

Institution: University of Westminster
Unit of Assessment: 26 Modern Languages and Linguistics
<p>1. Unit context and structure, research and impact strategy</p> <p>1.1 Context and structure</p> <p>The context and structure of the unit has seen significant changes since 2013, which have been highly conducive to the reconfiguration of Modern Languages research at the University of Westminster. In 2013, the former Department of Modern and Applied Languages was split into two new departments: the Department of Modern Languages and Cultures (all degree programmes and research) and the Westminster Professional Language Centre (all non-credit bearing language programmes). Following a further University-wide reorganisation in summer 2018, both units were incorporated into the School of Humanities within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. As a result, all research in the unit is now located in the School of Humanities. The new School also contains researchers in English, History and Visual Culture, who collaborate closely with a number of staff included in this submission. This has provided a fertile environment to expand further the strong base of cross-cultural and interdisciplinary research established since 2014.</p> <p>At the census date, the subject area comprised 24 permanent members of staff with significant responsibility for research (21.9 FTE), and nine doctoral researchers. This is a significant increase from REF2014 when research activity was confined to a very small pool of staff in Chinese Studies and French Studies and only eight FTE (out of a total of 26) were submitted, split across two units of assessment. This is the result of a strategic decision taken in 2014 to establish a clear and coherent research management structure across the unit, resulting in one unified submission to UoA 26 Modern Languages in REF2021.</p> <p>The majority of research activities associated with the groups and centres relevant to this UoA work either across languages or with methodologies and collaborators from different disciplines. This has been complemented since 2018 by the involvement of various members of the unit within the cross-disciplinary Institute for Modern and Contemporary Culture (IMCC), based within the new School of Humanities and incorporating colleagues working across art, cultural studies, history, literature, and visual culture.</p> <p>Research in UoA 26 now falls into four main interconnecting research centres and clusters, some of which have only emerged and been supported over the current REF period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contemporary China Centre • HOMELandS (Hub on Migration, Exile, Languages and Spaces): • Theories and Pedagogy of Translation • Multilingual Cultural Studies <p>1.2 Research Strategy 2013-2020</p> <p>The new REF period coincided with the appointment of new leadership in the unit which set out to fundamentally change the research culture and to achieve a wider, more intensive and more diverse research base, working towards a substantial Modern Languages submission in REF2021. Our aim was to produce high-quality, coherent, cross-language, and cross-cultural research that reflects our considerable strength and expertise as a post-1992 Modern Languages and Cultures department. We aim to be known for our internationally leading and impactful research in the field of multilingual cultural studies addressing contemporary global issues, alongside conceptual work in intercultural communication, multilingualism, and translation theory and pedagogy. One particular strategic aim was to develop research strengths</p>

in translation studies that would properly reflect the unit's longstanding international reputation in the field of translation and interpreting teaching.

Specifically, we set out to

- build on our existing areas of excellence in Chinese Studies and French Studies, while developing new research initiatives in Arabic, Spanish and Latin American Studies, and Translation Studies;
- change the staff base in Modern Languages through a carefully planned staffing strategy and the recruitment of early career researchers;
- fund regular sabbaticals and studentships;
- establish regular research-in-progress seminars and a research mentoring scheme;
- support conference attendance and training for staff and student researchers through equitable and transparent allocation of QR money;
- create new cross-cultural research hubs and cross-disciplinary projects;
- create an inclusive, friendly and supportive research environment that sets high expectations for all staff undertaking research.

The University of Westminster has demonstrated its impressive commitment to investment in research in Modern Languages with sixteen new appointments across all areas within the unit since 2013, in what has been a difficult financial climate nationally for the subject area. The figure of 16 includes four two-year post-doctoral fellowships as well as a Professor of Languages and Interdisciplinary Pedagogy (**Lamb**). Two of the Post-Docs (**Huertas-Barros**, **Lotem**) were subsequently appointed to permanent lectureships.

Following REF2014, the unit's research director, **Wielander** (also Head of the Department from 2013-2018 before taking up her current role as Associate Head of College), systematically set about revitalising the unit's research culture. Instead of silo-ing research activities into areas like Chinese studies or French studies, the aim was to establish a truly interdisciplinary and cross-language/culture research environment, so as to develop a new sense of research identity across the unit, and research collaborations between colleagues working in different fields. This includes a project on translation pedagogy that forms one of our impact case studies for REF2021. As a result, in addition to the contribution of newly-appointed ECRs discussed below, several long-standing colleagues were encouraged and supported back into research and have contributed high-quality outputs in translation theory and pedagogy to this submission.

An important factor in the revitalised research environment was the development of new and rigorous processes to allocate the unit's QR money fairly and transparently, so as to ensure a level playing field for all. QR money was available to all those who were able to make a convincing case for support, based on their annual research plans and intended outputs or grant bids. All researchers were required to put in an annual application form outlining a rationale, justifying the cost, and including a report on previously funded activity. These applications were scrutinised by a small committee (which included junior as well as senior researchers), which in turn reported to the Faculty Research Committee and now (post-2018) to the School Research Committee. These new, more rigorous procedures meant that national and international conference attendance increased significantly and that far more colleagues received support for various research activities. QR money was also made available to fund travel for short periods of fieldwork (including for PhD students), as well as pump priming for the development of grant applications.

Since joining the School of Humanities in 2018, the unit has additionally been able to draw upon increased and wider sources of internal funding from across the School, which administers QR money from all four UoAs in which Humanities submits. Planning and monitoring of all research within the subject area is now directly overseen by the School Research Committee (SRC), which is responsible for the day-to-day management of all research, including administration of QR funds, sabbaticals, staff research time and postgraduate bursaries, and of which both **Wang CB** and **Wielander** are members (the former as School Research Ethics Coordinator, the latter

as UoA Lead). This has allowed the unit to further support its commitment to research through the continuing award of sabbaticals (following successful application) and new student scholarships, along with various researcher development activities. Such support has been further enhanced centrally by the University Research and Knowledge Exchange Office (RKEO), who provide dedicated staff to identify external funding opportunities and facilitate applications, as well as substantial financial and administrative support for postgraduate researchers provided through the Westminster Graduate School (see Section 2).

