had maternity leave have been promoted since 2008: Hepburn to SL, and Boswell and Henderson to Chairs.

In order to ensure support for ECRs, our School-wide workload model reduces teaching loads for newer/earlier career staff by giving 50% extra weight to new teaching. We also benefit from an accelerated **research leave** policy (1 semester in every 3 years) which is more generous than University policy. 80% of staff who have been in post over the past 6 years have enjoyed at least 1 year of sabbatical and/or research leave over the REF period. Staff are encouraged to develop at least 1 grant application during their leave. To ensure sabbaticals are as productive as possible, staff prepare a detailed plan, which is discussed before and after the sabbatical with the Head of Subject. We also aim to guarantee to all staff one ring-fenced research day every week, even those with more onerous management responsibilities.

The University's Code of Practice for the Management of Research Staff sets out principles and measures for supporting research staff, integrating the 2008 **Concordat** on research careers. In 2010 the College created a new post of Associate Dean of Research Careers to ensure effective support for research staff. The PIR Research Convenor and Head of Subject are responsible for

Environment template (REF5)

ensuring that the Code of Practice is fully implemented for our post-doctoral research fellows (PDRFs) and research assistants (RAs).

- In line with the Concordat, all PDRFs and RAs have access to a mentor independent of their PI/Project Mentor, as well as extensive support from senior staff in developing follow-on grant proposals and job applications.
- All PDRFs and RAs are members of at least one institute or research cluster, and are invited to present work in the weekly departmental seminar, as well as in institute or cluster seminars.
- The School PDRF Society, set up by Hepburn in 2007, provides a forum for fellows to network, and a platform for influencing School policy through representation on School research committee.
- Our policy is to support PDRFs in finding permanent positions in the department or elsewhere, rather than remaining in fixed term research contracts. Thus Hepburn was able to follow up ESRC and Leverhulme PDRFs with a standard ESRC grant, and a subsequent open-ended position in the department (she is now SL); and Cripps progressed from a 1-year temporary lectureship to a 3-year BA PD Fellowship and is now on an open-ended lectureship. Other PDRFs who were at Edinburgh as Marie Curie, ESRC, Leverhulme or Royal Society PDRFs are now in academic positions in the Universities of Edinburgh (Social Policy), Queen's University Belfast, Erlangen, Liege, Maastricht and Sydney. We should also note that our Teaching Fellows – of whom we typically employ 1 or 2 at any one time – have access to all the facilities and services outlined above; and we make a point of ensuring their workload allows for dedicated research time, even where this is not formally part of their contract. This has enabled 4 of our recent Teaching Fellows to progress to Lectureships within the REF period (Birdsall, Duncanson, Gebhard and Kenealy).

School **research ethics** policy is a 3-level procedure designed to minimise delay for low risk projects while ensuring detailed scrutiny of higher risk cases. In 2011 the procedures were updated to address risks associated with internet-based research and secondary use of datasets.

ii. Research students

Over the REF period we have averaged 8.34 PhD awards per year, a more than 3-fold increase on the equivalent figure for RAE 2008. PGR funding is available through competitive School, College and University-level awards, and through our ESRC Doctoral Training Centre (see below). PGRs have also been funded through the FP7 EXACT International Training Network (12 studentships for PGRs jointly trained and supervised in Edinburgh, Cologne and Prague), and many other international sources such as EU Marie Curie, German Academic Exchange Service, Research Council of Norway, Governments of Portugal, Chile and Indonesia, Nigerian Tertiary Education Trust Fund, Arab-British Chamber and the Open Society Foundation. These diverse sources of support make for a thriving and exceptionally cosmopolitan community of doctoral researchers. Our students have access to outstanding **supervision and training resources**:

- Under the coordination of Jeffery, the School led the bid for, and is central host to, the new **Scottish Graduate School of Social Science**, which includes the ESRC's Doctoral Training Centre in Scotland, the largest of the ESRC's training centres. The Scottish Graduate School offers our PGRs access to an array of specialist courses and events across Scotland. For example, we hosted an inaugural Summer School in 2012, which attracted over 400 students. Our students also have access to training through the ESRC AQMeN network (see c.i above).
- Our own School's long-established **Graduate School** (led by Mackay 2009-12 and Freeman since 2012) offers core courses in research design, data collection and data analysis, complemented by a wide range of multi-disciplinary options. All of our core courses are being recast in modular form and made available in distance and/or blended learning format. The Graduate School also organises a rolling programme of advanced training on emergent topics and methodologies such as social network analysis, action research and project management.
- Each PGR has at least 2 **supervisors**, often spanning different departments or Schools. Indeed, in addition to supervising PIR students our staff have also co-supervised 35 PhDs across the university over the REF period. PGRs are reviewed by 2 non-supervising examiners at the end of year 1, and thereafter through annual reviews. All new supervisors attend Graduate School-organised seminars on best practice in supervision (we also insist that even the most experienced supervisors attend regular refresher sessions).
- **Transferable skills and employability** are nurtured through PIR's Theory and Practice seminar, a long-standing and very popular weekly seminar to which PIR staff regularly contribute. At School level, the Practice Programme, launched in 2012, connects PGRs to the worlds of work

