REF2021

Institution: University of Edinburgh

Unit of Assessment: Law

1. Unit context, research and impact strategy
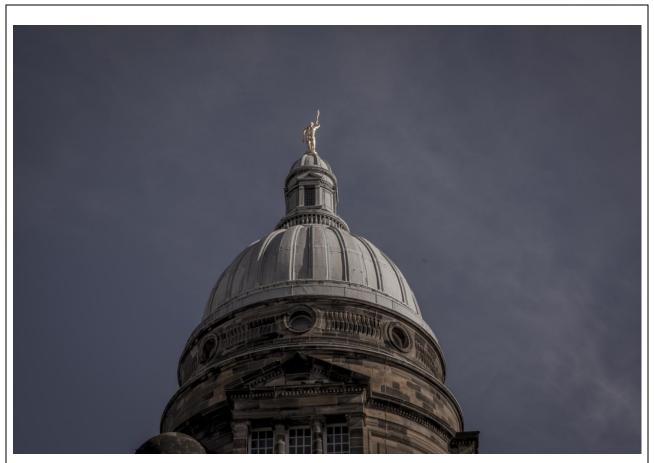
Unit context and structure

Edinburgh Law is a dynamic and inclusive community of legal, sociolegal and criminology scholars (74.1 FTE). We empower staff at all career stages to realise ambitious research and impact goals in commercial law; criminal law and evidence; criminology; EU law; international law; IP, media and technology law; legal history; legal theory; medical law and bioethics; private law; and public law. In this assessment period, we invested £35m to transform our estate, creating a cohesive infrastructure for interaction and collaboration; increased and diversified research and impact awards; and expanded the critical mass and quality of our environment.

Significant achievements and successes include:

- growing **research expertise** through 15 posts in areas of strategic research need and expanding **postdoctoral opportunities** (by 30% since REF2014);

- strengthening an exceptional track record for **research income** with external awards at all career stages (£15m won in the assessment period, with average funding increased by 87% per year since REF2014);

- securing prestigious **research fellowships** (three Leverhulme Trust Major Research Fellowships, British Academy Global Professorship, AHRC Leadership Fellow and Leverhulme Trust Early Career Fellowship);

- improving an already strong **PhD completion** trajectory (130.5 doctoral researchers successfully completed their studies in this assessment period compared to 70 for REF2014, with average annual completions rising from 14.17 to 18.64); and

- being **recognised for the impact of our work**, notably through two ESRC Celebrating Impact Prizes (Outstanding Public Policy Impact, McAra and McVie, 2019; Outstanding Early Career Impact, Murray, 2016).

We contribute **discipline-leading insights** on questions concerning the devolved, national, European and international legal arenas as well as at their intersection; harnessing legal, sociolegal and criminological research to realise a more just and equitable society; and exploring the potential and limits of law in responding to fast-paced change. We spearhead **interdisciplinary research** through funded projects, internal appointments (notably in bioethics and criminology) and external collaboration; and apply **diverse methodologies**, with particular strengths in comparative, empirical and historical inquiry. A **strong civic commitment** is cultivated across our work, and we support colleagues to share and showcase the impact of their research. In 2018, we returned to our landmark Old College home…

… following **transformative internal refurbishment**.

We now have facilities and a Law Library (Section 3) fit for a global law school in the historic heart of the university and the city. Fulfilling a REF2014 objective, this extensive investment delivered unified and fully accessible accommodation for all of our community and those who engage with us; achieved through a new arterial staircase wrapped around a lift that connects all five Old College floors for the first time in its history.

Research and impact strategy: what did we do?

Over this assessment period, we prioritised **identifying and advancing substantive research themes, while ensuring the quality and furthering the ambition of what we do**. For REF2014, we implemented a policy of managed expansion, increasing activity within cognate areas by framing research and impact strategy around nine research centres and institutes. These continue to thrive and support research activity by connecting researchers at all career stages working in specific fields (Section 2) and facilitating dissemination through outward facing activities, including user engagement (Section 4). A strategic shift towards support for **themes representing distinctive strength that traverses different areas** was an important next step, and we have fostered three cross-cutting themes to date.

