Institution: University of Glasgow

Unit of Assessment: 28B – Modern Languages and Linguistics: Celtic Studies

a. Overview

Celtic & Gaelic (C&G) at the University of Glasgow (UoG) has, since 2008, expanded in staff, research students and research income, driving forward further investment and an enhanced research environment. This transformation has been accompanied by a change in institutional and physical setting. After RAE2008, the UoA moved to its own premises, a dedicated house in which our researchers have been able to establish a Gaelic-friendly environment by way of its pioneering Gaelic Language Initiative – employing Gaelic signage, dedicated Gaelic-speaking spaces and events, and contributing to UoG-wide initiatives such as the Taigh na Gàidhlig residency scheme. Following UoG's restructuring in 2010, the UoA is now one of six subject areas within the School of Humanities | Sgoil nan Daonnachdan (others are Archaeology, Classics, History, Information Science and Philosophy), which is itself one of four schools in the College of Arts (CoA). C&G has played an active and foundational role in the evolving School of Humanities, building on our longstanding relationships with History and Archaeology in undergraduate teaching, postgraduate supervision and research collaboration. C&G staff fill key leadership roles: Ó Maolalaigh was the School's first Deputy Head and since 2012, Head of School; and Clancy its first and current Research Convenor. C&G is also a core subject area within the CoA-wide Centre for Scottish and Celtic Studies. The UoA has grown since 2008 when it returned six FTE. It now consists of 10 Cat A Staff representing 7.7 FTE. Recognising the interdisciplinary dynamic of the UoA, two of these are joint appointments with other subject areas (History; English Language). The UoA also benefits from a full-time Native Language Assistant and a Gaelic Language Officer, the first in Scotland who is based in the UoA but has a UoG-wide remit. We currently have seven research staff who are supported by externally-funded project contracts and are fully integrated into our research culture, as are a variety of other workers on research projects. We are, therefore, reporting significant advances in our research culture since 2008 – more staff, more students, more income and more partners – underlining UoG's post-RAE investment in the UoA, as well as the outcome of the CoA's and UoA's strategies with regard to external research income.

b. Research strategy

The UoA's vision of delivering high-quality research that makes a difference to the discipline and to our multiple stakeholders has been underpinned by a strategy outlined in RAE2008. This may be summarised as aiming to: (i) produce and facilitate the wide dissemination of <u>excellent individual research</u> which makes key contributions to the discipline; (ii) expand our involvement in grant-funded projects and major inter-institutional collaborative projects thereby <u>increasing our grant income and growing capacity in the discipline</u>; (iii) build the research base through <u>strategic recruitment and development of staff, building capacity and growing leadership skills through mentoring and collaboration</u>; and (iv) maximise existing and build new relationships internationally and beyond academia with an eye to <u>growing research and impact opportunities</u>. Reporting on successes in these objectives, we highlight achievements in the delivery of major projects, in engagement with and progression of the National Gaelic Plan through our research and other activities, and our key role in a number of inter-institutional projects – eg, Faclair na Gàidhlig.

   The UoA is committed to its thematic focus on the three main strands of <u>language</u>, <u>literature</u>, and <u>history and culture</u>, with a strong emphasis on Scottish Gaelic as both subject of study and medium of research and dissemination. Growth in the number and scale of externally funded research projects has allowed us to undertake some realignment, requiring us to step back from some actions envisioned in 2008 to focus on new priorities. Our work includes:

− <u>Language. Onomastics</u>, especially place-name studies, is a major focus of activity and investment. Working in collaboration with colleagues in English Language and History, UoG has become the major Scottish centre for name studies, leading or being involved in five major grant-funded projects during the census period with headline income of £2.9m. The UoA's five-volume *Place-Names of Fife* and *The Place-Names of Bute* are game-changing interventions in the development of place-name survey in Scotland. The employment of Taylor and Márkus ensures ownership of future survey is squarely in UoG remit.