Environment template (REF5)

beyond academia, through workshops, work-based placements and exchange fellowships (see REF3a). The University's Institute for Academic Development, with a staff of over 30 FTE, provides a range of transferable skills training, including communication, professional, enterprise and career development skills. Edinburgh Research and Innovation (see d. below) provides regular briefing sessions on post-doctoral and early career funding opportunities in the UK and EU.

- We have also taken measures to further **broaden PhD funding**. (1) We have extended opportunities for PGRs to take up teaching and research posts to subsidise their studies. All PGRs are given the opportunity to teach during their studies (typically 20 are employed per semester on PIR courses), while more than 15 have been financed through RA posts on externally funded projects, and another 10 through administrative roles relevant to professional development (e.g. to support PGR admissions, events and impact). (2) Together with partners in Cologne and Prague, in 2010 we secured €1.65m EU funding for the ITN mentioned above, which funded 12 PGRs.

The quality of PGRs is attested by their **prestigious awards, publications and appointments**. Over the REF period, our PhD students won 3 prestigious prizes: the PSA Prize for best PhD dissertation on elections, electoral systems or representation (Kenny); the ECPR award for best dissertation on politics and gender (Cavaghan); and the IMISCOE prize for best PhD in the field of migration, integration and social cohesion (Hunter). Our PGRs routinely publish in peer reviewed journals during their PhD study. In the current REF period, our on-course PGRs published articles in *Critical Policy Studies*, *Diplomacy & Statecraft*, *Environmental Politics*, *Evidence & Policy*, *Europe-Asia Studies*, *Journal of Contemporary European Research*, *Millennium*, *Party Politics*, *Population*, *Space & Place*, and *Politics & Gender*.

PGRs have organised over 30 workshops, conferences or panel sessions at major international conferences over the REF period, with funding from a range of sources including Roberts Funding, Edinburgh Innovation Initiative grants, School Strategic Research Support Fund, Royal Society of Edinburgh and RCUK funding. Two of our PGRs organised the 2008 PSA Postgraduate Northern Conference which was commended by PSA as an 'outstanding event'.

Students awarded PhDs within the REF period have gone on to PDRFs funded by ESRC, Leverhulme, BA, Marie Curie, US National Science Foundation; and to posts at the Universities of Edinburgh, Oxford, St. Andrews, Warwick, Westminster, Free University of Brussels, Malmö, New South Wales, Northeastern, British Columbia, Victoria, Pretoria and Witwatersrand. Others have gone into policy jobs, including the Scottish Executive, UK Audit Commission, Home Office, Treasury, the UK Permanent Representation in Brussels, and the UN Secretariat.

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

PIR staff have received £3.9m in external **research income** over the assessment period, increasing our average annual income by more than 400% compared to RAE 2008. Grant successes since 2013 (not captured in the REF data) indicate a continued upward trajectory, with £2.4m in new awards between January-September alone. Rather than relying on a few research 'stars' to generate grant income, our success is spread across different research areas and staff at different career stages. Thus we have secured larger grants in the areas of Territorial Politics, European Politics and Public Policy, including £1.2m ESRC funding for PIR research on the future of Scotland/UK, the €500k CANS project, the €1.5m FP7 MERCURY project and the £415k ESRC Politics of Monitoring project; but at the same time our political theorists have been successful in securing a series of competitive individual grants (Cripps, Hayward, Molloy and Thaler – see above); and smaller research clusters have won funding in new areas, for example Odmalm's £289k ESRC First Grant, Bomberg (UoA23) and McEwen's £90k National Energy Research Council grant, and March's £208k ESRC grant on radicalisation and violence in Russia. This illustrates our success in embedding a culture of grant raising in the department. **Support for applications** is provided through specialised inputs at 3 levels.