1.3 Impact Strategy

Impact activities have been supported by both a dedicated University Impact Officer and the School's own full-time Research Development Partner based within the RKEO, who has responsibility for horizon scanning and bid preparation for external impact-related funding. Enhancing the structures and processes necessary for the realisation of impact has been an important focus of our work, particularly as most research in the submission is relatively "young".

Since 2015, all researchers have been encouraged to attend research impact training and development events provided centrally or by external bodies. All researchers are expected to build impact and public engagement into their annual research plans and to consider the potential impact of their research at the stage of conception and design. Much of this professionally-focused and public-facing work, including that detailed in the Impact Case Studies, exploits opportunities provided by our central London location.

Targeted funding calls, at University and at Department/School level, have made strategic research funding available for public engagement and impact activities from QR monies, which are matched-funded by the [Quintin Hogg Trust](#), the charitable organisation associated with the University of Westminster. The events organised by **Wielander** and **Hird**, **Mazzara**, **Huertas-Barros** and **Vine**, and **Alshaer** listed in Section 4 were, for example, all supported by these funds in the region of £25k in total.

More recently, impact has been further supported by the RKEO through funding calls specifically aimed at enhancing potential case studies. **Huc-Hepher**, **Huertas-Barros**, and **Mazzara** have all received funding (totalling c.£13k) for impact activities along with advice from the RKEO on the development of our case studies, including funding of dedicated Research Assistants within the School specifically to capture, monitor and track impact to support **Huc-Hepher** and **Mazzara**, as well as support for a number of public and networking events with a clear pathway to impact for **Huertas-Barros** and **Vine**.

The Case Studies selected for REF2021 exemplify the unit's strategic approach to impact. Beneficiaries of **Huc-Hepher's** research include organisations working closely with French residents such as the French Embassy/Consulate, media professionals and political party support workers. **Mazzara's** work on the aesthetics of migration has had an impact on perceptions of the refugee crisis in the Mediterranean through her public engagement work and ground-breaking exhibition at P21. **Huertas-Barros'** and **Vine's** research shows impact in the way translation is taught and assessed both in our own and other institutions as well as the translation industry in the UK and Europe.

As part of our strategic support for future impact, **Bywood's** collaborative pilot project with the Chelsea Physic Garden was also, for example, recently funded (£9,250; 2019-20) to conduct a study on how heritage sites and museums can enhance and enrich their provision for both blind and partially-sighted individuals and sighted visitors. An online tour is in development and some of the work has led to an AHRC-funded collaborative doctoral award to begin in 2021.

Researchers in the unit also regularly contribute to the College's main public engagement event, the annual week-long Difference Festival. Researchers from Modern Languages have been strongly represented both on the organisational committee and as speakers. **Kelly** was chair of the College's public engagement group for two years, with **Wielander** taking over this role in

2020. **Columbu, Harvey-Kattou, Hird, Huc-Hepher, Kehoe, Kwan, Mazzara, Wielander** have all presented their research, some using the University's Chinese poster collection, at these public events. More recently, we have successfully transferred our public engagement events online. For example, [Racism and Orientalism: an online round table on racialised discourse on Covid-19](#) was attended by 250 people in April 2020.

1.4 Support for Open Research Environment

UKRI and REF open access requirements are met centrally through the University's Virtual Research Environment (VRE) and institutional repository, WestminsterResearch, which is run by a dedicated Open Access team (see REF5a). Both the University and School have also adopted a policy of encouraging staff to go beyond the minimum REF requirements relating to journal articles and have supported them in making available other forms of output, including book chapters. Researchers are explicitly encouraged to submit their articles to *Modern Languages Open* (Liverpool University Press), and article production costs are covered by the School. **Wielander** is main editor of the [British Journal of Chinese Studies](#) (formerly *Journal of the British Association for Chinese Studies*) which is a fully open-access, peer-reviewed journal that does not charge article production fees. She has been involved in various open access initiatives calling for new models of publishing in Asian Studies and is one of the authors and signatories of an [Open Access Manifesto](#) which calls for freedom, integrity, and creativity in the Humanities and Interpretive Social Sciences. **Kasstan** was co-editor of *Cahiers*, the *Journal of French Languages Studies*' sister Open Access journal. **Bywood** is deputy editor of the OA *Journal of Specialised Translation*.

1.5 Research Strategy 2021-2026

Our main priorities and objectives looking beyond REF2021 are to enhance and extend our internationally recognised research in Chinese studies, migration studies, translation theory and pedagogy, and multilingual cultural studies, including interdisciplinary research across cultures and regions. We will also continue to strengthen the promotion of efficient management of research planning and grant applications across the full range of research undertaken within the School, drawing on the expertise of those staff with an existing record of success in this area.

While our policy is to support excellent research in whatever field it might be located, our plans and aspirations for the next REF period are specifically organised around producing world-leading research located within our four main research centres and clusters.