− <u>Language. Lexicography/lexicology</u> has grown and <u>Corpus Linguistics</u> has been established as strategic areas of research. UoG has become the main centre of activity in relation to the multi-institutional *Faclair na Gàidhlig*, as forecast in 2008, with the continuation of the Digital Archive of

Scottish Gaelic (DASG) and the establishment of *Corpas na Gàidhlig* at the heart of the wider Faclair project. As commended in RAE2008, we thus continue to provide wider access to unique resources, and DASG/Corpas are providing important linguistic data to the international community – eg, the Arizona Gàidhlig Syntax Project. The UoA's participation in the multi-institutional Scottish Funding Council (SFC) Strategic Research Development Grant/Horizon project *Soillse*, for Gaelic revitalisation and maintenance, has added a sociolinguistic strand to our research with work on: (i) new media and crowd-sourcing approaches to language planning; (ii) language acquisition by adult learners; and (iii) Gaelic in the media. The UoA has contributed to inter-institutional research and outreach, assisting other HEIs, and external bodies such as LearnGaelic.net and Bòrd na Gàidhlig on corpus planning for Scottish Gaelic. Important individual linguistically-related outputs have been published by UoA members, especially Ó Maolalaigh.

– Literature. The UoA has maintained its major contribution to the study of Celtic literatures, particularly Scottish Gaelic literature, across the centuries. Clancy plays a leading role as joint General Editor of the *Edinburgh Companions to Scottish Literature*. New ground has been broken on medieval literature such as *fiannaighecht* (Parsons, Innes), the Ulster Cycle (Clancy), late medieval and early modern poetry (Innes, Byrne, Clancy), and 19th and 20th century literature (Kidd, Byrne). A recent focus has been the context of early modern and modern Scottish Gaelic literature, including the networks of literary relationships. Several of these strands are laying the foundations for major new collaborative projects.

– History and culture. Alongside delivering new forms of outputs – eg, the online outcome of the *Commemorations of Saints* project, saintsplaces.gla.ac.uk – the UoA's researchers have helped set the agenda for the study of early and central medieval Scottish and Celtic history. Recent work has explored the interface between historical context and literary output in the late 18th and 19th centuries. As forecast in RAE2008, we have during the census period maintained our roles as publisher and facilitator, including editing three issues of *Aiste* and a poetry collection.

As this summary of achievements indicates, inter- and cross-disciplinary research is at the heart of the activities of the UoA researchers who have worked closely with colleagues across the CoA and beyond – eg, on research supervision. Members of staff actively collaborate with one another, through joint authorship of articles and books, co-editing of journals and essay collections – eg, Forsyth's *Studies on the Book of Deer* contains contributions from five UoA staff – and facilitating long-term research projects and groups of projects – eg, our capacity in place-name studies. Giving institutional definition and support to these enterprises has been the Centre for Scottish and Celtic Studies (CSCS), of which the UoA is a core member: C&G organise the weekly CSCS seminars. The School, CoA and UoG have emphasised and invested in inter-disciplinary research themes and activities – eg, Lord Kelvin/Adam Smith (LKAS) doctorates and fellowships which emphasise new collaborations across traditional disciplinary divides; the UoA was awarded one of the first LKAS studentships for research across Gaelic, English Language and Sociology.

Strategic plans 2014-19

The themes of language, literature, and history and culture underpin our future research. We will:

– support the ambition of our staff and doctoral researchers to deliver the strongest research and to maximise its reach and influence within the discipline and beyond. At the core of our five-year strategy is the completion of a considerable number of major monographs – eg, Clancy's first volume in the *History of Gaelic Scotland* and Innes's monograph on medieval Gaelic devotional poetry. Some of these outputs relate to current and recent project grants, others will be the outputs of prospective externally-funded projects – eg, further county place-name survey volumes and Kidd's major study of Scottish Gaelic Periodicals from the 19th century. We will support this work through robust mentoring and peer support, targeting research leave and teaching/ administration relief. Through this work we also seek to grow further our research income and PGR recruitment

– develop our successful income generation strategy, growing capacity, developing leadership skills and increasing funded research students and PDRAs. We are targeting seed funding and mentoring towards the planning stages of projects in onomastics and lexicography/lexicology. As several current large projects come to completion in the next three years – eg, *Scottish Toponymy in Transition* – we will seek to maximise the impact from their outcomes and aim to obtain follow-on grants to maintain research momentum – eg, in 2013 *Faclair na Gàidhlig* received a new five-year funding package of £2.15m from the SFC, the AHRC and ESRC. This

activity will be at the heart of future language planning initiatives for Gaelic at UoG, in Scotland and internationally, including leading on technological developments. Work is underway to provide research which will give a comprehensive picture to Bòrd na Gàidhlig of the way ahead for Gaelic corpus planning and how it can be implemented with the support of users and the Gaelic community. We will work towards new Literature projects – eg, creating portals for digital editions of medieval and early modern and modern texts and for 19th century Gaelic periodicals.