Law and global justice

Across multiple research contexts, Edinburgh Law scholars explore concepts and challenges connected to the evolution of global governance, especially for the Global South. Strands of this work confront urgent questions at the heart of understanding **how law shapes optimal conditions for justice in a densely connected world**.

The ambitious '**Political Settlements Research Programme**' led by Bell (PI, £6.4m, FCDO) investigates peace settlement conditions in contexts as diverse as Afghanistan, Colombia, Ethiopia-Ogaden and Nepal, examining how peace processes attempt to revise political settlements to make them more inclusive in order to end violent conflict. The project team is drawn from law, political science and international relations and the impact of their work is elaborated in **Case Study 3**. A major project output, the PA-X Peace Agreements Database, is described below. Facilitating **post-conflict reform**, Welikala applied his research on sub-state constitutionalism to support legal and cultural change in Myanmar (**Case Study 1**). He also drafted the legislative scheme that became Sri Lanka's Right to Information Act (2016), independently assessed as one of the strongest freedom of information regimes in the world: in 2017, RTI Rating (the global methodology for assessing the strength of right to information (RTI) laws) scored this Act at 131 points, ranking third globally and first in Asia.

Our engagement with the **Global Challenges Research Fund** includes Porter's ESRC-funded interdisciplinary project on 'Smart Regulation of Antibiotic Use in India' (PI, £515.4k), which investigates problems surrounding the regulation of antimicrobial resistance containment and brings together research and user partners in India and the UK; Ghaleigh's 'Clean ECA [export credit agency] Hub' project to develop legal interventions against coal infrastructure in Indonesia (PI, £31.7k), collaborating with a wide range of partners and stakeholders; and Ruiz Abou-Nigm's creation of an interdisciplinary international cluster researching implementation of the 2018 UN Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in Latin America (PI, £30k).

Law and challenges of change

Edinburgh Law researchers interrogate the role of law in supporting – or stifling – technological advancement through collaborative research (Section 4). For example, members of the Scottish Research Centre for IP and Technology Law (SCRIPT) explore the **intersection of law, technology and society from a multidisciplinary and multi-jurisdiction perspective**. Schafer is co-director of the AHRC-funded 'Creative Informatics: Data Driven Innovation for the Creative Industries' project (£5.6m, £3.4m to UoE), designed to encourage collaboration between creative industries and universities; and Urquhart works on 'Emotional AI in Cities' (Co-I, £107.3k, co-funded by the ESRC and the Japan Science & Technology Agency), investigating the socio-technical, design, governance and cultural dimensions of affect-sensing technologies in urban life in Japan and the UK from a range of stakeholder perspectives.

McAra leads the **Edinburgh Futures Institute (EFI)**, a £140m initiative which is part of UoE's £661m Data-Driven Innovation programme established through the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal (£237m awarded to UoE by the UK and Scottish Governments in 2018). EFI is UoE's flagship catalyser of activity in social and data science, arts and humanities to support society's navigation of complex futures. Its major themes and programmes (notably data-driven innovation and the deploying of digital technologies for social good) spark regulatory challenges that connect compellingly to Edinburgh Law's research and engagement activities. EFI has provided seed-corn funding for Avgouleas (knowledge exchange and conference events on the regulatory challenges of FinTech) and Bhuta (project on 'AI and the Battlefield'). Bhuta further combined an external award (PI, £49.9k, Carnegie Trust for the Universities of Scotland) with UoE pump-priming support (£20k from Edinburgh Law, the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (CAHSS) Challenge Investment Fund, and EFI) to establish an interdisciplinary network on the **relationship between international legal obligations and emerging applications of AI**, engaging policymakers, computer scientists, technologists, industry representatives and individuals at the cutting-edge of developing and using such systems.