Study of the social and cultural politics of contemporary China coalesces around the [Contemporary China Centre](#), originally established in 2009 by Professor Harriet Evans (now a Professor Emerita in the unit), in the fields of gender, religion and cultural heritage. We will further broaden and internationalise our reach through the work of new and established researchers in the area (**Evans, Kendall, Keogh, Ng, Wang CB, Wielander**). The Centre now also includes researchers from the School of Architecture and Cities and the Westminster Business School and their PhD students. Central to the work of the Centre and its members is the university's collection of propaganda posters and miscellanea from China, the entirety of which has now become available as a fully digitised, open-access resource, the [China Visual Arts Project](#), under the stewardship of Westminster archivists. To support and further raise the profile of this unique online collection, we launched the [Contemporary China Centre Blog](#) in October 2019, firmly establishing our importance in the international arena as a virtual centre for interdisciplinary research on contemporary China from a cultural studies perspective. The Centre – whose activities are the result of collaborative, non-hierarchical work without a dedicated director – also runs regular public talks and organises 1-2 conferences per year, as well as closed door seminars to discuss research in progress. The 2021-26 period will see the further consolidation of the CCC as a group known for its critical engagement with the contemporary Sinophone world in the field of cultural studies. Our focus will be on utilising our rich resource base to attract PhD students and put together

research funding applications which build on existing cross-cultural and cross-disciplinary work at whose centre stands engagement with regional languages and cultures. This includes a project on China in Uzbekistan as well as a project on Sinophone creative responses to Covid-19, racism and xenophobia involving **Kehoe, Ng, and Wielander**, as well as Kwan (a recently graduated PhD student).

[HOMELandS](#), our Hub on Migration, Exile, Languages and Spaces, provides an established collaborative base for research on migration, culture, and language. This includes researchers working across a number of different geographical, cultural and linguistic areas (including **Huc-Hepher, Kasstan, Kelly, Lamb, Mazzara, Wang CB**), and our ambition over the next REF period is to further raise its profile as a world-leading hub for migration and cultural studies. This will include work with researchers at Westminster International University in Tashkent (WIUT) on the impact of China's Belt and Road Initiative in Uzbekistan, as well as collaboration with researchers in visual culture and sociology based in both Humanities and other Schools at Westminster.

[Theories and Pedagogy of Translation](#) (**Alfer, Bywood, Delistathi, Huertas-Barros, Tomozeiu, Vine, Wang CW**) is a new and emerging field of research that has developed at Westminster since 2014; it now includes both conceptual research as well as translation pedagogy, translator training, and audio-visual translation. Our ambition through such work is to extend our reputation for internationally excellent research that is able to bridge the gap between translation theory and practice and to produce impactful research with 'real-life' application (like **Bywood's** work for visually impaired audiences). This type of research links translation and cultural studies and points the way to new and innovative translation pedagogy.

[Multilingual Cultural Studies](#) forms another important cluster of research activity across all areas of our research base, with a focus on languages, literatures, and films. This includes work by **Alshaer, Columbu, Fenton, Fraser, Huc-Hepher, Kasstan, Kelly, Harvey-Kattou, Lamb, Lotem, Mazzara, Peate**, and is connected to the work of the high-profile cross-School and cross-disciplinary [Institute for Modern and Contemporary Culture](#). Our aim is to build on this expertise, as evidenced in the outputs in this cycle, to attract further PhD students, increase our external research fund generation and to foster cross-cultural collaboration on joint themes both within the university and with a range of external partners.

2. People

2.1 Academic staff

A key part of our strategy over the current REF period has been to change the configuration of the staff group within Modern Languages from a largely non-research active staff base to a much more dynamic group of academics with significant responsibility for research. This has been achieved through diligently planned-out succession strategy and careful cases for new appointments presented to senior management, which were tied to the requirements of the new undergraduate and postgraduate curriculum that we have been teaching since 2014. 16 of the Category A submitted 24 staff, i.e. two-thirds of staff in this unit, have been appointed since 2013; the majority early career researchers. This includes individuals who were originally appointed as Post-Docs (**Huertas-Barros, Lotem**) and subsequently appointed as full-time permanent Lecturers within the department. **Alshaer** was appointed as Lecturer in Arabic in 2014, and **Harvey-Kattou** as Lecturer in Hispanic Studies in September 2016. **Kasstan** was appointed as Lecturer in French in 2019, **Columbu** as Lecturer in Arabic in 2019, and **Peate** as Lecturer in Spanish in 2020, while two full-time Senior Lecturers were appointed in intercultural communication and audio-visual translation respectively (**Mazzara, Bywood**) earlier in the REF period. Staff moving into senior management positions (**Wielander**) or retiring (**Evans**) allowed for the additional recruitment of a Lecturer (**Kendall**) and two further Post-Docs (**Keogh, Ng**) in 2019 in strategically important areas in Chinese Studies.

The University's support for research in language teaching is also apparent in our recruitment of a new Professor of Languages and Interdisciplinary Pedagogy (**Lamb**), as well as three additional members of staff in the University's Centre for Education and Teaching Innovation (**Delistathi, Fenton, Fraser**) whose personal research also falls within the field of Modern Languages and who are being returned in UoA 26. Other colleagues had fractional posts extended into full-time positions (**Huc-Hepher**) during the period. In short, the staff base in Modern Languages at Westminster has been completely transformed during the current REF period.

This influx of new staff with dynamic research agendas has transformed our research base in an extremely positive way. At the same time, the arrival of several ECRs gave impetus to the establishing of a more robust mentoring scheme within Modern Languages, including peer mentoring across disciplines. The move of the unit into the new School of Humanities has meant that we have been able to draw additionally for this, since 2018, on the support of senior and experienced colleagues in English and History.

Secondly, our research strategy was underpinned by strategic implementation of the University's newly adopted workload model. The research and scholarship tariffs for this new workload model have a three-tier structure. Scholarship hours are allocated to every member of staff (11% of total workload). Additional Level 1 research amounts to 250 hours or 27% of overall workload hours, while Level 2 research amounts to 350 hours or 34% of workload. The additional allocation for Readers and Professors is 425 hours or 39% of workload. Staff with significant responsibility for research are accountable through the appraisal process and through biannual research interviews, allowing for a close integration of individual research plans and line management objectives. Within the School, every researcher is required to discuss and agree research plans with a senior researcher at the start of the academic year, with monitoring and feedback processes running throughout the year. Following the introduction of an institutional sabbatical policy, we have further committed to funding at least one semester-long sabbatical per academic year within the unit. Consequently, during the current REF period, several individuals have benefitted from a period of sustained research leave, either to make significant progress on monographs (**Wang CB, Hird, Kelly, Huc-Hepher**) or to get new major research projects off the ground (**Wielander, Alfer**).