− develop our staff profile and enhance the development of doctoral and early-career researchers through a robust mentoring and performance review framework, utilising UoG's new Early Career Development Programme to provide a supportive working environment. We will continue to build the next generation of Celtic scholars. From 2014 UoG will lead the £1.85m AHRC Doctoral Training Centre in Celtic Languages. This UK-wide consortium of 12 Celtic language units will deliver a step-change for our discipline, facilitating cross-institutional supervision, allowing sharing of increasingly scarce specialist research skills across the UK.

− support existing and develop new public engagement and impact activities. Informed by our civic role within Glasgow, and with a distinctive role in the context of minority language studies worldwide, we will build upon existing collaborations with agencies such as Bòrd na Gàidhlig, Education Scotland the Scottish Government and Education Scotland. *The Glasgow Gaelic Story*, a new project, with strong knowledge exchange (KE) dimensions, will deliver an online resource on the contribution to Gaelic and wider society of Gaels associated with UoG.

− extend our global reach via further international collaborations. An early milestone will be our hosting of the 15th International Congress of Celtic Studies (2015), the premiere conference in our field. This event will raise the UoA's profile and further develop our international links. We will use this gathering to support the development of PGR students, through bursaries, poster-sessions, and workshops; and to refresh our interdisciplinary links through collaborations with History, Archaeology and History of Art.

c. People:

I. Staffing strategy and staff development

The UoA has experienced a period of staffing stability and growth. The core staff in post at 2008 remain and significant investment by UoG has allowed us to make four new appointments. Two new lectureships strengthen Gaelic language and literary strands – Innes joined from Harvard in 2013 and Parsons from Cambridge in 2008; and two new fractional lectureships strengthen research in language, history and culture – Taylor (0.5 fte) and Márkus (0.2 fte) moved from project-funded research posts to core-funded lectureships in 2013. 2011 saw UoG establish the Chair of Gaelic, with Ó Maolalaigh as first holder. One feature of the past six years, facilitated by research grants, has been the number of temporary lecturers on replacement teaching contracts who have been of signal benefit to our research culture. Included in this list are MacCoinnich, currently PDRA on *The Glasgow Gaelic Story*; Schlüter, now at Heidelberg; Mathis, at Aberystwyth; and Ó Muircheartaigh at Edinburgh.

The UoA supports staff development at all career stages to enhance the quality and extend the influence of our research. In 2009 UoG implemented the 'Concordat for Career Development of Researchers'. In 2010 it received, and subsequently retained, the European Commission's 'HR Excellence in Research' award. All staff are supported in their professional and personal development via an annual Performance and Development Review, conducted by a senior academic from the UoA. Staff are supported in their short and longer-term research planning The UoA also provides research-mentoring. In regular one-to-one meetings, colleagues discuss achievements and plans with one of the UoA's research leaders. UoG Staff Development Training delivers an extensive portfolio of workshops, targeting different stages of a research career and different skills – eg, Fellowship Interviews, Managing Successful Research Projects. It supports our international strategy through a training suite including Developing International Research Collaborations and International Networks. This provision is complemented by ArtsLab, a CoA facility launched in 2010 to support research and encourage interdisciplinary collaboration. Its programme of training and networking events is targeted to ensure arts and humanities researchers achieve sustainable research careers.

The UoA provides support for early career researchers to develop independent careers. UoG's three-year probation system ensures that new lecturers' research time is protected by a reduction of administrative and teaching workload – 50% in their first year, 25% in the second and 10% in the third. All ECRs are paired with an academic mentor. Their skills are developed through the UoG

New Lecturer Programme, leading to a Certificate in Academic Practice. A new Early Career Development Plan – with enhanced training and mentoring arrangements – was launched in 2013.