The 'challenges of change' theme is differently exemplified by Laurie's **Wellcome Senior Investigator Award** (PI, £1m, 'Confronting the Liminal Spaces of Health Research Regulation'), which produced the first-ever integrated, interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral analysis of health research regulation by exploring the **spaces 'in-between' law and governance practice** as experienced by actors grappling with regulation in action, such as research ethics committees (**Case Study 4**). Building on that legacy, project researcher Ganguli-Mitra won a **Wellcome Trust Seed Award** in 2018 (PI, £66k) to research 'Vulnerability and Justice in Global Health Emergency Regulation', with innovative and acutely prescient emphasis on '**anticipating the future**' given the urgency and uncertainty that characterise health emergencies. Edinburgh Law research and impact expertise has confronted the myriad dimensions of the **COVID-19 pandemic**, with work underway in areas as diverse as employment law, global justice, human rights, information technologies, policing, and public health policy.

Law and (in)equalities

McVie's leadership of the 'Understanding Inequalities' project (PI, £1.5m, **ESRC Research Grant**) epitomises this research theme. This work explores the **causes and consequences of inequalities** across a range of policy domains, focusing on Scotland but with comparative work across the UK and beyond. The project provides robust evidence to inform new policy solutions

to multiple forms of inequality and contributes to new data sources and methodological approaches (drawing from criminology and economics) for researching different types and aspects of inequality. It builds on the Applied Quantitative Methods Network (AQMeN), an ESRC-funded research centre (2013-2017).

Our leadership in applying qualitative and quantitative methods in criminological research continues through the path-breaking Edinburgh Study of Youth Transitions and Crime (ESYTC). Led by McAra and McVie, ESYTC is a major longitudinal study of a single cohort of approximately 4,300 young people who started secondary school in Edinburgh in 1998, using multiple methods of data collection. In this assessment period, McAra and McVie published influential papers (e.g. *British Journal of Criminology*) highlighting the detrimental impact of poverty on offending and criminal conviction; underlining the complex cyclical interplay between offending, justice system contact and poverty, with particular relevance for the Scottish Government's Child Poverty Action Plan. The impact of their work is presented in **Case Study 5**.

On the theme of 'navigating inclusion', a core stream of Bell's 'Political Settlement Research Programme' examined the **neglected dimensions of gender and non-dominant minorities in peace processes**; for example, using mixed methodologies to demonstrate how women's experience of enduring gendered violence affects their ability to access and influence the realm in which political settlements emerge and evolve, and to propose solutions (**Case Study 3**). Finally, the Scottish Feminist Judgments Project (coordinated by Cowan and Kennedy with Munro, Warwick) convened academics, practising lawyers, judges and representatives from the third sector to rewrite historical judgments, generating **interdisciplinary reflection on how laws can be made and applied in more gender equitable ways**. A particular novelty stems from the project's emphasis on creative arts (supported through several awards, including the Royal Society of Edinburgh, £7.1k and a UoE Innovation Initiative Grant, £4.9k) to encourage empathetic exploration of real cases through a gender-sensitive lens (Section 4). CAHSS Overseas Development funding (£10.1k) enabled an Edinburgh workshop in 2019 involving researchers from the African and Indian Feminist Judgment Projects.

Research and impact strategy: how did we do it?

Underpinned by the ambition of enabling **researcher empowerment** (Section 2), we evolved from 'structure' to 'theme' by pursuing **three strategic objectives**.