Career pathways for researchers at all stages are clearly set out at University level, supported by a range of workshops and training courses run by the Research and Knowledge Exchange Office, which also provides specialist training for individuals and groups in impact and bid writing. This is supplemented by regular day-long bid writing clinics with external consultants (including, for example, experts from the Missenden Centre), and residential writing retreats, funded by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. The success of our staff development strategy is reflected in a strong record of promotion since 2014, including one promotion to a Professorship (**Wielander**), one to a Readership (**Wang CB**), one to Principal Lecturer (**Alfer**), and several to Senior Lecturers (**Alshaer, Harvey-Kattou, Huc-Hepher, Huertas-Barros, Kendall, Vine**).

2.2 Research students

Through the change in research leadership following REF2014, a more systematic approach to PhD admissions and coordination was put in place as part of our ambition to grow our numbers of doctoral registrations in a steady and sustainable fashion, given the wider current context of declining numbers of academic jobs in Modern Languages areas in the UK. In particular, funded scholarships have been used to attract high-calibre students and to help build supervisory capacity within the School, given the large number of ECRs in the unit. The University Graduate School, established in 2012 with an explicit mission to enhance student experience and progress and to provide research training across the University, also offers specialised training in postgraduate supervision, which is mandatory for all new researchers.

In 2015 Modern Languages was awarded two of the University's new competitive fully-funded Studentships (Denise Kwan, Benedetta Morsiani), who both completed within 3.5 years. One further PhD project (Guangpei Ran) was also made possible through a full scholarship deriving from a Leverhulme grant (awarded to Professor Harriet **Evans**). We were also able to support a further student through a departmental fee waiver. A further four self-funded and one student funded by the Quintin Hogg Trust (a charity that supports education at the University) started with us between September 2017 and January 2020. Four further students have begun their studies in 2020-21; two with full scholarships funded by the Quintin Hogg Trust, in Translation Studies and in Chinese Cultural Studies, and two funded through **Mazzara's** Erasmus+ grant. All four are female BME students.

In total, five students supervised by researchers in UoA 26 completed during the REF period, while a further nine were continuing their PGR studies at the census date.

At University level, the Graduate School coordinates a Doctoral Researcher Development Programme through a range of customised workshops, individual sessions and PDP activities based on the national Vitae Researcher Development Framework. Further details can be found in REF5a. This is complemented by a College-based training programme, which provides a series of both generic and discipline-specific sessions for years 1-4 to ensure timely completion of formal stages and to develop discipline-specific research skills. More locally, PhD students in Modern Languages are fully integrated into our research seminars and are expected to contribute to work-in-progress seminars, both as presenters and organisers. They have access to specialist computer rooms and office space in our Regent Street building and have equal access to funds to support conference attendance and fieldwork. There is also an annual residential PhD away weekend run by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, which fosters relations between students across different disciplines, and which is free to all who attend.

Our PhD students have produced highly complex and creative work and have had very successful career trajectories. Most notable are **Kendall's** and **Huc-Hepher's** outputs, both based around their PhD work; both are now Senior Lecturers in the School of Humanities. Peter Guangpei **Ran** is an independent film maker, known for his work around the existential significance of ritual in rural China. Denise **Kwan** is an artist and curator whose PhD included an [online exhibition of object stories and artworks](#) created by the participants in her research and who is central to the unit's new project on Sinophone creative responses to Covid-19.

2.3 Equality and Diversity

At University level all staff are required to undertake and pass an on-line diversity training module. We also require that all staff undertake interview training with an EDI focus before they are involved in recruitment processes. All appointment panels within the School are gender balanced. The University of Westminster was the first university to be awarded the post May-2015 Athena Swan Bronze award and requires all School procedures to meet the standards of the Athena Swan charter. The School has a high proportion of women in leadership roles.

One result of the change of configuration of the unit's staff group is that a previously predominantly female staff base has now achieved greater gender balance. Of the 24 members of staff who form this unit, 13 are female, 10 are male, and 1 identifies as non-binary. Eight of the ten male staff members were appointed during the current REF period. The staff group is very diverse in terms of sexual orientation, and 18% are BME. There are a number of grassroots staff networks at the University of Westminster, such as the LGBTQ+ staff network and the BME staff network (see REF5a), in which colleagues from the unit actively participate, to support colleagues who are traditionally under-represented in research. As part of her work within the University's Centre for Education and Teaching Innovation, **Fraser** is actively involved in the creation of inclusive practices of teaching and pedagogy that make higher education accessible to learners from all backgrounds.

All academic staff involved in the research evaluation process leading up to this submission received training on all relevant aspects for equality and diversity in the context of the REF submission. The UoA lead was part of regular meetings at University level which included detailed briefings on the criteria for output selection. The UoA lead also met regularly with the staff group comprising the unit to ensure maximum transparency throughout the lengthy and on-going process of constructing the submission. This included two “mini-REF” exercises, one in 2017 and one in 2019, each of which entailed individual meetings with all researchers in the unit. The process of evaluation also included several junior researchers, providing an opportunity for peer evaluation and practical experience of the application of the REF criteria. Submitted outputs were selected in the following way: the required one item per researcher was selected on the basis of quality, with the remaining pieces comprising the best pieces in the available output pool up to a maximum of five per staff member. Where, exceptionally, internal and external evaluation resulted in the same evaluation, representation of staff with protected characteristics across the submission was taken into consideration in the final decision on which outputs should be submitted.

The University moved all teaching online in March 2020 and all academic staff have been able to work from home since that time. The University has provided an exceptionally supportive and empathetic environment for all colleagues and students in this challenging new reality through regular and transparent communications, by making sure that all staff have the necessary equipment (including laptops, cameras, specialised software, etc) to carry out their work remotely, and by providing continued access to mental health support.