The eight PDRA appointments made in the period are fully integrated in the UoA's research culture with representation on the School's Research and KE Committee and participation in training and mentoring. They have produced individual and collaborative research, including project building – eg, Butter and Márkus' contribution to the Commemoration of Saints project.

UoG's research leave system is based on one semester of institutionally-funded leave after six normally worked semesters. Staff are encouraged to augment institutional support with external funding. In the period under review seven members of the team have been supported by research leave. The UoA has facilitated completion of specific research projects by providing targeted teaching relief – eg, Kidd's article on Gaelic periodicals for *Rannsachadh na Gàidhlig 2010*. School and CoA Strategic Funds provide seed funding for early networking opportunities or teaching buy out, up to £800.

A series of initiatives within the UoA support the development of new ideas. These include a weekly programme of visiting speakers, workshops, conferences and symposia. All staff are encouraged to share their research at such events, providing opportunities for peer review. Other staff in the UoA who are not on research contracts but are active in our community of learning – eg, our Native Language Assistant and Gaelic Language Officer – are encouraged towards presentation of research or KE activities in seminars and workshops within the UoA and beyond.

We are committed to the UoG's promotion of equality and diversity and work towards an environment free from discrimination and unfair treatment. All our staff have completed online equality and diversity training, with managers and PIs undertaking an additional course. This training outlines the Equality Act 2010. UoG joined the Athena Swan Charter in August 2011 with an action plan to advance female academics. The Colleges of Arts and Social Sciences also developed a women's peer mentoring scheme, pairing female academics across all grades. The UoA shows good gender balance – 6:4 M:F in Cat A staff, 4.2:3.5 in FTE terms. We maintain flexible working conditions, which supports staff with caring responsibilities. During the review period Kidd was a member of the School's management team. UoG was awarded Athena SWAN Institutional Bronze in 2013.

CoA also has a policy of incentivising external grant capture by distributing significant amounts of the income from funded projects to PIs and their subject areas. The UoA has been able to use these and other resources to support staff attendance at international conferences and research trips. This support has also been available to RAs engaged in career-developing work beyond their project – eg, attendance at conferences and symposia. UoG's *Code of Practice for the Management of Research Staff* was launched at the 2012 Research Staff Conference. It outlines responsibilities of researchers, PIs and Schools or mentors and is available on the Research Staff and PI web portals, as well as being provided to new staff at inductions and to existing staff through committees and research staff/PI training programmes

Engagement with the world beyond the HEI is embedded in our research work and resources are targeted to this end. The UoA participated in the CoA's first Industry Day, which facilitated interaction between researchers and the non-HEI sector: the UoA contributed a number of case-studies – eg, place-name work and the Gaelic language corpus.

c. II. Research students

The UoA has created the atmosphere in which a lively community of research students is flourishing. This has been integral to our research successes and we have benefited from project research students. The UoA has recruited strongly during the census period, with seven doctorates being awarded, and a further three submitted during summer 2013, just beyond census date. The UoA has 25 doctoral researchers, almost three times the number reported in RAE2008. This growth is aided by our staff's established international reputations and maturing profiles and our PGR strategy to enhance both scholarship funding and the doctoral researcher's experience. Many of our students pursue interdisciplinary research: we jointly supervise with History, Education, English Language and Sociology. We facilitate supervision in and completion/submission of PhD theses in Scottish Gaelic, ahead of and in line with the National Plan for Gaelic. The city of Glasgow thus now fully supports Gaelic-*medium* education from playgroup through PhD.

Studentships awarded include: four from the AHRC Block Grant Partnership; two linked to AHRC research projects; two from *Soillse*; four CoA and UoG Scholarships; two from Carnegie;

and one National University of Ireland Travelling Studentship. The UoA's endowment, the MacLean Fund, supports one-year PGR students, many of whom have progressed to PhD. The PhD application and scholarship process is managed and monitored by CoA Graduate School, with <u>equal opportunities</u> underpinned by transparent criteria. Scholarship applications are ranked by the UoA's Scholarship Committee according to quality-driven criteria.

