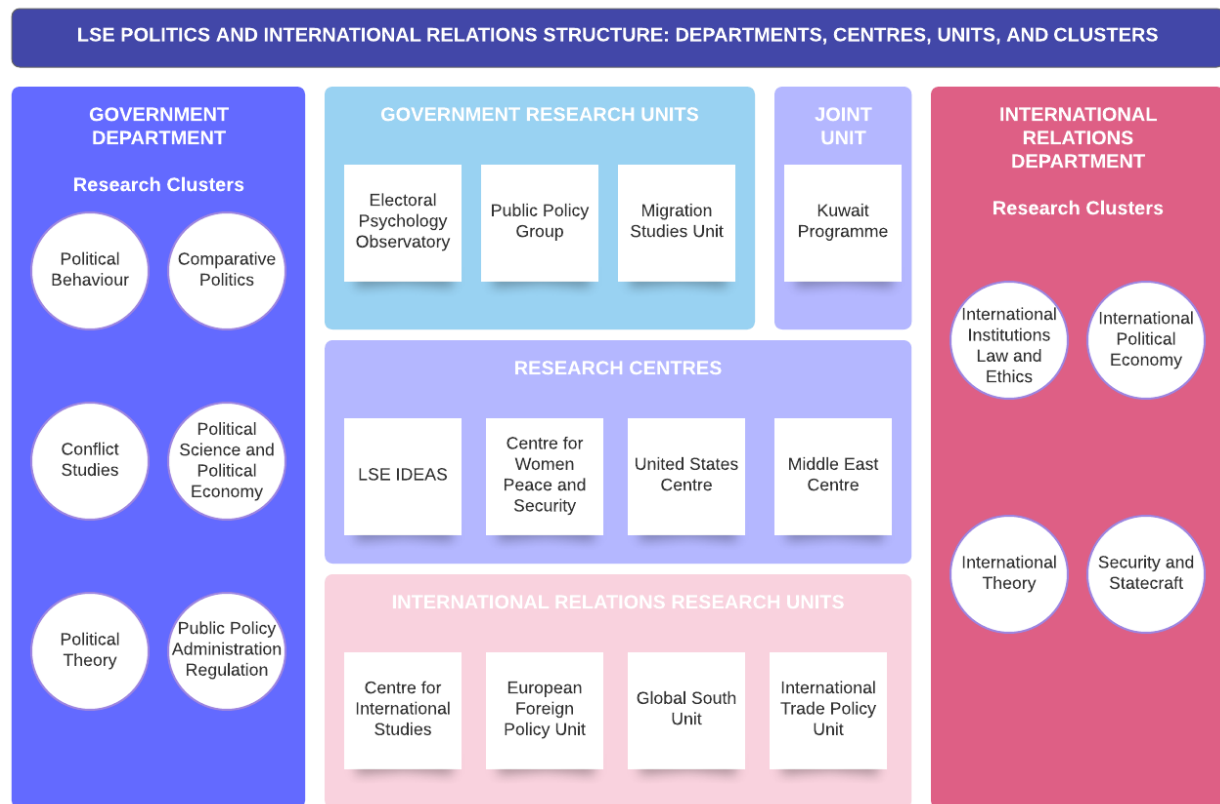


Institution: London School of Economics and Political Science
Unit of Assessment: 19: Politics and International Studies
<p>1. Unit context and structure, research and impact strategy</p> <p><i>A world leading institution in the field of politics and international relations</i></p> <p>Ever since its foundation in 1895, the London School of Economics “and Political Science” has had our disciplines at the core of its identity. The Departments of Government (GD) and International Relations (IRD) together represent one of the largest and most prestigious research communities in politics and international relations in Britain, Europe, and the World.</p> <p>With 79 research active staff in our two departments and affiliated units (including parts of the Methodology and Gender Departments) covering most areas and approaches in our disciplines, the LSE has been consistently placed in the top 5 in the world (and first outside of the US) for research in political science in the Shanghai and QS rankings.</p> <p>Our team proudly sits at the forefront of research leadership in politics and international relations. Over the period covered by the REF2021, our departments have published approximately 2,000 research outputs including over 40 books and nearly 900 journal articles. Together, we account for 9% of publications with a DOI in politics and international relations originating from the UK but 18% of all citations, and 32% of our outputs rank in the top 10% of most cited papers in their field worldwide. We have also obtained £18.5 million in external funding from the most prestigious research sponsors including AHRC, the British Academy, the European Commission, the European Research Council (ERC) and Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), with over 40 grants above £100,000.</p> <p>In the 2014-20 period, our members have been editors of 15 of the leading journals in our disciplines including <i>the American Political Science Review</i> and <i>Public Administration</i>. They have sat on the most important grant funding panels in our disciplines including those of the ERC, the ESRC and leading science academies including the British Academy and the Academy of Social Sciences. They have held executive and Council positions for many of the most significant professional associations in the field including the American Political Science Association, the European Political Science Association, the International Political Science Association, and the Political Studies Association.</p> <p><i>A broad multi-level structure covering many critical fields in our disciplines</i></p> <p>The research activities of the UoA are organised around ten Research Clusters (see Figure 1) which thematically divide the subdisciplines represented in the departments. In addition, both GD and IRD host several semi-autonomous Research Units and interdisciplinary Research Centres, which have either a geographical (i.e., European Foreign Policy Unit; International Trade Policy Unit; The Middle East Centre; United States Centre; Global South Unit) or interdisciplinary foci (Electoral Psychology Observatory; Migration Studies Unit; Centre for International Studies). The clusters and research groups represent vehicles for attracting high-profile Political Science and International Relations academics to the Departments as visiting scholars, and a space for academics and research students to exchange ideas, debate and network. While focusing on interdisciplinary dialogue and research, a number of units bring together researchers from the two departments, such as the Kuwait Programme, a 15-year</p>

multidisciplinary programme focusing on the repositioning of the Gulf States, the Middle East Centre and the Centre for Women, Peace and Security, launched in 2015 with the support of the UK Government.

Figure 1: UoA Structure: Departments, Centres, Units and Clusters



Across the clusters, centres and units, staff and research students draw on a diverse range of methodological approaches, both those traditionally found within political science and international relations, as well as methodologies drawn from media studies, arts and architecture, economics, history, sociology, gender studies, and psychology. Our academics cover a broad range of specialisms in theoretical and empirical scholarship, and our research covers all regions of the world, with a standing expertise in Europe, North America, the Middle East, East Asia and Russia, and a growing contribution to research on Latin America and South Asia, particularly reflected through the recent hires made in IRD.

The heart of social science and beyond: a commitment to interdisciplinarity

Cross-departmental activities, collaborations and training are central to the ethos of the UoA and the research clusters are crucial to realising this. The clusters contribute significantly to building research excellence at the level of the two departments and the School in that they bring in PhD students, in-house faculty and internationally leading external scholars to present cutting-edge empirical research. Together, our departments run 10 weekly (or bi-weekly) research seminars and workshops in some of the most exciting subfields of politics and international relations, including comparative politics, conflict research, international institutions, law and ethics, political behaviour, public administration, and security and foreign policy. They are co-organised and jointly run by PhD students and faculty members, and offer students the experience to coordinate events, to present their research in front of academic audiences and to network with leading scholars and colleagues in their fields. As such, research clusters play an important role in encouraging collaborative research, identifying faculty recruitment needs, attracting top

research students to GD and IRD and more fully integrating visiting faculty, LSE fellows, research centres and postdoctoral fellows into the intellectual life of the two Departments. The clusters also provide anchor points for international collaborations. For example, the Political Science and Political Economy (PSPE) research cluster organises an annual LSE-NYU PSPE Conference jointly with the Politics Department at NYU and has a Visitors' Programme which allows scholars to spend two weeks at LSE.

Ensuring that our research impacts the world

To ensure that our research is impactful and societally relevant sits at the heart of the research strategy across our departments and academic units. In fact, both IRD and GD give impact a central place in our latest research strategy. As a result, societal relevance is for instance noted as one of the 10 core principles guiding our research in the new GD research strategy, whilst "ensuring impact, relevance and social engagement" is one of the documents' seven strategic objectives. The documents also consider all staff's perceptions of our impact priorities with GD colleagues listing (in order) the democratic engagement, the public sector, the education sector, and arts and culture as the four key targets of our impact, and national governments, IGOs, and civil society organisations as our priority impact partners. In practice as part of the impact strategic priority, GD notably encourages research endeavours which involve users from the stage of inception and design, recognizes impact as a full contribution to research excellence (alongside publications, research funding, etc) and has also created a new research impact sub-committee since 2019. Conversely, IRD and its associate research centres and units are strategically focusing impact on specific regions and areas of research in which its staff specialize such as the Middle East, the US, and foreign policy. In short, we believe that innovative and cutting-edge research should have real-world relevance, and we aim to ensure that our work can benefit policy makers including Parliaments, Governments and administration, Electoral Commissions, European and international organisations and private users (including opinion companies, research practitioners, NGOs, civil society, and cultural actors).