3. Income, infrastructure and facilities

3.1 Income

All researchers in the School benefit from a full-time Research Development Partner who identifies external funding opportunities and supports applications. Bid-writing is further supported through pre- and post-bid support offered by dedicated staff in the RKEO. Researchers discuss their proposed applications with the School Research Director prior to approval by the College Research Director, ensuring that the proposed bid fits with the aims of the unit. This is further supported by a College-level peer review college for all grant applications, composed of current and former members of RCUK Peer Review Colleges. All researchers are given the opportunity to attend introductory grant writing workshops at both University and School level.

Following the award late in the last REF period of substantial grants from the Leverhulme Trust (**Evans £260,000**) and AHRC (**Wielander £70,000**), **Kelly** was successful in securing external funding as Co-Investigator for the AHRC Open World Research Initiative (OWRI): “Language Acts and Worldmaking”, co-led by King’s College London, Westminster, Open University, and Queen Mary University of London (awarded July 2016). The total grant amounted to circa **£3 million** over four years, with **£114,000** coming to the School. This grant derives from a flagship AHRC research initiative in Modern Languages and is one of four projects funded nationally (the other three being led by Oxford, Cambridge and Manchester).

Upon joining us as permanent Lecturer in French from QMUL in 2019, **Kasstan** transferred a **£90,000** Leverhulme Early Career Fellowship project on “Universals of Grammatical Change in Language Obsolescence” (ECF-2017-584). **Mazzara** was awarded **£161,000** in 2019 as part of an Erasmus+ project (Capacity Building) for a Master’s Degree in Migration Studies in Tunisia. **Huertas-Barros** is Co-I for a **£220,000** Erasmus+ project to develop a European framework for translation competence (awarded in 2020; **£20,000** income to the School).

Among smaller awards, **Hird** was recipient in 2014 of a British Academy International Partnership and Mobility Scheme (£9,980.50). In 2019, **Wielander** received £10,000 through the research development fund held by Westminster International University in Tashkent for her project on the impact of the Belt and Road Initiative in Uzbekistan, which involves junior

researchers in Tashkent. **Mazzara** received £15,000 Arts Council funding for her exhibition *Sink Without a Trace* at P21 Gallery. Several others received smaller amounts from external funders to facilitate focused projects. The total research income to the unit in the period was £380,199 (REF4b).

Several projects also received competitively-awarded internal funding from the University's strategic research communities launched in 2019. **Bywood** was awarded £9,250 of dedicated ECR funding for a project with Chelsea Physic Gardens, while **Kasstan** was awarded £10,464 from the University's Health Innovation and Well-being Research Community for the project "Healing through language? A mixed-methods study into Linguistic Discontinuity and wellbeing in UK-based migrant contexts". In 2020, **Wielander**, **Kehoe** and **Ng** were awarded £6000 through internal Covid-19 seed funding to develop a series of events and workshops on Sinophone creative responses to Covid-19, racism, and xenophobia which is expected to lead to a larger funding application in 2021.

3.2 Infrastructure and Facilities

All permanent members of staff are provided with shared office space. The unit moved into new, modernised offices in the University's flagship Regent Street building in November 2015. The then Head of Department was closely involved in the planning and design of these new spaces whose set up has greatly enhanced dialogue and research collaboration in a discipline that has historically been divided into smaller silos. The new office space was particularly conducive to the development of our research in translation research and teaching through the creation of a 'translation and interpreting hub' office area. Two interpreting rooms are used for conference interpreting teaching, but also for mock conferences, interpreting short courses and as additional spaces for research seminars.

Among specialised facilities, from 2013 onwards, the University invested, in collaboration with a scholar based at the Freie University, Berlin, in applying the latest digital archive and internet project management technologies to developing Westminster's Chinese Poster Collection as a major interactive online resource. This has now been superseded by the [China Visual Arts Project](#) which provides a fully open access catalogue of the University's entire Chinese poster and memorabilia collection following the transfer of the physical collection, to which there was previously only severely restricted physical access with a handful of visitors per year, into the University of Westminster Archive in 2015. This significant step was made possible through the outstanding work of our archivists Elaine Penn and Anna McNally, who accommodated this additional work of digital archiving into their regular workload, supported in the initial stages by a PhD student who aided with cataloguing and transcription. McNally also contributed an article about the collection to the *Journal of Design History* for their Archives, Collections & Curatorship strand. Access to the collection has greatly increased following its transfer to the University Archive and items in the collection are now regularly used in teaching on the BA History, BA Modern Languages, and MA Art & Visual Culture courses. External PhD students and others also continue to access the collection for research. In 2018-19, we facilitated paid-for group visits by students at Sotheby's Institute and the University of Birmingham. The fully digitised catalogue went live in January 2019 and google analytics data (applied from May 2019 onwards) show 20,575 visits to the site in the period between May 2019 and October 2020 with 16,796 unique site visits between January and October 2020; clear testament to the significantly enhanced reach of the collection. Since the launch of the Contemporary China Centre blog in October 2019, the associated twitter account (c.3,100 followers) regularly showcases posters from the collection, creating an important link between teaching, research and public engagement.

Our central London location provides a rich, fertile, and diverse environment for all our researchers with easy access to national and specialist archives and libraries, as well as an excellent base for impact activities. The University library has made major investments in both refurbishment of its estate (see REF5a) and in the extension of electronic library packages and other resources, including BoB, EEBO, JSTOR, LION, Project Muse. This internal scholarly

infrastructure is complemented by access to major collections in central London, such as the British Library, the Wellcome Library, and the specialist library at SOAS.

In 2015, as part of a wider refurbishment project in our historic Regent Street building which led to the creation of new office spaces detailed above, the University built two new interpreting rooms at a cost of £124k funded by the Quintin Hogg Trust, which are used for interpreting teaching and research. The School also subscribes to significant software packages including SDL Trados Studio, memoQ, Memsources, WinCAPs, Oona tools and Adobe Premier Rush to support teaching and research in translation studies, including audiovisual translation.