Our doctoral researchers are valued members of the unit's <u>research culture</u>. Our students are represented on the School's Postgraduate Student-Staff Liaison Committee and its PG Committee. These provide a strategic forum for students' contribution to the development of our research community – eg, the planning and delivery of research events directed towards their needs. They participate fully in our programmes of research seminars. The UoA delivers discipline-specific training through Research Methods courses. Students influence our research culture through initiatives that they champion and that can be supported by student-led applications to UoG's Research Strategy and Innovation Office (RSIO) and/or the CoA's Graduate School – eg, supporting the PG Celtic Studies Reading Group and student-devised sessions at the Leeds International Conference of Medievalists. The Graduate School and the UoA also provide financial support – generally in the region of £500 – to our doctoral students to visit archives/libraries, pursue fieldwork and attend conferences.

Our students' <u>research development</u> is supported through the CoA Graduate School's portfolio of over 70 workshops. A suite of core courses, including 'Research Integrity', provides a foundation for advanced research. These are complemented by provision from the RSIO. These generally have an interdisciplinary focus, with some offered online – this a resource valued by our part-time students. Our doctoral researchers collaborate on shared learning opportunities funded through the Graduate School including two student-led, peer reviewed publications – *eSharp* and *The Kelvingrove Review* – which have provided opportunities to develop publishing, editorial and peer reviewing skills, ensuring our students' preparedness for academic careers. Doctoral students are assigned a dedicated desk and computing facilities within the UoA's working space.

We implement robust <u>quality assurance</u> processes guided by UoG's 'Code of Practice for Postgraduate Research'. Each student has two trained supervisors. To support students, a rigorous Annual Progress Review (with two reviews ayear in the UoA) has been implemented during the period of review. Academic staff other than the student's own supervisors review sample writing, research plans and overall progress, inviting reflection on training in relation to the 'Vitae Researcher Development Framework' and an opportunity to comment on supervisory support.

A key strategy for our UoA has been nurturing our <u>relations with non-HEI stakeholders</u> to develop projects suitable for collaborative doctoral funding. Our PhD students' research has also been a key factor in our engagement beyond the academic community. Several of our PhDs have dealt with the situation of Gaelic in the community; with Gaelic learners in Gaelic Medium Education; with Gaelic corpus planning; with Gaelic and tourism; and with place-names, leading to interaction with schools, local history and heritage groups, and the language-support sector.

UoG and the UoA provide <u>career support</u> for research students through CV workshops, mock interviews and one-to-one advice offered by UoG's Doctoral Students' Careers Service. The UoA provides all doctoral students with the opportunity to develop teaching skills. Our GTAs complete UoG's Learning and Teaching Centre's statutory training, as well as subject-specific training. Staff provide feedback to GTAs on teaching practice. Most of our PGRs participate in the delivery of teaching. We have facilitated employability amongst our PGR community by, for instance, supporting participation in career-enhancing work, and involving them in KE initiatives. Our PGRs have taken the lead in developing new platforms for research engagement: one PhD student helped to develop the internationally respected onomastics.co.uk website; another has pioneered research seminar blogging for the Centre for Scottish and Celtic Studies. Our recent graduates have been employed to full lecturing posts in Harvard, Lancaster and Glasgow and as research fellows and assistants at the <u>University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI) and Glasgow.</u>

c. Income, infrastructure and facilities

The UoA has <u>increased</u> total HESA-measured <u>external research income per FTE</u> since RAE2008 to c£189,000, an increase of c700%. The UoA's annual average/FTE income during the census period has been around three times the Russell Group average for Modern Languages (or for Humanities and Language-based subjects, the HESA cost centre in which Celtic is measured).

2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Grand Total
£223,748	£182,717	£131,488	£386,641	£247,242	£1,171,836

We have been very successful in securing direct charity support for research publication that is not included in the above figures. Scottish Government and SFC funding has been a substantial component of some of our Gaelic language work, and is not tracked by HESA. We calculate this in excess of £500,000 over the census period. Thus our overall research income over the period, including endowments and non-HESA funding, is well in excess of £2m. We have led large-scale projects to raise the quality of our research, grow the size and capacity of our PDRA and doctoral researcher communities, extend our impact, and increase our research and KE collaboration. Our major funded research is exemplified by these projects:

− *The Expansion and Contraction of Gaelic in Medieval Scotland: The Onomastic Evidence* (PI: Clancy; AHRC 2006-10, ca.£450,000 pre-fEC) supporting two PDRAs and one PhD, KE/impact activities and research relationships with Education Scotland.
− *Scottish Toponymy in Transition* (PI: Clancy; AHRC 2011-14, £725,800) supporting three PDRAs and one PhD, KE/impact activities, in collaboration with Co-I Hough in English Language (UoG).
− *Commemorations of Saints in Scottish Place-Names* (PI: Clancy; Leverhulme 2010-13, £245,000) supporting two P/T PDRAs and one P/T systems developer.
− *The Paradox of Medieval Scotland* (History-led, with Co-I: Ó Maolalaigh; AHRC 2007-10, £629,437).