The effectiveness of this strategy in generating significant impacts is perhaps best exemplified by the UoA's selection of submitted impact case studies. Research has informed the development of new quantitative text analysis tool Quanteda, which has been of use to the likes of Facebook (Benoit); reformed labour market and migration regulation in the Middle East (Hertog); supported policy reform in the Philippines (Sidel); promoted post conflict civil society reconciliation in the Balkans and UK foreign policy in the field (Kostovicova); shaped policies on the war on drugs in Ireland and the UN; and optimised voters' experience from Europe to the Palestinian Territories, Australia, and South Africa, whilst also helping to develop new opinion company tools and scenarios for Hollywood fiction focusing on electoral contexts (Harrison, Bruter).

The clusters, research centres, units and groups also serve as hubs of regional and inter-disciplinary expertise and public engagement, and vehicles for the UoA realising its research and impact objectives across the world. For example, the LSE Public Policy Group (PPG) has developed a Democratic Dashboard, and research on improving means of citizens' redress, while the Migration Policy Unit has developed the online IMPALA database of comparative immigration policy and law. LSE IDEAS, a leading foreign policy hub, has been ranked as Europe's top university affiliated think tank by the 'Global Go To Think Tank Index' and during the REF census period has included leading public intellectuals and scholars as resident fellows (Anne Applebaum; Niall Ferguson; Timothy Snyder, among others). The Middle East Centre, the largest centre focused on the region in Europe, harnesses the LSE's cross-disciplinary

expertise, including that of IRD faculty (Bicchi; Dalacoura; Dodge; Gerges) and GD faculty (Chalcraft; Hertog) to promote innovative multidisciplinary research on the region. Among past and on-going successful research programmes (during the REF census period) are the Academic Collaboration with Arab Universities Programme which funds joint research between LSE faculty and regional universities.

Putting openness, ethics, and transparency at the heart of our research

As part of our research strategy to pursue transparent and world leading research, we have a renewed commitment towards open science. For example, since the last census period, the UoA has increased its open access publishing from 41% to 53%, a 12% increase. In addition, UoA Member Collins is Editor-in-Chief of *Journal of Illicit Economies and Development*, which is published fully Open Access via LSE Press. The UoA is not only committed to publishing open access, but to make research open and accessible. As such, staff in GD and IRD who have recently completed large research projects are engaging in open data management and archiving. Examples include Lodge's TransCrisis Horizon 2020 projects which has archived project outputs in Zenodo, Lankina's publicly available dataset on Russian Protest Events, and Bruter and Harrison are sharing data and resources through the new Electoral Psychology Observatory (EPO) website in particular through its interactive Almanac of Electoral Ergonomics used by practitioners and academics alike. Of notable value is also the open software developed by Benoit, available via Github and supported through an ERC grant. Another important example of open access publishing which targets not only other scholars but also the public, is the publication in 2018 of *The UK's Changing Democracy*, the first Open Access book via LSE Press, edited by Dunleavy, Park and Taylor. The book has been downloaded over 18,000 times since being published. This commitment to transparent and open science is also evident in the Departments' support for School-wide initiatives, notably *LSE Press*, the School's new open access publishing platform for high-quality research in the social sciences, and – in line with LSE's aim to lead in international, interdisciplinary, issue-oriented social science – it will support the launch and development of academic-led publications that are innovative in their format, content, and reach.

The UoA is highly committed to research integrity, including ethical, legal and professional frameworks, obligations and standards and these commitments are built into the architecture of the research environment in the departments. GD and IRD staff, for instance the former IRD REF coordinator and Doctoral Programme Director, are members of the LSE's Ethics, Grants and Donations Panel (EGDP) that scrutinises large grants and donations from the point of view of ethical considerations. Staff, fellows and PhD students are also bound by, and committed to, the LSE Research Ethics Policy and Code of Research Conduct, which form part of the School's over-arching Ethics Code. The Departments have also been volunteer participants in the School's pilot for a new ethics review process which enhances transparency and open discussion of ethical challenges for research projects conducted within the School.

Progression, trajectory and horizons

At the end of the last REF exercise, the structure of our departments was largely ad hoc and often based on practicalities related to Masters level teaching. By the middle of the current period, however, both departments developed new research strategies that resulted in a research-based restructuring of our departments. What has remained consistent since the previous REF submission is our commitment to research strengths in terms of global reach, the depth and diversity of specialisms, and the extent of involvement with policy-makers and

practitioners. These strengths continue to play a central role in our research strategies and were utilised in the development of new Research Strategies (in 2015 in IRD and in 2019 in GD).

At the end of the REF 2014, the International Relations department had identified a number of key themes in the department's research, but they had no bearing on the departmental organisation. In 2015 the department moved to restructure its approach to research, impact and PhD training. After extensive consultation with all levels of the faculty, focused on identifying strategic priorities, peer institutions and encouraging the diversity and excellence of research outputs, a new research strategy was drafted and approved by the whole department. The strategy created four new research clusters (partly but not fully based on the post-2013 themes): statecraft and security; institutions, law, and ethics; international political economy; and international theory. More importantly, these clusters have become the vehicle through which the Department strategically invests in developing its long-term research, defines its recruitment, its academic events, its intellectual identity and impact, and doctoral training. Alongside the clusters, the IRD's outreach, interaction with practitioners and impact was further enhanced by the creation of several new research units: the Centre for Women, Peace and Security; the United States Centre; and the Global South Unit.

Whilst GD already had a strong basis for excellent research based on research groups and high quality publications at the start of the period, the Department chose to launch an entirely reconceived Research Strategy in 2019 based on the largest ever consultation in the history of our department conducted in the Autumn of 2019. This was a comprehensive survey of all research-active colleagues' substantive and methodological approaches, records and ambitions in publications, funding, professional leadership, and impact, what colleagues perceived as the identity, strengths and weaknesses of the Department and what they wished for the future. The study was completed by 96% of research-active members of the department and led to seven strategic statements (some new guiding principles, a new research-lead multi-level organisation with the emergence of the new clusters of excellence (as presented in Figure 1), a recommitment to supporting research funding, acknowledging the importance of time, risk, and intellectual space to enable people to engage in large high-risk/high-gain research breakthroughs, supporting excellent publications, internationally recognised research leadership, and ensuring impact, relevance and social engagement) and a new set of 10 guiding principles (excellence, leadership, rigour and honesty, innovation and creativity, diversity, social relevance, complementarity, support, solidarity and respect, and aspiration). All strategic objectives and agreed principles will now guide the development of GD in years to come. The report was adopted unanimously and GD are now progressively enacting initiatives that transform those seven strategic statements and ten guiding principles into a concrete reality starting with a new recruitment campaign for six positions designed to strengthen our clusters of excellence, new initiatives to increase research funding, new departmental small grants supporting knowledge exchange, impact, and research co-design in very early stages of research, and a new approach to intellectual time and space to think in order to support colleagues when they engage in high risk high gain research endeavours and trajectories. In addition to this, GD continues to pursue multilevel research by supporting the creation of new departmental research units including the Electoral Psychology Observatory, launched in 2020, and funded by several external grants from the ERC, the ESRC, and Research England.

Common to both departmental research strategies are the objectives of building on excellence and diversity of research within each department to redefine, develop and strengthen interdisciplinary research clusters, and increase investment to support the development of departmental research activities, funding opportunities, open access publication and the

promotion of collaborative scholarly research, as well as conducting research which is rigorous, outstanding, frontier-breaking, ethical, and relevant.

2. People

Helping our people to grow and fulfil their aspirations

For academics, environments are first and foremost human and pertain to the stimulation we all get from working with colleagues who are world-leaders in their fields. Politics and International Relations is first and foremost a human community, bound together by a shared love of cutting-edge research and a shared desire to shape our discipline at all levels from academic and research staff to PhD and taught students. The UoA is composed of 79 permanent staff; 34 Professors (compared to 28 in 2014), 25 Associate Professors (compared to 43 in 2014) and 20 Assistant Professors/Assistant Professorial Research Fellows (compared to nine in 2014), including affiliated members in the Departments of Methodology and Gender Studies.

We aim to be an inclusive and diverse community. This not only reflects the increasing equality and diversity of our staff but also to our commitment to support the rest of our community, which includes fixed-term staff, research staff and also 90 research students enrolled in our two departments as of October 2020. Both our departments have massively increased our investment in research students, which has increased by 20% between 2014-15 and 2019-20, and even more impressively more than doubled in terms of funding per head across the period to reach nearly £20,000 per research student as of 2019-20.

Staffing strategy and staff development

Recruitment policy is central to the research strategy of both Departments. Appointments are made primarily based on research excellence, in addition to excellence in teaching and collegiality. If a new position is generated, the Departments decide on which parts of the Department need to be strengthened. A job advert is then issued as early, and circulated as widely, as possible, including on the US and European job markets. Typically, recent jobs advertised in the UoA have received over 100 applications. This testifies to the fact that the UoA attracts a broad number of candidates based on the perception of the School's excellence. Applications are reviewed by a search committee based on the nature of the position, and a shortlist is drawn up, based on the CV, reading of candidates' work, and wide consultation with colleagues in the Department. The appointment process includes extensive, individual and collective meetings with members of the Department for all short-listed candidates, as well as presentations. In Government, this process of Department-wide collective decision making has now replaced the system of interviews by a more limited committee for all positions at Assistant Professor level and above.