1. **Within PIR**, we have put in place a number of measures to ensure better identification and matching of specific funding opportunities to individuals, and rigorous peer review of proposals. We regularly inform colleagues of relevant programmes and calls through targeted emails, individual and group meetings; and we share experiences of successful applications through the weekly PIR Seminar. It is also standard practice for staff to solicit detailed comments from at least 2 colleagues on applications, a practice initiated in PIR in 2011 and rolled out as mandatory practice across the College by Boswell, as Deputy Dean of Research. Since the policy was implemented in Summer

Environment template (REF5)

2011, ESRC grant applications by PIR staff have seen an 80% success rate (8 awards, £1.74m).

2. The **School** offers seed funding through the Strategic Research Support Fund, covering support for grant applications (26 awards worth £45k granted to PIR staff since 2008), including a School large grants scheme which directly contributed to the success of the MERCURY FP7 project. Both School and College help match up cross-disciplinary teams to work on specific calls, and offer peer review and mock interviews for short-listed applications, e.g. for Cram's successful ESRC Transformative Research grant, and Boswell's recently short-listed ERC Consolidator grant.

3. **Edinburgh Research and Innovation (ERI)** is a subsidiary working exclusively for the University to provide a comprehensive system of support for winning research funding, including identifying potential funding sources, advising on funder terms and conditions and curating an extensive 'bank' of successful proposals. ERI offers a remarkably efficient service costing grant applications (turn-around time normally no more than 4 hours) and an extensive events programme including funder visits and inter-disciplinary thematic networking meetings. A specialist EU team advises on forthcoming opportunities from Europe, proposal preparation and project management, and represents the University's interests in Brussels.

The School, College and ERI have helped us win funding from a wider **range of sources**. We have won a healthy quota of ESRC, AHRC, BA, Leverhulme Trust and EU projects; but also funding from new sources, such as NERC, the Air Force Office of Scientific Research, Volkswagen Foundation, German Academic Exchange Service, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey, Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada, the Templeton Foundation and Age Concern.

The School and the University are also committed to improving **post-award support**. In 2007 the School appointed a research manager to administer EU grants, whose experience of EU budgeting and reporting is proving invaluable in supporting both applications and post-award support for FP, Marie Curie and ERC grants. In 2013 the University rolled out a new state-of-the-art e-finance tool to provide PIs with simplified access in order to better track and manage grant budgets.

Infrastructure and facilities: In 2008 the School of Social and Political Science moved into the Chrystal Macmillan Building (CMB), entirely restructured and refurbished for the School at a cost of £14.3m. The building was redesigned to our specification, with a particular focus on architectural features that promote interaction amongst staff and PGRs: generous public spaces, break out rooms and electronically bookable meeting pods. Simultaneously, the Europa Institute and the Academy of Government moved into a refurbished Georgian building across the road from the CMB. Facilities for PhD researchers in CMB include a postgraduate common room, reading room, computer room and computer-user support, as well as access to 6 bookable meeting pods with interactive SMART boards to facilitate group work. PhD researchers in years 1 and 2 have use of a hot-desking area, and are loaned laptops connected to Edinburgh's extensive wi-fi system, enabling them to tap into electronic resources across campus. All 3rd and 4th year PGRs have access to a desk and computing facilities in shared offices in the CMB.

Since RAE 2008, Edinburgh University has made heavy investments to ensure that **IT and administrative support** for our School has more than matched the growth of its income. The 36.1 FTE administrative staff in 2008 have now become 42.34 FTE, including a team of 11.3 FTE web development and IT specialists, and a new research office staffed at 6.8 FTE. We are also able to draw on the University's superb strengths in informatics, including Edinburgh's Data Library and EDINA, a UK national academic data centre, designated by JISC on behalf of UK funding bodies, which provides a wide range of online data services including census statistics and the Digimap.

Within a 5-minute walk of the Chrystal Macmillan Building are 2 world-class research **libraries:** Edinburgh University Library and the National Library of Scotland. The former is one of the largest research libraries in the UK, with over 3.5 million printed items and 0.5 million e-books, and subscriptions to around 200,000 serials. The National Library is one of the UK's 6 Legal Deposit Libraries, which has accumulated an almost unrivalled collection of 15 million printed items.

e. Collaboration or contribution to the discipline or research base

As one of 6 departments within the School, we benefit from a fluid, interdisciplinary structure with intensive exchange with Sociology, Social Policy, Social Anthropology and Science and Technology Studies. This includes joint PhD supervision as a matter of routine; numerous cross-

Environment template (REF5)

School research seminars and events, such as regular Adventure Lunches (initiated by Boswell) to explore new areas for research collaboration; and joint research planning and strategy through a shared Research Office and School Research Committee.