In addition:

− The Digital Archive of Scottish Gaelic (DASG) has been supported by the British Academy (£25k 2007-12, a successful quinquennial review in 2012-13 led to a further 5 years of funding).
− Corpas na Gàidhlig, creating a digital corpus of Scottish Gaelic texts. It is supported by Bòrd na Gàidhlig, Faclair na Gàidhlig, Comunn na Gàidhlig and Urras Brosnachaidh na Gàidhlig. It has just received a further £2.5m award from SFC and RCUK for the next five years.
− We also contribute to the inter-institutional project *Soillse*, devoted to increasing research capacity on Scottish Gaelic maintenance and revitalization, through a Strategic Research Development / Horizon Grant from SFC, and also supported by Bòrd na Gàidhlig, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, and the universities involved: the overall value of the project is £5.4m. This has supported a research fellow in the UoA and two PhD students.
− Two research tenders for Bòrd na Gàidhlig – for the Survey of Gaelic Corpus Technology and Corpus Planning for Gaelic – were won by the UoA generating income of £56,000.

Members of the UoA have generated significant additional research income from other funders including: Fife Council; *Soillse*; The Scottish Gaelic Texts Society; Comunn na Gàidhlig; Bòrd na Gàidhlig; Faclair na Gàidhlig; Urras Brosnachaidh na Gàidhlig. Individual research has been supported by AHRC research leave (Forsyth) and British Academy Mid-Career Fellowship (Ó Maolalaigh) and Carnegie research grants (Parsons).

The UoA has engaged with other partners to deliver a variety of consultancy-based research. UoG supported a feasibility study on the importance of having a Gaelic Language Officer (GLO) in universities. This led to the establishment of the GLO with pump priming of £430,000 from Bòrd na Gàidhlig, the SFC and the Scottish Government: the post is now core funded by UoG. The Officer has carried out research into the use of and attitudes towards Gaelic in HEIs, which has been influential in helping the establishment of GLOs elsewhere – ie, at Aberdeen, Edinburgh and UHI. Ó Maolalaigh (with Bauer and Wherrett) undertook research for Bòrd na Gàidhlig on the technological constraints around corpus language tools for Scottish Gaelic.

Scholarly infrastructure – UoG's Library's extensive holdings are supplemented by C&G's own dedicated research facility the MacLean Room, whose outputs were catalogued and placed online via an internal funded project from the UoG's Chancellor's Fund. We have dedicated research facilities in which a number of projects (*Scottish Toponymy in Transition; Commemorations of Saints in Scottish Place-Names*, *The Paradox of Medieval Scotland*) have collocated, along with relevant PGRs, creating an excellent research environment. C&G's possession of archival holdings relating to a 1960s-70s Scottish Gaelic dictionary project has generated the core work of DASG in digitizing and making available to lexicographers and researchers these resources; work here has mushroomed into the work on Corpas na Gàidhlig. CoA's excellent IT infrastructure, including Systems Developers within the School of Humanities, has been of particular use on these projects.

Organisational and Operational Infrastructure – The UoA is supported by exemplary research support in the CoA and School, including assistance with grant preparation, costings, technical appendices, rigorous critical readings and ongoing maintenance of projects of all sizes. The CoA has a dedicated Research Office providing advice on grant capture and maintenance and peer

review of grant applications, supported also by ArtsLab. At School level Research Administrators provide cradle-to-grave support for proposals and for funded projects. The Humanities Advanced Technology and Information Institute (also within the School of Humanities) provides high quality technical assistance on grant applications, writes technical appendices and provides technical support for large project databases and web resources – eg, *Commemorations of Saints* (saintsplaces.gla.ac.uk). ArtsLab is a CoA initiative to support and encourage research and interdisciplinary collaboration. ArtsLab offers help to researchers through personal advice, repository of successful applications, supporting research networks for the exploration of common interests, and through workshops and other events. It aims to identify and encourage areas of shared engagement for future collaborative and individual research. Ideas developed via Centre for Scottish and Celtic Studies seminars, workshops and reading groups have instigated new PGR-led activities – eg, onomastics.co.uk – and coordinated support for future research applications and initiatives – eg, a major Celtic and Archaeology AHRC bid 'Assembling Iona'.