Both departments have structures in place to support the career progression of both early and established staff, as well as short-term and long-term staff. For example, both established and early-career staff benefit from a comprehensive research leave system, with one term of leave for every eight terms of service. Enhanced leave is given following major LSE administrative jobs such as Head of Department (HOD); such posts are held on a rolling basis to prevent disruption of research careers. Pre-Major Review (MR) staff are appraised annually by the HOD under the Career Development Scheme. Early-career staff are also allocated a senior colleague working in a related area as a mentor, who acts as an informal source of information, advice and support. Mentors are required to alert the HOD if a junior member of staff is encountering difficulties. All

post-Major Review (MR) staff participate in the Career Development Scheme. This involves formal meetings, which monitor attainment of, and record future, research objectives, on an annual basis up to five years beyond MR or until promotion, and every two or three years thereafter.

Research Staff, who are primarily fixed-term, receive a similar package of appraisal and mentoring as other academic staff and participate in a Career Development Scheme, with an annual Career Development Review. For example, the IRD has been hosting an ESRC funded post-doctoral fellow in 2019-2020 who is fully integrated into the research environment and benefits from mentoring, training, funding, opportunities to present at mock practice job talks, and attends and presents at research cluster seminars.

As such, fixed-term staff receive the same package of appraisal and mentoring as permanent staff, and a right to apply for funding support to develop their research. Most fixed-term staff are in career development posts as LSE Fellows (up to three years) and their duties are confined to teaching only with no administrative requirements in order to facilitate development of their research. In addition, the School's EDEN Centre for Educational Enhancement offers an orientation programme, followed by a year-round series of workshops designed to support early-career researchers in relation to communicating and managing their research, strengthening the impact of their research for academic and other audiences, and managing their career. The School has been monitoring the development of the revised Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers 2008 and has been taking a proactive approach to ensure that its policies and practices in relation to research staff are closely aligned with the key principles of the Concordat.

The UoA is committed to showing flexibility in terms of logistically, as well as financially, supporting staff buy-outs, taking up of visiting research fellowships and professorships, short-term research trips and conference/ seminar attendance. For example, the right to sabbatical is equal for all of our academic staff, and buy-out time is allocated on an equal opportunity basis, to ensure all eligible staff have the possibility to prioritise research for a specified time.

Supporting equality, diversity and fairness

At the time of recruitment, all LSE-wide policies regarding equality and diversity are implemented under the guidance of the Human Resources Division. Upon joining the School, all new academic staff attend an Academic Induction Programme, which includes equality and diversity training. The School offers flexible working to all staff, including academic and research staff, who are returning to work from maternity leave or reducing their hours of work due to other reasons, such as carers' responsibilities, disability, etc. Under the New Academic Career (NAC) structure, colleagues returning from parental leave are entitled to an additional term of research leave.

In terms of procedural transparency and inclusiveness, we have engaged in a number of significant structural changes which have led us to move to department-wide decision-making in recruitment processes, improvements to gender equality in our departments with female colleagues now representing 29% (GD) and 35% (IR) of our staff and 32% (GD) and 21% (IR) of our professorial staff. The proportion of staff from BAME backgrounds is more difficult to assess as not all colleagues provide ethnic information. At least 10% of GD staff and 7% of IRD staff declare a BAME background, but in both cases, an additional 13% have unknown ethnic background. This is reflected in the balance of outputs submitted when it comes to equality,

diversity and inclusion (EDI) considerations. Both departments continuously monitor that scholars are not disadvantaged based on ethnicity, gender and seniority. This is followed up and discussed at research committee meetings and EDI meetings.

EDI is central to decisions on staffing and student policies and wellbeing. Both departments have put in place an Equality and Diversity Committee during the current REF period, which scrutinises staffing, hiring and student policies with a view to EDI issues. Our staff have also actively shaped EDI policy at School level. Ainley served as member of the LSE Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Task Force Advisory Board, 2015-17; and has served as Co-Chair of the LSE Gender Equality Forum, and Millar has served as Gender Equality Forum Chair, LSE, from 2017 onwards. Our faculty have prominently shaped School-wide policy in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic, discussing and implementing responses that are sensitive to the variable caring needs of faculty, for instance by freezing the promotions/ review clock for junior faculty. Furthermore, Millar and Madhok have been researching policy-relevant issues of intersectionality, gender and politics and the ways in which the curriculum could be revised to reflect pressing concerns of equity and representation of a plurality of academic voices from across the global north and south.

Over the past census period, IRD hired several outstanding young scholars at the Assistant Professor level. These new hires have helped significantly expand the diversity of our department which is a core component of our research strategy. The new faculty (Bayly, Getmansky, Lall, Lake, Naqvi, Squatrito, Kalyanpur¹ and Paniagua) enhance the interdisciplinary and diverse profile of IRD and area expertise (Latin America; South Asia; Middle East; Africa), and represent a new generation of international scholars who are adding to the Department's core strengths. Similarly, in the GD recent hires include Foos (field experiments), Ofosu (elections in Africa) and Brierley (democracy in Africa) and the GD has just engaged a new recruitment campaign for up to six new career-track positions including a focus on ethnic, gender, and racial politics with the aim to expand diversity within the department and disciplinary strengths.

As part of our new research strategy we recognised that excellence in research and impact comes in different shapes, and we recognise the value of diverse publications. As such, our departments support and reward academics who are prolific contributors to journals as well as those who develop monographs. Staff research are recognised and rewarded via annual monitoring and progression. Across the UoA we invest more than £400k per annum to support research staff. All staff receive an annual individual staff research fund of £3,000 in GD, and £4,470 for Professors and Associate Professors, and £4,920 for Assistant Professors in IRD². These funds are used by individual staff for research and/or conference activities. The UoA additionally spends £200k each year as part of Department Research Funding, which is competitive, and funds specific projects proposed by REF-eligible members of staff, as well as £20,000 (£10,000/department) for pilot KEI projects. We also provide a generous investment of £130k annually to support PhD students. Furthermore, it should be noted that to ensure inclusiveness, we also provide teaching fellows as well as education career track colleagues with a research allowance to ensure that they are able to develop their own research agenda and can develop their career trajectory in the direction of future research positions if they so wish, despite their contract being focused on teaching only.

¹ Start-date delayed due to Covid-19. Beginning in 2021.

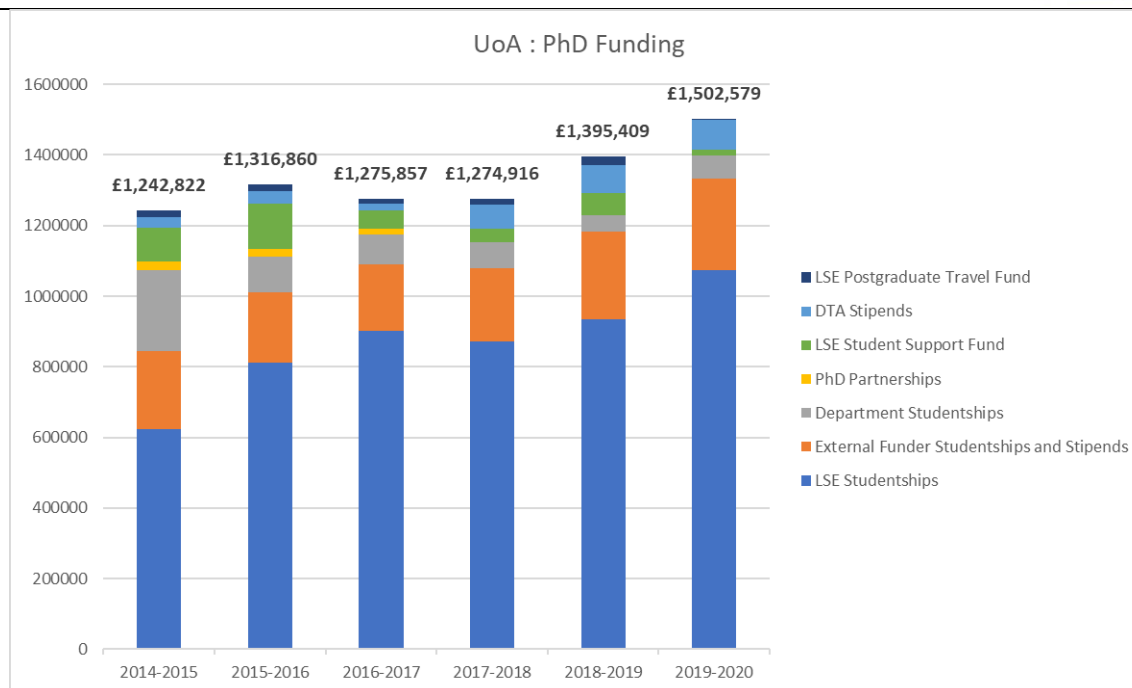
² These figures are inclusive of £970 per annum for professors and associate professors and £1,420 for assistant professors provided by the School. The remainder is funded by the Departments.