4. Collaboration and contribution to the research base, economy and society

Modern Languages research at Westminster drives a broad range of impacts on cultural life, civil society, and public discourse, as well as research and knowledge transfer activities such as significant commercial contracts with bodies outside the academic world, including the Ministry of Defence. Of particular note as regards our contributions to the discipline is **Kelly's** leading role as Co-I and Deputy Director of *Language Acts and World-Making*, one of the four OWRI landmark projects funded by the AHRC. The Contemporary China Centre has significantly raised its international profile, most notably through the [Contemporary China Centre Blog](#) (25k views since October 2019), while ECRs associated with Multilingual Cultural Studies can point to an impressive range of contributions to the research base. In addition to the collaborations and examples of professional service listed below, our extensive contributions to the discipline are further exemplified by the number of colleagues across all research centres and clusters who have examined PhDs, including at Goldsmiths, SOAS, LSE, several at King's College London, Nottingham, Sussex, Southampton, Aberdeen, Oxford, Essex, York, UEA, as well as internationally at Barcelona and Florence. Staff have also acted as external examiners for a wide range of postgraduate courses.

Contemporary China Centre

Hird organised three events on Chinese masculinities, as part of a British Academy funded project: a conference at Hong Kong University in December 2014; a symposium on Mediated East Asian Masculinities in May 2015 and a workshop on Chinese Masculinities and the Creative Industries, May 2015. In July 2016 **Wielander** and **Hird** organised an event on "[Perspectives on Chinese Happiness](#)" at Westminster which was attended by over 100 people, comprising a mixed audience of academic and non-academic participants from the Chinese community in London with the involvement of the True Heart Theatre Company. **Hird** and **Wielander** also collaborated on a new project on Chinese happiness (2018; see REF2), which led to engagement with the local Chinese community on the mental health needs of first-generation Chinese migrants. The volume received international media coverage through articles in *The Economist* (February 2019) and an interview on BBC World Service.

Wang CB co-organised (in collaboration with Chinese University of Hong Kong and Tsinghua University) an international conference on the Belt and Road Initiative at UoW entitled "New Insights from the Perspective of Transnational Chinese Migration" (August 2018), which resulted in a special issue of the *Asia and Pacific Migration Journal* (Volume 29.2, June 2020) co-edited by **Wang**, with the title "Diasporic Heritage, Maritime Corridors and Connected Societies in Asia". **Wang** also organised a conference on British Chinese identities in February 2020 (see under HOMELandS below). He was invited speaker at conferences in Switzerland, Hong Kong, and Singapore and his public engagement work includes a panel discussion at the "Unrolled Silks" exhibition by Xiaowen Zhu at Bloomsbury Gallery London in September 2016.

Members of the Centre hold significant editorial and subject association duties. **Wielander** is the managing editor of the [British Journal of Chinese Studies](#) (formerly *Journal of the British Association for Chinese Studies*) and was East Asian languages section editor for [Modern Languages Open](#) from 2013-18. **Wang CB** is series editor of Routledge Research on Museums and Heritage in Asia. **Kehoe** has been editor of our Contemporary China Centre blog which

publishes weekly articles on China from a cultural studies perspective. Since joining us, **Ng** has taken responsibility for organising the Centre's research seminar series which has included high-profile events like an online round table on racism and Covid-19 which formed the basis of a successful internal funding application. **Kendall** served as Secretary to the British Association for Chinese Studies (BACS). During his time at Westminster, **Hird** served as East Asian Languages representative on the University Council for Modern Languages and as Council member of BACS.

Wielander delivered keynotes and plenaries on Christianity and politics in contemporary China in the Czech Republic, Malaysia, Hong Kong, and the US and has received a plethora of international invitations to speak about her work on happiness. She has also been an invited participant in closed workshops on a range of academic and policy issues, including China's involvement in academia and a British Council round table to feed into a national language policy. An example of her writings as a national leader in Modern Languages is her essay "[In Defence of Modern Languages](#)" published in the inaugural issue of *Modern Languages Open*. **Wielander** was a member of the AHRC Advisory group for Modern Languages (2016-2020) and a standing co-opted member to the Council of the British Association for Chinese Studies through her role as main editor of the association's journal. She regularly contributes to policy blogs like [The Interpreter](#), published by The Lowy Institute; [The Asia Dialogue](#), published by the Asia Research Forum at Nottingham; [Orizzonte Cina](#), published by the Torino World Affairs Institute.

HOMELandS

Since 2014, [HOMELandS](#) has brought into dialogue research on refugees in the Mediterranean (**Mazzara**), French migrants in London (**Huc-Hepher, Kelly**), linguistic discontinuity and wellbeing among migrant communities (**Kasstan**) and Chinese migration (**Wang CB**), some of which has also been jointly presented at conferences overseas and has led to a special issue in *Modern Languages Open* entitled "[The Material Turn in Migration Studies](#)" edited by **Wang CB**, to which **Kelly** and **Huc-Hepher** also contributed. Monographs by **Mazzara** and **Wang CB** have, over the current period, made further significant contributions in this field, with further monographs by **Kelly** and **Huc-Hepher** set to appear in 2021. The work of two recently awarded PhD students (**Kwan and Morsiani**) also falls under this theme. The contribution of the Hub to a range of international conferences and public engagement events includes, for example, **Mazzara's** exhibition at P21 Gallery in King's Cross entitled "[Sink Without Trace](#)" which received wide coverage in the international media and forms the centre of one of our impact case studies. **Mazzara** also organised a screening and discussion with director Luca Vullo on "Italian Emigration Before and After" (May 2016), as well as a symposium on "Lampedusa: Migratory Space, Memory and Aesthetics" at UCL (October 2014). **Mazzara** spoke at the Barbican festival "Papers: Festival of the Art, Culture and Architecture of the Refugee Crisis" in June 2016, and was also interviewed for the website [performingborders](#). She has been invited to speak at a variety of talk series and film festivals, including Migration Film Festival (December 2018) and organised an event on "Radical Film: Voyerism in Documentary Filmmaking on Migration" at Westminster in February 2019. She also works with the NGO [Migrant Voice](#) to advise journalists and editors on how to write about migrants and migration.