Beyond the School, staff in PIR cooperate with colleagues across 12 of the 22 Schools in the university, including Engineering, Geosciences, Informatics and Psychology. In many cases cooperation is structurally embedded in our institutes. Thus the Europa Institute is jointly run by Damro and colleagues in Law; the AoG incorporates colleagues from across the School, as well as from Law, Economics and Business; the Global Justice Academy and the various language-based area studies centres in which we participate all involve College-wide collaboration (the Centre for Advanced Study of the Arab World, co-directed by Stein; the Princess Dashkova Centre on Russia, of which March is Deputy Director; the Centre for African Studies; the Centre for South Asian Studies; and the Centre for Contemporary Latin American Studies).

National and international collaborations are vital to our work. They include jointly funded projects with partners across Europe, Russia, the Americas, Australia, China and South Africa. For example, the MERCURY FP7 project involved collaboration between 8 institutes in 7 countries, the CANS project involves 7 teams in 5 countries, while the FP7 Knowledge and Policy project involved 11 research teams in 8 countries. Over the REF period, colleagues have held **23 international visiting fellowships**, including at EUI (Fiesole), Sciences Po (Paris), the College of Europe (Bruges), Humboldt University (Berlin), Bilkent University (Ankara), University of California at Berkeley, Yale University, McGill University, CIDE (Mexico City), and Delhi University. Our work has been **translated** into Catalan, French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish, Swedish, Hungarian, Romanian, Serbian, Arabic, Japanese, Mandarin and Korean.

The unit has been highly successful in winning funding for high profile **seminar series**, holding 14 seminar series and network grants over the REF period (cumulative funding of over £260k). We also hosted 3 **major conferences** over this period: the PSA 50th Anniversary Conference, in 2010 (Jeffery was Convenor), the largest PSA conference to date, with over 1,000 delegates and 300 panels; the first ever joint BISA/ISA Conference, in 2012 (Peterson was local organiser); and the 38th Annual Conference of the University Association of Contemporary European Studies (UACES) in 2008 (Damro was local organiser), the largest international conference in European studies ever held in the UK (400 delegates and 100 panels).

We take seriously our obligations to provide public goods for the profession. The department leads the editing team for *Regional and Federal Studies* and staff are co- or associate editors of *Foreign Policy Analysis*, *Parliamentary Affairs* and *Res Publica*. Over the REF period, staff have been members of more than 30 **editorial boards**, including *African Affairs*, *EU Politics*, *Europe-Asia Studies*, *East European Politics*, *Environmental Politics*, *Foreign Policy Analysis*, *Government and Opposition*, *International Political Sociology*, *Journal of European Public Policy*, *Journal of International Political Theory*, *Policy and Politics*, *Political Psychology*, *Public Policy and Administration*, *Publius* and *Security Dialogue*. Cram is Chair of the JCMS Best Article Prize. Staff are series editors for OUP, MUP, Routledge and Palgrave Macmillan.

PIR staff have prominent roles in a number of **professional associations**. Jeffery has been Chair of PSA since 2011, and Hayward is founding member and treasurer of the PSA specialist group on global justice and human rights. McEwen is Co-Convenor of the PSA Territorial Politics specialist group, and Hepburn and Swenden have been co-convenors of the ECPR Standing Group on Federalism & Regionalism through most of the REF period. Neal was one of 4 executive officers to launch the Theory Section of the ISA in 2011, which now has 400 members. Examples of earlier career engagement include Guillaume's role as Chair of the ISA's International Political Sociology section; and Stein's role as Council Member of the British Society for Middle Eastern Studies.

Members of the department are diligent reviewers for a range of funding bodies, notably **ESRC**. Jeffery was a member of the ESRC Council until 2011, and Chair of its Strategic Research Board (2005-10) and Research Committee (2010-11). Mackay was a member of the ESRC Doctoral Training Centre Peer Review Panel. Boswell was a member of the ESRC Future Research Leaders Sift Panel. Six colleagues are currently members of the ESRC Peer Review College.

In 2012 Mackay was elected to the **Academy of Social Sciences**, joining our existing Academicians Jeffery, Mitchell, Peterson and Raab.