Overall, we are trying to provide an ever-more supportive research environment to the people who, together, make up our community. The UoA recognises that exchanges between academia and business, industry, public or third sector bodies and secondments constitute an important component of our research environment. The departments have procedures in place recognising the importance of business/industry/policy secondments, which forms part of our strategy to encourage impact. Chwioroth was a beneficiary of the AXA Award from the AXA Research Fund (2016-2019), which contributes to societal progress by encouraging researchers to share their work with the larger public and by supporting projects in the areas of Health, Environment, New Tech and Socio-Economics. Other faculty (Cox) have been involved with the United Nations Business and Human Security Initiative, which aims to develop ideas on how business can protect and empower individuals and communities in areas affected by conflict and crisis. This initiative encourages collaboration between the private sector, the public sector, and civil society to address a wide range of security needs on the ground - working towards the UN's Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Falkner is also an affiliate of the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment, established by LSE in 2008 to create a world-leading centre for policy-relevant research and training on climate change and the environment, bringing together international expertise on economics, finance, geography, the environment, international development and political economy.

Supporting our research students

The UoA has a healthy and growing PhD programme, with 91 students currently enrolled in the doctoral programme (39 GD and 52 in IRD), which attracts over 300 applications per year. Both GD and IRD have made a strategic decision to focus on quality rather than quantity, and ensure that an annual student intake of roughly 8-12 students in each department are fully funded, have access to required training, and enjoy generous funding for conference attendance, fieldwork, and training in methods in-house and outside of the LSE. The UoA has one of the most generously funded PhD communities in the UK. Over the census period, UoA PhD students received over £8 million in studentship, scholarship, fieldwork travel and other awards, including ESRC and LSE full scholarships and funding. As a unit, our financial support to doctoral students has similarly increased from £1.2 million in 2014-15 to over £1.5 million in 2019-20, an increase of over 20% in the period.

Figure 2: Total PhD Funding across census period



However, because we have chosen to nearly halve our PhD cohorts during the period in order to support our research students optimally, funding per research student actually more than doubled during the period, from below £9,415 per student in 2014/15 to nearly £19,771 in 2019/20. Those figures include all registered students.

Broadly similar procedures are in place in GD and IRD to select a small number of outstanding students out of a competitive pool of applicants. The process is committee-led and involves multiple stages of applicant assessment from the point of view of rigour, theoretical sophistication and originality of research proposal. Improvements to the selection process not only have resulted in cohorts that are diverse and gender-balanced but have also resulted in high rates of success in obtaining full funding in the form of ESRC and LSE studentships. Once part of the doctoral programme, student progress and supervision are monitored formally using PhD Logs, which include online records of mentoring meetings and are regularly checked by the Doctoral Programme Director to ensure continuous support for students.

Figure 3: Funding per Research Student over census period

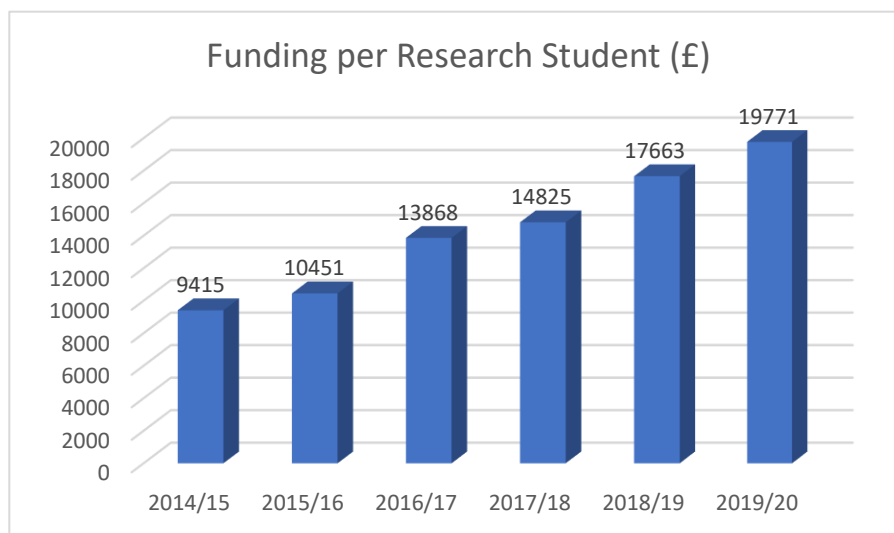
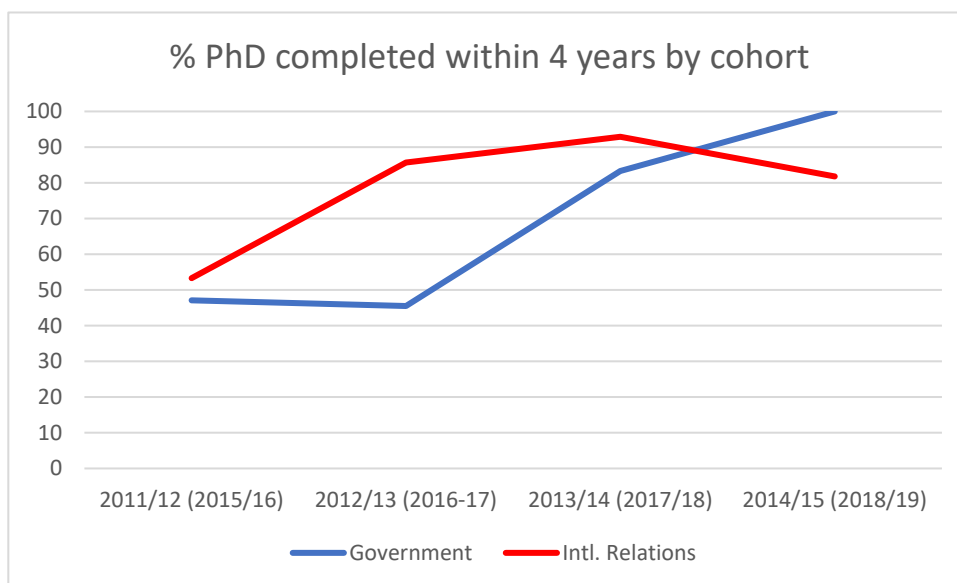


Figure 4: PhD completion rates within 4 years for census period



Annual feedback is gathered from both students and supervisors on the programme and over the last census period, following extensive surveying of current and former PhD students, significant changes were introduced to the PhD programme to improve doctoral students' ability to focus on their research and complete within four years. These include a restructuring to provide more rigorous and wide ranging methodological training in the first year of the PhD (as an MRes or MPhil), increased access to research funds including funding ringfenced for PhD students only, and increased availability and access to professional development services, including more career workshops, practice job talks and the appointment of job placement officers in both departments to facilitate placement in leading centres of academic excellences in Europe, North America and beyond. Our doctoral students have moved to some of the most prestigious universities in the world after completing their PhDs, including Stanford, Princeton, MIT, UCSD, Chicago, King's College, UCL and University of Zurich, as well as in non-academic institutions such as Chatham House, the European Commission, the IMF and RAND Corporation.

Our students have also published their theses with major university presses (Cambridge, Oxford), and have won prestigious disciplinary awards for excellence. These include book prizes; Ida Danewid (2017), winner of Edward Said prize for *White innocence in the Black Mediterranean: hospitality and the erasure of history*; Kai Monheim (2014), winner of 'Meditations-Wissenschafts-Preis' for *Getting to Cooperation: The Impact of Process Management on Multilateral Negotiations*, awards for best doctoral dissertations; Katerina Tertychnaya (2019), UK Political Studies Association (PSA) Prize for the Best Dissertation in Elections, Electoral Systems and Representation in the UK and awards for best articles; Joanne Yao (2019) won the best article prize from the *European Journal of International Relations* for her article on international rivers.

Progression, trajectory and horizons:

Like many similar institutions across the country, we believe that we are not yet sufficiently diverse and inclusive in our recruitment. Much of our work in the past six years has been

dedicated to slowly but consistently improving this situation whilst aiming for ever higher standards of recruitment at both academic and doctoral levels.

There are only so many people an institution can recruit and promote in half a decade. We have notably improved our diversity through renewed EDI policies, but also by moving from recruitment controlled by small committees in closed interviews to department-wide recruitments based on presentations and discussions open to our entire staff base. We have significantly increased the amount of money available to all our staff – notably junior staff – in order to support their aspirations, and we have doubled the average funding per doctoral student during this period. We have notably moved from limited student funding to quasi systematic full funding thereby enabling gifted students from less socially favoured backgrounds to engage in doctoral studies without needing to work or worry about how they will pay their rent at the end of the month. In the process, we have also significantly improved doctoral completion from 41.7% in GD and 53.3% in IRD in 2014 to 100% in GD and 81.8% in IRD in 2019 and introduced new departmental earmarked pilot research support.

Our objective in the coming years is to further these efforts. The GD has just engaged a new recruitment campaign for up to six new tenure-track positions including a focus on ethnic, gender, and racial politics, and now that our doctoral performance has improved, we have started to expand our recruitment again and therefore the number of full-funding scholarships we are offering each year compared to the initial launch of the programme.