Wang CB organised the HOMELandS symposium on "Bridging Borders, Creating Spaces: Negotiating Multi-cultural Identities and Belongings among Migrant Communities in Global London" (June 2018), which will result in a co-edited volume, together with **Lamb**, of the same title contracted with Multilingual Matters (expected 2021). He also co-organised, in collaboration with Wuyi University in China and Nagasaki University in Japan, the 5th biannual symposium on transnational migration and Qiaoxiang studies at Wuyi University (December 2016 and December 2018); a delegation of HOMELandS members were invited speakers. He co-organised (with **Lamb**) a public event on "Cultural Diversity, Migration Integration and Youth Action: New Perspectives and Innovative Practices" (June 2019) as well as the conference "[Remapping the Cultural and Linguistic Landscape of the Chinese in Britain](#)" (February 2020).

Working closely with a wide and diverse range of French migrants in the capital, **Kelly's** and **Huc-Hepher's** research has been noted by French residents and representative bodies such as the French Embassy/Consulate and also media professionals and political party support workers. **Huc-Hepher** presented on "Today's Tales of the French in London and the British in Paris", held at the French Institute in March 2014, during which she also publicly launched the London French Special Collection (British Library's UK Web Archive) and spoke at the Lycée Français Charles de Gaulle's centenary celebrations in May 2015 on "Teaching France in London", related to her Web archiving and ethnographic research. She was invited to present papers at several international conferences on migration/Web archiving (IHR, London, 2015; Wuyi University, China, 2016; Paris, 2019; Amsterdam, 2019), and is a key figure in developments around Web archiving. She created the London French Special Collection (UK Web Archive, British Library), which has been used as a model for collections on the Latin American and Russian communities with an archive on the Chinese community under construction through a PhD project she supervises. She has joined the Organising Committee of the "Digital Diasporas: Interdisciplinary Perspectives" conference (June 2019; in collaboration with the IMLR and the British Library; held at Westminster) and has played an influential part in disciplinary reform and in OWRI innovation projects. In recognition of this work, **Huc-Hepher** was nominated for the 2018 Digital Curation Award.

Kelly spoke at "Les lieux de mémoire de la France Libre à Londres", with Jacques Godfrain, Président de la Fondation Charles de Gaulle and organised by the "De Gaulle in London Tour". She also acted as consultant for two further public events in 2015: the "Huguenot Summer" (with the Huguenots of Spitalfields charity and the Montagu Music Collection, Boughton House) and the Centenary of the French lycée in London, for which she acted as historical advisor. **Kelly** was also appointed to the advisory group for a new Franco-British Relations Centre in Ouistreham, Normandy on the site of Sword Beach, a project which is under the patronage of the French National Commission of UNESCO, and was a participant in a one-hour France Culture programme, "La Fabrique de l'Histoire" (equivalent to BBC Radio 4's "In Our Time"), recorded at the BBC London, on Franco-British cultural exchanges in London during WW2, as part of events/programmes leading up to the 70th anniversary of the D-Day Landings in May 2014: <http://www.franceculture.fr/player/reecouter?play=4842450>.

Theories and Pedagogy of Translation

Researchers working on theories and pedagogy of translation have been particularly active in organising conferences and editing special issue journals and books (**Alfer, Bywood, Huertas-Barros, Tomozeiu, Vine**), contributing significantly to our standing in the field as a centre for researchers, practitioners and pedagogues of translation and interpreting. **Tomozeiu** organised the international conference "Community Translation as a Tool for Inclusion/ Exclusion in a Multicultural Society" in June 2014. The conference provided the basis for a special issue he subsequently edited for *New Voices in Translation Studies*. **Huertas-Barros** and **Vine** organised an international conference on "New Perspectives in Assessment in Translation Training: Bridging the Gap between Academic and Professional Assessment" at Westminster in September 2015. They also formed the organising committee for an international conference on "Translation and the Creative Industries" held at Westminster, October 2016, organised jointly with our partner Guangdong Foreign Studies University. We hosted a further jointly organised conference in October 2018 on the topic of "The Future of Translation and Interpreting". **Huertas-Barros** and **Vine** have delivered a range of public talks as invited speakers and in round tables both in the UK and abroad (China, Poland, Spain).

Huertas Barros and **Vine** were guest editors of a special issue of *The Interpreter and Translator Trainer* and **Huertas-Barros** was co-editor of a book on translation assessment and quality assurance. As a result of their published work **Huertas-Barros** was appointed editor of *The Interpreter and Translator Trainer* and received an invitation to publish the special issue as part of the Routledge Special Issues as Books programme. She has also acted as expert advisor in the PACTE research project "Establishing Competence Levels in the Acquisition of Translation

Competence”, as a result of which she will be providing consultancy services for the PACTE project “Translation Competence Acquisition Evaluation” (funded by the Spanish Government). **Huertas-Barros**’ and **Vine**’s research has generated significant impact in the way translation is taught and assessed in the UK and Europe, notably through involvement with PACTE, the UK-based Association of Programmes in Translation and Interpreting Studies (APTIS), the Chinese-based World Interpreter and Translator and Interpreter Training Association (WITTA), and the translation industry via the Association of Translation Companies (ATC). **Vine** was vice-chair of WITTA (World Interpreter and Translator Training Association). **Wang CW** is on the editorial Board of the *International Journal of Applied Linguistics and Translation*.