<u>Ensuring disciplinary legacy in areas of strength</u>

For this objective, we sought to: (a) stimulate applications for fellowships; (b) extend doctoral research provision across research areas; and (c) invest in areas of strength by nurturing research leaders. For (a), we had **strong success in highly competitive fellowship schemes**, prioritised to stimulate ambitious projects in key research areas. We won **Leverhulme Trust Major Research Fellowships** in three successive years (Nic Shuibhne, '(Con)founding the Union: Equal Treatment in an Unequal Europe', £160.2k, 2016; Shaw, 'Citizenship and Citizenship Regimes: A Global Remapping for the 21st Century', £143.6k, 2017; Walker, 'Law, Community and Utopia', £176.2k, 2018). Collectively, these awards reflect significant contributions to the conceptual and supranational dimensions of constitutional governance. In 2019, augmenting expertise in legal argumentation and virtue jurisprudence, we welcomed a

British Academy Global Professor (Amaya Navarro, 'Law, Virtue and Political Community', £544.3k). Demonstrating support for researchers at all career stages, Kennedy achieved an **AHRC Leadership Fellow** award ('Identity Deception: A Critical History', £192k, early career route, 2019) and Sutton won a **Leverhulme Trust Early Career Fellowship** ('Frontline Land: The Everyday Life of International Humanitarian Law', £90.7k, 2019).

For (b), Edinburgh Law had 94 doctoral researchers at census date, sustaining our position as **one of the largest PGR communities in the discipline within the UK**. As to the goal of extending PGR engagement across research areas, a significant achievement is that 63 staff were involved in PGR supervision compared to 35 for REF2014. For (c), **proactive nurturing of research leaders** is evidenced by the fact that while the number of PIs at Grade 10 mirrors that for REF2014, we achieved a notable increase in award-holders at Grade 9 (13 for REF2021; four for REF2014).

Fostering promising fields of research

Across the assessment period, we created **15 strategic appointments** to open up seams of research and impact activity, especially in commercial and private law; global law; and IP, media and technology law (Section 2). **Retaining outstanding junior colleagues** was another key priority and the sequel to Laurie's **Wellcome Senior Investigator Award** (PI, £1m) provides a striking example of success, doubling the medical law and bioethics team compared to REF2014. Transitioning from fixed-term research contracts on the project, Ganguli-Mitra and Sethi achieved prestigious tenure-track UoE Chancellor's Fellowships (affirming the significance of law in EFI's vision, Sethi was appointed as Data-Driven Innovation Chancellor's Fellow); Dove and Sorbie are now Lecturers in Law; and MacMillan and Postan were appointed on the project after successful completion of their PhDs, each ultimately as Senior Research Fellow.

Attracting external funding

Edinburgh Law is a UK leader for external research funding. As the awards achieved by Bell (PI, £6.4m, **FCDO**), Laurie (PI, £1m, **Wellcome**) and McVie (PI, £1.5m, **ESRC**) demonstrate, we ensured continued success in **leading large-scale projects that engage and aim to benefit research users and are premised on interdisciplinary approaches**. Moreover, we achieved 82 external funding awards in the assessment period, supporting a remarkably varied range of projects (Section 3). 72% of our research income was awarded to female colleagues. We also **closed a PI gender gap** (25 female and 22 male PIs REF2021; 18 female and 25 male PIs REF2014). **Comprehensive and tailored pre-award support as well as rigorous internal peer review** are critical factors in our funding strategy (Section 3) and we cascade this culture of peer assistance across our activities more generally through reading groups, training events and weekly 'work in progress' seminars.

Enabling and supporting the achievement of research impact

Edinburgh Law supports impactful research that **makes a difference locally**, influencing policy development in Scotland in areas as diverse as Brexit, criminal justice and policing, health research regulation, and property law reform; and **makes a difference globally**, engaging with the Council of Europe on the right to property, with the European Union on better banking

regulation, and internationally with actors and institutions that determine post-conflict settlement. Both within and beyond the UK, our researchers contribute expertise through advisory roles and secondments, and our work is cited regularly in the Scottish courts and UK Supreme Court and by Advocates General at the Court of Justice of the European Union. Examples of these achievements are provided in Section 4.

To consolidate but also build on REF2014 impact success, we **created a Research Communications and Impact Manager post** in 2016 to amplify and facilitate stakeholder engagement. As a result, we supported researchers to exploit impact-focused support initiatives, especially for exploratory projects and, as a result, had notable success in CAHSS KE funding competitions (nine awards totalling £21.6k in the assessment period, examples in Section 3).