3. Income, infrastructure and facilities

Fast increasing prestigious grants

To conduct cutting-edge research, our research community has been active in seeking research funding from the most prestigious sponsors of social science research available to British Universities – such as the European Research Council, the Economic and Social Research Council, the European Union Framework programmes, and the Arts and Humanities Research Council. Over the REF period, our two departments accumulated over £18.5 million (£6.5 million in GD, £3.6 million in IRD, £8.4 million for Research Centres) of research funding with annual income growing by 50% between the beginning and the end of the period. However, our fast progress in this area is evidenced by a total of £43.1 million of new grants obtained by our research community over the same period, with the annual total new grants obtained progressing from £1.5 million in 2013-14 to a record £15 million in the final year (2019-20) of this exercise thanks to a very pro-active new strategy to support colleagues in obtaining external financial support for their research.

This rapid increase in external funding success is the result of a pro-active strategy followed by our two departments but also the consistently excellent track record of our staff when they responsibly use the grants that they achieve to break new research frontiers, make a leading mark in their fields, and generate impact. The funds we receive result in world leading research as we account for 9% of publications in the discipline in the country but 18% of citations and 32% of our staff publications feature in the 10% most cited in their fields worldwide.

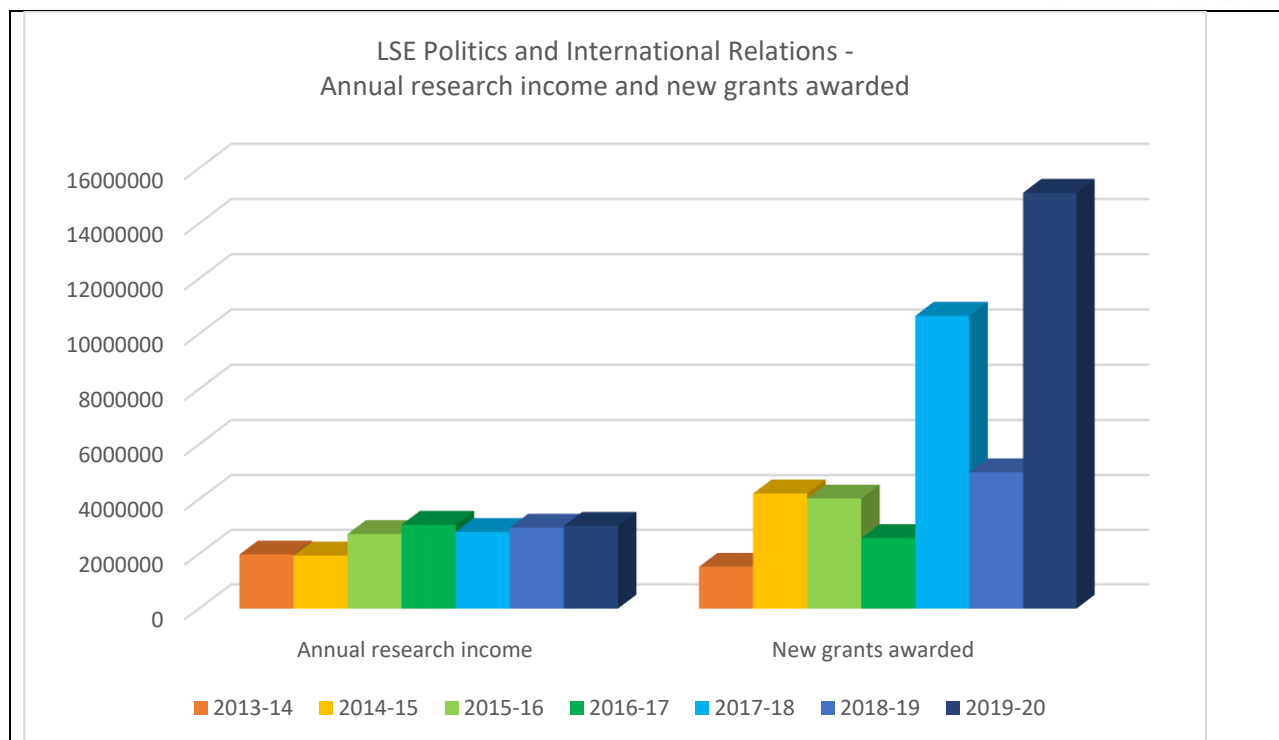
A consistent and growing capacity to attract prestigious competitive income

A key sign of a ground-breaking and impact-oriented approach to science is the ability to attract external research funding. The UoA has conducted grant-funded research from some of the most prestigious funding bodies, including:

- **ERC:** Bruter, €2.5 million, 2019-2024; Chinkin, €2 million, 2018-2022; Kostovicova, €2 million, 2018-2023; Hobolt, €1.5 million, 2015-2021; Benoit, €1.3 million, 2011-16; Bruter, €1.2 million, 2009-2015
- **ESRC:** Boone, £810,000, 2018-2021; Harrison and Bruter, £570,000, 2018-2022; Hobolt and Leeper, £134,000, 2017-19; Hix, £103,000, 2015-16; Collins; £835,000, 2017-2021; Ainley, £151,000; 2017-2019
- **AHRC:** Chinkin; £13 million, 2018-2023; Chinkin; £724,000; 2019-2021; Kostovicova, £245,000, 2016-19
- **Leverhulme Trust:** Meseguer, £187,000, 2018-2022; Flikschuh, Valentini, Ypi, each for £100,000
- **Joseph Rowntree:** Dunleavy, £181,000, 2016-2020; Dunleavy, £140,000, 2014-2016
- **The British Academy:** Haber, £328,000, 2018-21; Bayly, £327,000, 2016-2019; Lankina, £132,000; 2015-2016
- **Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO):** Pomeranzev, £250,000, 2017-2018; Lodge, £234,000, 206-2017; Pomeranzev, £150,000, 2018-2020
- **European Commission:** Lodge, €2.3 million, 2015-2018; Adraoui, €252,000, 2017-2020; Benoit, €211,000, 2015-2018
- **Open Society Foundation:** Collins, £425,000, 2016-2018; Collins, £355,000, 2018-2020; Quah, £110,000, 2015-2016
- **Kuwait Foundation For The Advancement Of Sciences:** Dodge; £2.7 million, 2017-2022.
- **Stiftung Mercator:** Falkner, £930,000; 2014-2017
- **United Nations:** Muller, £313,500, 2019; Martin, £193,000, 2018-2020
- **Department for International Development (DFID):** Dodge, £722,000, 2017-2021; Chinkin, £541,000; 2015-2017; Jablonski, £292,000, 2018-2020

The fact that the total of new grants obtained during the period is more than twice our research income during the period, and consistently increasing, illustrates the magnitude of the progression of our staff in managing to secure large and prestigious external funding throughout the period. Beyond major grant-giving bodies, we have also been able to further our income by collecting over £4.3 million of funds from consulting activities (not included in our new grants figures above), which, apart from using our research expertise to support the work of leading institutions and practitioners enables us to contribute to a financially autonomous research environment.

Figure 5: Progression of annual research income and new grants awarded



Using external funding to break research borders

Research funded by external grants has led to an impressive amount of high-quality output. Together, our academics have published in a wide range of venues, including over 400 journals. Our publications have been downloaded over 1.6 million times from the School's institutional repository LSE Research Online. Our academic publications have an average of 12.4 citations each. While predominantly cited by other scholars in political science and international relations, the research of the UoA permeates interdisciplinary boundaries, with 1,607 papers cited in psychology, health, education, organizational and management studies and linguistics. In fact, nearly a third of the papers published by our scholars feature in the top 10% of most cited worldwide in their field, a proportion significantly higher than the national average and which emphasises the intellectual influence of our research community.

Strong links between research supported by major grant-giving bodies (ESRC, British Academy, EU) and impact are evidenced in the Impact Case Studies (ICS) submitted by the UoA. Beyond our ICSs, Woolcock leverages his research into EU trade policy to pursue a number of engagement activities, which have supported research-based input to policy-makers (and the Department of International Trade and DEXEU specifically); private sector organisations; and the public/media (on Brexit). Lankina's British Academy and LSE funded research into Russian popular protest, foreign policy in Ukraine, and media manipulation has underpinned the provision of expert advice on Russian policy in the post-communist region to policy communities in the UK (the House of Lords), Europe (EU) and America. This has informed understanding of 'what works' in terms of Western policies relevant to Russia. The work has particularly helped to address a gap in understanding of the ways in which Russia's media manipulation and propaganda tactics both bolster and provide insights into her foreign policy making. It has also helped to identify and promote more effective ways of improving democratic processes in Russia.