Alfer organised a symposium on [Translation as Collaboration: Translaboration?](#) (June 2015) followed by two international Translab workshops hosted at Westminster (September 2016 and May 2018). She edited a 2017 special issue of *Translation and Translanguaging in Multicultural Contexts*, on “Translaboration: Translation as Collaboration”, and a 2020 issue of *Target: International Journal for Translation Studies*, on “Translaboration: Exploring Collaboration in Translation and Translation in Collaboration”. **Bywood** is deputy editor of the *Journal of Specialised Translation* and the director of the European Association for Studies in Screen Translation (previously Vice-President). **Bywood** also serves on the advisory board of the Language and Media Conference Series and has provided consultancy for Turner Broadcasting, the National Theatre, and Chelsea Physic Garden and was an invited reviewer in the Chartered Institute of Linguists’ 2020 qualification review. All our researchers in translation and interpreting benefit from our Memoranda of Understanding with the Institute of Linguists and the United Nations.

Multilingual Cultural Studies

Researchers in the field of Multilingual Cultural Studies contributed to a wide range of academic conferences and related events across the world. For example, **Kelly** organised the “Telling Tales of Two Cities: British Parisians and London French, Yesterday and Today”, a public event and one-day conference, French Institute London, March 2014, as well as the 20th Anniversary Conference of the Group for War and Culture Studies, “The Past, Present and Future of War and Culture Studies”, June 2015. Through the Institute for Modern and Contemporary Culture, and in collaboration with the Centre for the Study of Democracy at Westminster, the unit was also instrumental in organising the 2019-20 “French Politics: A Neighbour’s History of the Present” seminar series, co-funded by the French Embassy and Political Studies Association, with speakers including Norman Ajari (Toulouse 2 Jean Jaurès), Elsa Dorlin (Paris 8), Eric Fassin (Paris 8) and Sophie Wahnich (CNRS). **Kelly** is founding and now principal editor of the *Journal of War and Culture Studies* (Intellect; Maney; Taylor & Francis).

Lamb is founder and editor of *Innovation in Language Learning and Teaching* (Routledge/Taylor & Francis) (since 2007), and a member of the editorial boards of ten other academic journals. He is also a member of the supervisory board of the academic journal *The Journal of Language Teaching and Learning*, Turkey (2010-) and member of the editorial boards of two professional journals: *Scuola e Lingue Moderne*, Italy (2010-), and *SAALT Journal for Language Teaching/SAVTO Tydskrif vir Taalonderrig (South African Association for Language Teaching)* (2002-). Furthermore, he is member of the editorial boards of four Italian book series: *Biblioteca di Cultura* (2014-); *SAIL: Studi sull’Apprendimento e l’Insegnamento Linguistico* (2012-); *I libri di Babele (Utet)* (2011-); *Avamposti di glottodidattica (Guerra)* (2011-). He is also editor of a Peter Lang book series, *Foreign Language Teaching in Europe* (2004-). **Kasstan** was co-editor of *Cahiers* and is now on the editorial board of the *Journal of French Languages Studies*. He is also a member of the Swiss Islands in North America research network and was the lead editor of the group’s first major research output (in the *International Journal of Bilingualism*).

Members of this cluster have received many invitations to present international keynotes or plenary addresses and are frequently consulted by the media. **Lamb** gave keynotes at conferences in Australia, Greece, Bulgaria, USA, Austria, Brazil, and Uzbekistan. **Kelly** delivered the keynote at the French Studies Annual Conference in Aberdeen in 2014 and was

invited to speak at Universitat Rovira i Virgili (Tarragona, Spain), Facultat de Lettres, February 2015 on “Battlefields: Approaches to War and Culture Studies”. She also delivered the annual Christianson Lecture, School of Modern Languages, University of Bristol, on the culinary history of the French in London. **Alshaer** is regularly consulted and contributes to programmes on the culture and politics of the Arab world for BBC Radio Four, Radio Monocle and Aljazeera. He was the chief consultant for the [BBC Radio Four's Programme Poems from Syria](#). He has authored more than 30 pieces on cultural and political issues on the Arab world across a range of publications. He also translated poetry collections from Arabic into English for the Poetry Translation Centre and Exiled Writers Ink. **Lotem** was interviewed on BBC news (TV) about the Dutch and French elections and authored more than 20 pieces for BBC News, *New Statesman*, *Huffington Post*, *The Conversation*, and *The Local* (Sweden and Austria).

Colleagues further extend their influence in the field through involvement in organisations outside HE. **Lamb** holds a string of roles on external bodies, including Secretary General of the Fédération Internationale des Professeurs de Langues Vivantes / World Federation of Modern Language Associations, which is an NGO with consultative status with UNESCO and with representation as an NGO with the Council of Europe (since January 2016). He was previously president of FIPLV (2006-2015) and Chair of FIPLV Europe (since 2009) and represented FIPLV on the European Council of Modern Languages. He is also a member of the Sheffield Languages Strategy Implementation Board (since 2014), patron of Languages Sheffield (formerly Sheffield Multilingual City Forum) (since 2012), a member of *The Languages Company* Advisory Group (since 2009), founder of *The Language Alliance* (since 2002), member (now co-opted) of the Committee for Linguistics in Education (since 2001), and Vice Chair of the Sheffield Children and Young People’s 0-19+ Partnership Board, Sheffield City Council (2015-16). **Kelly**, in addition to the co-directorship of OWRI’s “Language Acts and World Making”, was a member of the QAA Languages and Related Subjects Benchmarking Statement Working Group 2014-15 and was the Co-Director of the Routes into Languages London Consortium (‘Capital L’), with Westminster as co-lead institution (together with SOAS) for the London region and from 2011 onwards was Co-Director Network for Languages London (a continuation of the previous Links into Languages London Regional Centre). **Harvey-Kattou** serves on the steering committee of the Society for Latin American Studies. **Kasstan** is a member of the executive committee of the Association for French Language Studies where he holds the post of Interim Research Committee Chair (budget bearing). He has been working directly with stakeholders as part of the Linguistics in Modern Foreign Languages Project, which comprises secondary school teachers and policy advisors including the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Modern Languages. He is also the co-author of a policy paper published in the journal *Language, Policy, and Society*.