e. Collaboration or contribution to the discipline or research base

The UoA and its staff make important contributions to the discipline, and the many ancillary disciplines in which members are involved. This includes:

− Major collaborative partnerships to which the UoA has provided members of management teams: Ainmean Àite na h-Alba; AHRC Doctoral Training Centre in Celtic Languages; Faclair na Gàdhlig; LearnGaelic; National Committee on Carved Stones in Scotland; *Soillse*.

− Membership of RCUK and other research committees and review boards: AHRC prioritisation panels and (formerly) project grants panel; AHRC Peer Review College; RAE2008 Celtic Studies sub-panel 56; reviewing for: University of Wales Board of Celtic Studies; and the Carnegie Trust.

− Professional subject associations and learned societies – UoA staff have had leading roles in: Board of Celtic Studies (Scotland); Scottish Catholic Historical Association; Scottish Gaelic Texts Society; Scottish Place-Name Society; Society for Name Studies in Britain and Ireland.

− Councils and trusts which support research to which we have provided leading service include: Catherine McCaig Trust; Gaelic Books Council; Scottish Inheritance Fund; Scottish Languages Dictionaries Ltd.; Scottish Place-Name Data Ltd.

− Editorial positions: for journals including: *Aiste*; *Innes Review*; *Journal of Scottish Name Studies*; series editor– *Edinburgh Companions to Scottish Literature*; *History of Gaelic Scotland*. UoA Staff are members of editorial boards for journals including: *Ainm*; *Éigse*; *Forum for Research on the Languages of Scotland*; *JSNS*; *Journal of Celtic Studies; PHCC*; *SGS*; and the *Ulster Internet Publications* Series. We have refereed publications for Boydell & Brewer, Edinburgh University Press, Four Courts, *Medieval Archaeology*; *Oral Tradition; SGS*; *SHR*; *StudiaCelticaFennica*.

We have supported advance of research in the discipline at a variety of levels, including:

− Examination of doctorates at Aberdeen; Aberystwyth; Cambridge (two); Edinburgh; Melbourne (two); Newcastle; Oxford; Queens Belfast; University College Dublin (UCD) (two); UHI.

− External consultation on professorships and readerships at Aberdeen, Aberystwyth, Edinburgh, Nottingham, Swansea, Queens Belfast, UCD, UHI.

− Conferences and scholarly encounters*:* We hosted the biennial *Rannsachadh na Gàidhlig* conference in 2012 and the *Atlas Linguarum Europae* conference in 2009. As well as locally-hosted events, we have organised conferences elsewhere or on behalf of learned societies in many locations – eg, the first international conference on the Finn Cycle at Cambridge. We will host the *15th International Congress of Celtic Studies* (2015), having beaten off strong international competition: this will be a flagship event for the next period of review.

Esteem for members of the UoA is further indicated by a variety of fellowships and invitations:

− Fellowships: AHRC (Forsyth, 2008); British Mid-Career Academy (Ó Maolalaigh, 2011-12).

− Invited keynotes and lectures: we have given some of the major named lectures in our field – eg, the Sir John Rhŷs Memorial Lecture at the British Academy 2009 (Clancy); the O'Donnell Lecture at Oxford 2008 (Forsyth) and 2013 (Clancy); and the Kelleher Lecture at Harvard 2013 (Clancy).

− Keynotes, plenaries and invited lectures include: Aberdeen; California (Bakersfield); Cambridge; Cork; English Place-Names Society; Rannsachadh na Gàidhlig at Aberdeen and St Francis Xavier; Society of Antiquaries of Scotland; Teangolaíocht na Gaelige; Ulster; UCD; and Zürich.