Figure 6: LSE proportion of total politics and international relations DOI publications and citations in the UK

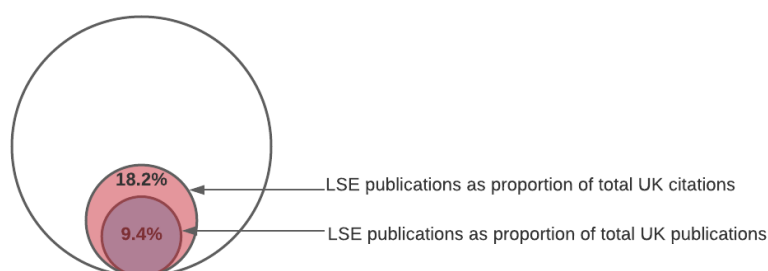
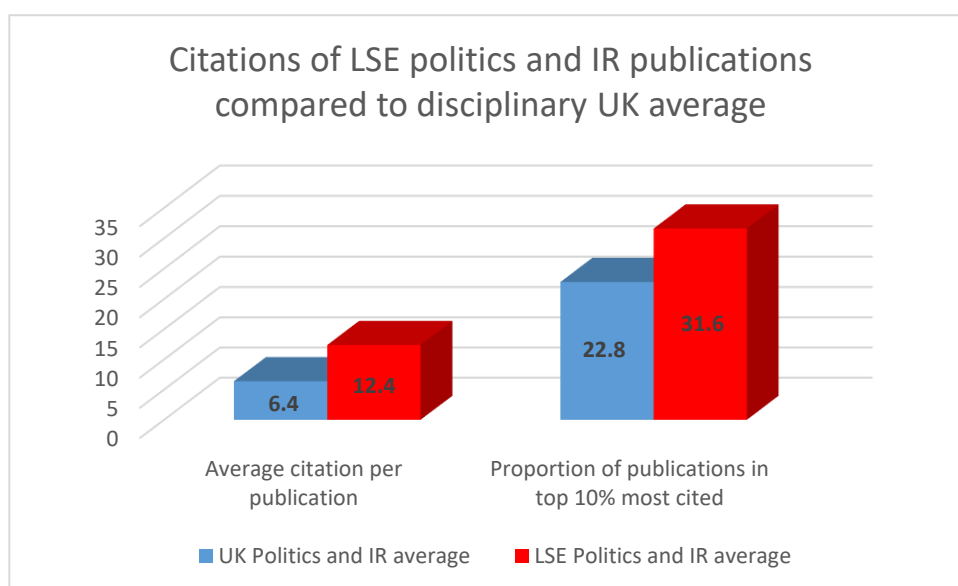


Figure 7: Citations of UoA compared to UK disciplinary average³



During the period, our academics have notably published between 10 and 18 articles in each of the following journals:

- *American Political Science Review*
- *American Journal of Political Science*
- *Journal of Politics*
- *British Journal of Political Science*
- *International Affairs*
- *International Studies Quarterly*
- *Political Science Research and Methods*

As well as between eight and 21 research monographs published with:

- Cambridge University Press
- Oxford University Press
- Routledge

³ Note: information is based on all publications with a DOI, not just those selected for inclusion in the REF assessment

- Palgrave
- Princeton University Press

A strategy to foster external funding success

The significant increase in new grants obtained that we have witnessed throughout the period is a direct consequence of two things: our track record at demonstrating to sponsors that our colleagues use external funding to contribute outstanding leadership and outputs to our profession as just shown, but also a new support strategy that we have built throughout the period and which aims to help our colleagues be in the best possible position to apply for funding when they identify a new research venture which requires such grants. The UoA provides finance support for staff preparing these significant bids for large, external research grants and funds aimed at increasing collaborative activities and successful dissemination. In addition to individual staff allocations (as mentioned in Section 2) the UoA also has a variety of funding available for individual and joint pilot projects, preparation of external grant applications, public events, seminar series, workshops as well as a book launch budget.

Indeed, over the period, both departments have focused their research strategy on reforming and improving research funding. Thus, in IRD the five-year plan that was launched in 2015 calls for investing more than £150K in developing ‘research incubators’ aimed at supporting new innovative projects. This is in addition to the £200k currently spent annually to support faculty research and publication, graduate student training and development, and related research and training activities. In GD, a first step of the new research strategy, adopted in 2019, was to reform Departmental Research Funds, ring-fencing £100,000 per annum for individual and group seed grants (which must result in either an external grant application or a REF-eligible publication), new initiatives on ensuring that our research innovation translates to our teaching and lastly an initiative aimed at supporting the integration of users early in research as co-designers of projects. The GD’s ambitious strategy defines the department’s future priorities and research principles. Furthermore, we give ourselves the means to support our ambitions by engaging in activities which generate income for both departments – such as the LSE summer schools (which could not occur in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic) and executive educations. Those activities are rewarded by funds to the Departments which are then used to increase our support for research.

In terms of departmental research funds, a number of new schemes for internal support for research have been created. The specifics of the funds vary slightly between the two departments but follow similar structures, with internal grants notably available for: 1) individual pilot projects, 2) group seed research, 3) workshops. The funds are specifically earmarked for projects which will lead to an external funding application, world-leading publications, or to achieve impact. Applications up to £7,000 are awarded, and priority is normally given to junior colleagues (assistant professorial level). Both departments also provide funds aimed at supporting Knowledge Exchange and Impact events organised by staff. In addition to funds aimed at supporting an innovative and world-leading research community, the UoA has during the REF period also utilised new Knowledge Exchange and Impact (KEI) grants of £10,000 per department, aimed at dissemination activities and increasing the impact of both small- and large-scale projects. For example, in 2018-19 GD used its funds to support a particular research project on electoral ergonomics, hosting two events in Australia during their latest elections, engaging with key members of the Australian electoral commission, giving new exposure to the research and receiving a preliminary agreement to circulate a questionnaire to polling station

managers. IRD used 2018-2019 funding to support a number of individual projects including a digital engagement platform to build awareness of imbalances in the gender make-up of authors in reading lists, bibliographies and similar textual artefacts used in higher education; the hosting of an event about protest and social inequalities; and a discussion on UK-EU foreign, security, and defence co-operation post-Brexit with policy-makers.

IRD has participated in a number of LSE KEI Initiatives, notably the LSE Festival, an annual public engagement event designed to stimulate thought and debate and engage a wide public audience in the research and character of LSE. IRD faculty member Callahan was a member of Steering Group for the Festival from 2018-2020. LSE Festival programmes have included activities for children, exhibitions, film screenings, a theatre performance, campus history tours, sustainable food and drink pop-up stalls, a hip-hop and spoken word night, and talks and debates with speakers drawn from across the LSE community, including several IRD faculty, as well as from other academic institutions around the world, government, civil society and the media.

Some award-winning facilities and infrastructures

Beyond a dynamic community when it comes to research income, one of the things that makes the LSE so special is its world class facilities at the heart of central London. Since 2019, our two departments are collocated in the LSE's 17,500 square metres award-winning Centre Building, the University's newest building at the heart of campus. This architecturally, socially, and environmentally innovative building, has attracted significant attention from both architectural publications and the mass media and obtained the 2020 BREEAM public sector construction award, the British Construction Industry 2020 Social Infrastructure Award, and the 2020 Education Estates Award for the LSE. It offers our research community and students unprecedented levels of public space, including a large common room for undergraduate and Masters students, and dedicated study areas for doctoral students, meeting and conference rooms reserved for our two departments, and ample landscaped interactive space. Some of the building's terraces lend themselves perfectly for research dissemination events such as book launches and receptions. In addition, the LSE provides departments with multiple venues for hosting public lecture events, workshops and conferences which have been used extensively by the UoA during the REF period, to host over 100 events. The LSE also provides the UoA access to the LSE Behavioural Lab, which includes facilities for conducting experimental research and offers access to a large pool of diverse participants.

Moving to this state-of-the-art building has meant that both Departments enjoy greater opportunities for enhanced collaboration and greater integration as a whole research community: for instance, this is the first time that all IRD staff, PhDs and Fellows are housed in the same building and it has contributed to developing a stronger sense of community. Each faculty member in IRD and GD has their own office which includes a meeting space. Amongst the faculty offices, PhD students have six spacious study areas with a dedicated workstation for each doctoral student and frequent, informal access to faculty colleagues. Staff and PhD students benefit from kitchen areas and common rooms with incredible views over the city and Lincoln's Inn Fields where the Departments, their research units and centres can socialise and share ideas. IRD space is also shared with the Centre for International Studies and *Millennium* (the prestigious student run journal) and this too fosters collegiality and collaboration.

There are also dedicated open-plan hot-desking spaces to accommodate academic visitors and research staff (those associated with external grant-funded projects, research centres or units) in the centre of the Departmental spaces, which encourages their integration with the Departments' faculty and students and leads to networking, the exchange of ideas and collaborative projects. Our new meeting rooms are equipped with state-of-the-art video conferencing facilities which has enabled us to host research seminars and workshops in hybrid mode (even prior to the Covid-19 pandemic) and this facility has largely increased local and international engagement with our research, especially during the pandemic.

Another crucial resource available to departments is the LSE Library, which consists of over four million separate items, including rare books, archives, photographs, posters and pamphlets as well as extensive electronic research collections, including provision of access to 50,000 e-journal titles and over 200 datasets. Our Departments have a specifically assigned Academic Support Librarian who ensures that exceptional publications, data, and primary resources relevant to the research area of the UoA are available to our researchers and students.

Progression, trajectory and horizons

Whilst our planned building inauguration, originally scheduled in April 2020 has been delayed due to the coronavirus crisis, over the REF period, the politics and international relations research field at the LSE has moved from being separated into a multitude of separate outlets to all being co-located together (with the exception of one research centre) into the newest and most impressive award-winning building on the LSE campus, alongside the School's Directorate.

We have also managed to significantly improve our research funding over the period. Whilst our research income has increased by 47% between the first two years and the last two years of the period, our new grants figure was multiplied by 10 between the start and end of the period, with a record £15 million of new grants in 2019-20. The fact that at over £43 million, (including over £30 million in the last three years alone), our new funding is nearly 2.5x higher than our income over the period emphasises the substantial and continuous increase in our grant success.

This consistent upwards trajectory is part of a coherent and pro-active strategy to internally support seed research within our two departments to encourage colleagues to apply for external funding in the best possible conditions, and a consistent track record at producing frontier-breaking findings, and highly cited outputs published with the most influential publishers and the best journals to ensure that we use external funds responsibly to lead research in our disciplines.

Furthermore, far from contenting ourselves with those improvements, we are continuing to implement the new policies that we have designed as part of our research strategy to further strengthen our research income position in coming years by supporting academic and research colleagues to be ever more effective in their endeavour to find research funding in support of their innovative projects. Despite the coronavirus situation delaying the start of some of our initiatives, in 2021, we will begin a new series of support sessions for junior members of the academic and research staff eager to apply for external funding.

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

Being leaders in our disciplines and our contribution to society and the world

Our community prides itself in being leaders in the discipline, fulfilling some of the most important positions which help us to influence the future directions which international politics and international relations academia will follow. We also play our part in ensuring that our research will foster progress in society, policy, economy and culture by working with the most important and influential stakeholders locally, nationally, within Europe, and internationally.

Over the period, our academics have sat on grant award panels for all the major research sponsors in social sciences including the European Research Council, the Economic and Social Research Council, and multiple national research councils and science foundations. They have held executive positions on professional organisations including the American Political Science Association (APSA), the European Political Science Association (EPSA), the Political Studies Association (PSA), the European Election Studies (EES) Association and the International Studies Association (ISA) and been members of learned societies such as the Academy of Social Sciences and the British Academy.

However, beyond our contribution to the profession, it is change in policy, the economy, and society which our community contributes to and supports through research leadership. Our academics and research staff have worked with Governments (including Kuwait, Ireland and the UK) and Parliaments (not only Westminster and the European Parliament but also the Estonian Parliament). For example, Hix's research led to the development of a Voting Advice Application used by hundreds of thousands of voters in recent European Parliament elections to help them make up their minds, and in the process, also helping journalists and analysts improve their predictive models across many EU Member States for those elections as part of Poll Watch. Our scholars also work with leading organisations including the European Commission, Committee of the Regions, IMF, and the World Bank, as well as with business, and with the cultural world (from Hollywood writers' rooms to theatre production companies). Notably, forming part of one of our ICSs, Bruter served as one of the leading expert witnesses in cases tried by the Irish High Court and Supreme Court and pertaining to the country's referendum on children's rights where Courts had to assess the potential impact of problematic leaflets sent to voters during the campaign. He also advised a Hollywood writing room on the scenario of a proposed TV thriller series with Brie Larson in a scenario related to elections, although the project has been interrupted by the coronavirus crisis.

We give those who want to improve society and the lives of citizens through research-led change access to the most rigorous, innovative, and relevant research in the fields of politics and international relations.

Shaping the future of our disciplines: professional leadership

In the census period, our academics have maintained a strong presence and contribution to the LSE's main events calendar, having organised over 100 public lectures on topics such as Brexit, human rights, post-conflict peace-building, labour markets and welfare, populism, the far-right and political economy. They have also been involved in organising nearly 50 major international conferences, seminars, workshops and conference panels and have given keynotes at over 150 events across the world, including at prestigious universities such as Cambridge, Columbia, Harvard, Oxford and Yale and non-academic institutions such as Chatham House, the EU-Canada Forum, the Hague and UK Houses of Parliament. Invitations to give keynote talks is an important indicator of GD and IRD staff esteem and wider contributions to the dissemination of knowledge.

In addition to academic events, our staff are also highly engaged in editorial work. Staff in our departments have been editors of several journals in the profession including:

- *American Political Science Review*
- *Public Administration*
- *Review of International Studies*

More broadly, the editorial board memberships of our staff reflect the breadth of the research covered, the inter-disciplinary nature of expertise, regional and global esteem and impact. Our faculty have served as lead editors, co-editors, international advisory members or editorial board members of the *LSE International Studies Series* at Cambridge University Press and have during the REF period been on the editorial board of journals including: *American Political Science Review*, *Comparative Political Studies*, *International Organization*, *International Studies Quarterly* and *Journal of Political Philosophy*. The journal *Millennium* is run by the UOA and the editorial board is uniquely composed of doctoral and postgraduate students from IRD. The journal, which publishes three issues per year and hosts an annual conference every year in October, has since the previous REF gained further recognition by experts in the field. Similarly, the GD hosts one of the leading undergraduate journals in the field, the *LSE Undergraduate Political Review*. Both offer students editorial experience and exposure to academic publishing practices.

Our academics have served as editors of regarded book series as well, including *Cambridge Studies in Law and Society* (Meiehenrich), *Routledge Series on Foreign Policy Analysis* (Alden), *Cambridge Studies in Comparative Politics* (Boone), *Palgrave Executive Politics and Governance* (Lodge) and *Palgrave China in Transformation* (Lin).

Several of our members are fellows of leading learned societies such as the Academy of Social Sciences (Lodge, Dunleavy, Phillips) and the British Academy (Page, Dunleavy, Flikschuh, Phillips, Hix, Hobolt, Schonhardt-Bailey, Soskice)

Similarly, members of our departments have also served as panel members for the most prestigious grant funding institutions in the field. As an example, during the period, Bruter has sat on or chaired grant assessment panels for the European Research Council, the Economic and Social Research Council, and multiple national science foundations and councils (Finland, Spain, Portugal, Cyprus, etc).

Another important part of the UoA's engagement with the academic community is to allow for exchange and the building of partnerships through visiting programmes. Central to this in IRD is the David Davies of Llandinam (Dinam) Research Fellowship. Since 2008, this had funded a Visiting Fellow to join the department for a year, with the express aim of utilising international relations scholarship to improve foreign policy decision-making. Fellows have come from the UK Foreign Office, the EU and UN, working on UN sustainable development goals, conflict in central Africa and Islamic radicalism. During the REF period, among the visitors to the Departments or research centres were Professor Marie Thorsten (Visiting Fellow, Centre for International Studies, 2016-2017) from Doshisha University, Japan; Professor Stephan Haggard (Susan Strange Chair, 2018-2019) from UC San Diego, USA, Professor Kaare Strom from UC San Diego, USA, Etel L. Solingen (Susan Strange Chair, 2019-2020) from UC Irvine, USA and Sir Richard Mottram.

Our scholars have received some of the most prestigious awards in their field including multiple awards from the International Studies Association and the American Political Science Association for research papers, books and fieldwork. Bayly's first book *Taming the Imperial Imagination: Colonial Knowledge, International Relations and the Anglo-Afghan Encounter, 1808-1878* was the winner of the International Studies Association's 2018 Francesco Prize for Best Book (a prize won by IRD staff for the last three years: 2019 by Barkawi and in 2017 by Buzan & Lawson). Lake's book *Strong NGOs and Weak States: Pursuing Gender Justice in the Democratic Republic of Congo and South Africa* was awarded the inaugural Lee Ann Fujii Award by the International Studies Association in 2020, whilst further awards included the APSA Migration and Citizenship section Best paper award as well as Lee Wilson paper award for Emeriau, Market Research Society shortlist and award for Best International Research for Harrison and Bruter. In 2016, Phillips received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Political Science Association, and in 2018 Ypi received a Leverhulme Prize for Outstanding Research Achievement.

Our contribution to the field extends beyond academic outputs and collaborations and also include the development of innovative methodological tools, such as *Quanteda*, an R package for the Quantitative Analysis of Textual Data developed by Benoit and colleagues, developed as part of an ERC Proof-of-Concept Grant.

Engaging with society: shaping public debate and sharing research findings through the media

UoA colleagues have over the census period been prolific in ensuring funding to engage in knowledge exchange and impact. Over the REF period, 13 KEI projects have received funding from LSE's Higher Education Impact Fund (HEIF), amounting to over £450,000. Examples include the Development of an Almanac of Electoral Ergonomics (Bruter, £108,000), an interactive tool for both electoral practitioners and researchers which includes a database of electoral ergonomics and arrangements across democracies accessible through the Research Unit's website, and KEI funding for the development and running of a Brexit Vote Blog (Dunleavy, £65,000), a blog with over 3.7 million unique visits and the fourth most popular blog hosted by LSE.

The School helps staff achieve maximum impact by showcasing research for a wider audience in the form of podcasts, blogs, social media messages, and by funding activities that would help promote the work to wider audiences. At IRD, for instance, a weekly *Newswire* showcases staff achievements, blogs, podcasts and research which are widely distributed, including via Twitter feed and Facebook. Blogs and social media are an important tool for disseminating research to the public and the LSE provides outstanding support to develop media engagement skills. All new staff are encouraged to attend professional media training workshops which help develop confidence and skills in media presentations and interviews.

During the REF census period, the UoA staff produced a large number of blogs or videos made publicly available on the website, directly relating to research outputs and made available in a more accessible format for the public. For example, the LSE Public Policy Group (PPG) hosts the British Politics and Policy blog, one the most widely reaching political blogs in the UK, and the most visited blog of the LSE, with over 5 million unique visitors to date. In addition, the LSE Women, Peace and Security project webpage, which has over 100 posts, has attracted 3,751,289 visitors. Altogether, over the census period and as of Spring 2020, the UoA's various centres and online initiatives had produced over 10,000 posts and attracted over 16 million unique visitors. UoA scholars are also invited to hold blogs beyond the LSE, such as the

Electoral Psychology Observatory blog on the *Psychology Today* website, which has the most influential blog presence in psychology in the world.

The GD and IRD staff also regularly provide expert commentary on major global news outlets. Staff have given interviews or have written policy and opinion pieces for many of the world's leading media and news outlets including ABC, CNN, BBC, PBS, CBS, NPR, CBC, Channel 4, Sky News, Al Jazeera, CNBC, Financial Times, The Economist, The Wall Street Journal, Le Monde, The Times, The New York Times, The Independent, The Daily Telegraph, The Guardian, Reuters, Associated Press.

Using research to contribution to policy, economy and society

Beyond public and media engagement, the UoA also ensures that its research is shared with diverse communities and publics. This includes taking part of the LSE's Widening Participation Programme, which brings students from sixth-form colleges to attend lectures held by LSE staff and which the two departments alternate hosting annual conferences for, as well as working with alumni networks to run regional events. The Middle East Centre runs a very successful public lecture series, which regularly attracts a large public audience of over a hundred people, comprised of journalists, regional specialists and those with a more general interest. Similarly, the US Centre runs a popular public events programme and an award-winning blog series. It also provides a "State of the States" website offering users free critical information about US States, and offers the popular "The Ballpark", a series of podcasts and video explainers on US politics.

A crucial way in which we ensure that our research contributes in meaningful ways to public debates, policy-making and societal understanding of current affairs is through our research centres and units. To provide some examples, IDEAS hosts interdisciplinary research projects, produces working papers and reports, holds public and off-the-record events, and delivers cutting-edge executive training programmes for government, business and third-sector organisations. Affiliates include several IRD academic staff members who contribute teaching to the highly successful Executive Masters Programme aimed at decision-makers and designed to enhance strategic thinking and diplomatic negotiation skills (Cox; Dalacoura; Dodge; Trubowitz; Lankina). Similarly, in the GD, the most recent research unit, the Electoral Psychology Observatory (Bruter and Harrison) focuses on research in the fields of electoral psychology and electoral ergonomics, working in collaboration with international Electoral Commissions (UK, LA County, Australia, South Africa, Georgia, Palestinian Territories, etc) or EU institutions. EPO includes frontier-breaking initiatives such as a new collaboration with architects and designers on designing the ideal polling station. The EPO has partnerships with leading scholars in universities such as Stanford, Columbia, McGill, the Australian National University, and more, and new cross-disciplinary international visibility.

GD and IRD recognise that visiting faculty appointments as well as exchanges between academia and business, industry, public or third sector bodies and secondments constitute an important component of our research environment. During the census period, staff have held visiting positions at University of Vienna (Foos); the National Taiwan University (Jenco), Australian National University (Harrison, Bruter, Phillips), MIT (Rickard), University of Toronto (Falkner), Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (Haacke) and Harvard (Meiehenrich).

The world class research of UoA staff, funded by leading UK and external academic and policy bodies, has significant impact in the context of contemporary debates on key areas of policy,

including British domestic and foreign policy (Hobolt; Smith), EU policy and elections (Hix), policies on drugs (Collins), climate change, housing (Scanlon), transitional justice (Ainley, Lake) peace-building (Collins) and electoral procedures (Bruter, Harrison) and civic engagement (Jablonski; Ofosu). Our staff have been influential in shaping understandings of economic diplomacy (Woolcock), the political economy of countries of the Global South (Alden; Naqvi; Lall); the rise of political Islam (Dalacoura; Gerges; Sidel) and the dynamics of protest and the rise of contentious politics in the XXI century (Lawson; Lankina).

During the census period, there are multiple examples of how the work of our scholars has had important civic, and political, impact. For example, Jablonski partnered with a leading civic education organization in Uganda (Twaweza) to test sharing information via SMS about public services to citizens prior to the election. The organization implemented the SMS intervention tool as part of their ongoing outreach efforts, effectively providing support for how to create more public engagement with democratic institutions and practices. McDoom has advised Washington DC-based NGO Project Over Zero on how to strategically support societies in the US to resist divides along identity lines and strengthen resilience to violence; Harrison has advised multiple Electoral Commissions including Georgia, South Africa, and the Palestinian Territories, organising training workshops for staff, helping to enhance the design and organisation of polling stations, improve access for under-represented voter categories as well as first time voters, and Wehner has provided written and oral evidence on legislative budget processes for finance committees and budget committees in Estonia, Germany and the UK. Similarly, Brierley has presented her work for the Ministry of Finance in Ghana. Furthermore, Schonhardt-Bailey's work has been used by the Bank of England to consider their strategy on deliberation and transparency in internal processes as evidenced by their internal report and a briefing paper to the House of Commons, and Lodge's work on risk and regulation has helped shape the regulation of logistic infrastructure in Brazil, with proposals stemming from his research ultimately translated into law.

Using a three-year grant from the UK Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office, Dodge has built a team of ten researchers based at LSE and three Iraqi universities to study the drivers of conflict in that country and inform UK government policy. This project has repeatedly briefed the UK, US and European governments, the EU, the UN and multinational companies operating in Iraq. It has published 15 research papers with another ten forthcoming. Both Sedelmeier and Smith, using EU and European Commission (FP7 and EUNNET Jean Monnet) funding, have ran research consortia on both maximising the EU's integration capacity, between 2013-2016, and EU-UN relations, 2016-2019, and UN Multilateralism, whilst Lodge leads the Horizon 2020 Transcristis consortium. Ainley and Kirby, using a £17.5 million grant have built a research network of 42 institutional and project partners working on the overlap of Sustainable Development Goal 5 on gender equality, Goal 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions, and the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda. Lake joined the hub to set up a multinational project on women's rights after war, focusing on Afghanistan, Bosnia, DR Congo, Iraq, Liberia, Nepal, Rwanda, Sri Lanka and Uganda. Koenig-Archibugi has used *Agence Française de Développement* funds to build a multi-university research network to work on complex social networks in global health policy and the allocation of global health aid.

In addition to ensuring that the UoA's research is external-facing, the clusters and units also elevate the profile of the departments by hosting events with leading officials, policy-makers and public figures, including Nancy Pelosi (Speaker of the US House of Representatives), Boris Johnson (UK Prime Minister) and Nicola Sturgeon (First Minister of Scotland) as well as leading

social scientists such as Theda Skocpol (Harvard), Baron Anthony Giddens (LSE), Professor Amartya Sen (Harvard) and Torben Iversen (Harvard).

Progression, trajectory and horizons

Whilst our colleagues have always tried to play their part in our service to the politics and international relations research profession, we believe that over the past six years, our research community has become more influential in our profession than ever before. For the first time, some of our colleagues became editors of the *American Political Science Review*, arguably the profession's most prestigious journal. Never before have we had members of our academic and research staff sitting on panels of all leading sponsors that support social science research in British universities. Never have our members managed to obtain so many prestigious awards recognising the best and most influential research in the field.

At the same time, our people have made more effort than ever to ensure that their research would impact political systems and societies in Britain, Europe, and the world. We have worked with all leading EU institutions, numerous Governments, Parliaments, integrational organisations, national administrations, Electoral Commissions, local Governments, companies, regulators, and also leading actors from the business and cultural worlds from Hollywood producers to large multi-national companies.

Our plan for the future is not just about doing more to be leaders in our profession, but mostly to do it better, and in particular, to enable every single member of our academic and research staff to shine in their research in their own way. We do not believe that a research community of our ambition and breadth could, nor should, support a "one-size-fits-all" vision of research excellence in research. Some of our colleagues will care about publishing great books and others great articles, some will aim to take prominent positions in professional associations, while others will want to edit the best journals or book series in the profession and others to sit on the most influential grant award panels. Some members of our departments will break new frontiers in their research by getting prestigious grants whilst others will do so by making their research the most impactful with the most important stakeholders. Our contribution to society, the economy and culture, in short, will be all the greater for our differences, all the richer from our diversity. Most importantly, it will be fulfilling for all the people who make our scientific family if we help them achieve the contribution which they feel will make them great scholars in the way which is most meaningful to them, ways which we will be unapologetically supportive and proud of.