We have also promoted diversity across the theories, methods and applications of our research, which extends our local and global reach; facilitates cross-fertilisation and interdisciplinarity; and enables the forging of new research and impact collaborations and partnerships. For example, for REF2014, we identified reinvigorating the **Empirical Legal Research Network (ELRN)** as a central objective. Led by Dove, ELRN has deepened engagement with policymakers and researchers by facilitating trans-disciplinary collaboration; helping to disseminate results to users within and beyond UoE; and providing a resource hub of skills and legal expertise for academics, policymakers and practitioners. It hosts an annual Empirical Legal Research Festival and recently launched ECR/PGR empirical methods training with research-user focus. Providing an example of **mixed methods in legal research with user implications**, Cornwell was supported (£50.2k) by the RCUK-funded CREATe consortium to produce the first-ever dataset on IP actions at the Scottish Court of Session, also conducting interviews and a survey of IP practitioners. The project generated novel empirical data on and analysis of IP enforcement in Scotland. Findings are being used by practitioners and the Law Society of Scotland IP Committee in considering initiatives to enhance Scotland as a preferred jurisdiction for IP litigation. Investigating the migration of ideas across both place and time, research by members of the Edinburgh Centre for Private Law combines **doctrinal analysis of contemporary problems with a distinctive comparative and historical approach**. For example, Braun's *Passing Wealth on Death: Will-Substitutes in Comparative Perspective* (Hart Publishing, 2016; co-edited with Röthel, Bucerius) is the first comparative work on will-substitutes and was cited by the Law Commission of England and Wales (Consultation Paper 231, 'Making a Will', 2017).

Mechanisms for **enabling the impact captured in our REF case studies** include: tailored support from idea to impact from the Research Communications and Impact Manager, including strategies for evidencing reach and significance (all case studies); integrating ECRs and PGRs in research and impact culture (Mason Institute, Case Study 4; McVie and Murray, Case Study 6); identifying potential for pump-priming support (Mason Institute, Case Study 4; PSRP, Case Study 3) and potential for external support (PSRP, Case Study 3; McAra and McVie, Case Study 5); co-producing research with partners (Bell, Tierney and Welikala, Case Study 1); and facilitating policy-relevant external appointments (Tierney, Case Study 2).

An open and ethical research environment premised on research integrity

Edinburgh Law is committed to an **open research environment** as a means of challenging social inequalities caused by restricting access to academic research. We ensure

implementation and oversight of sectoral requirements so that these are understood and adhered to well in advance of required deadlines, achieving 97% overall OA compliance to date. We promote the values underpinning the open research agenda, progressing rigour and transparency as well as the availability and re-usability of our methods, data, findings and outputs; while also alert to ethical implications given that significant amounts of research involve sensitive or personal information and create concerns about data sharing. Importantly, we **shape best practice** in this context. For example, McAra is a member of UoE's Artificial Intelligence and Data Ethics (AIDE) group, which develops protocols and policy for large-scale cross-disciplinary and cross-College research. Beyond UoE, Dove was a member of the Data Access Committee of METADAC (Managing Ethico-social, Technical and Administrative issues in Data Access), a multi-agency, multi-study data access structure that services several of the UK's major cohort studies. He is also Co-Chair of the Regulatory and Ethics Work Stream of the Global Alliance for Genomics and Health. Schafer is a member of the Data Ethics Group of the Alan Turing Institute, which advises public bodies and research institutions on the ethical use of data; and of the expert group of AI4Society, whose reports on ethical AI were adopted by the EU Higher Level Expert Group on Artificial Intelligence.

Edinburgh Law has a longstanding **SSRN Legal Studies Research Paper Series**, while **SCRIPTed** – our open access (since inception) journal on law, society and technologies – is now in its 17th year (https://script-ed.org). Evidencing an integrated research culture, SCRIPTed is edited by postgraduate students with Edinburgh Law staff contributing as supervising editors. The *Edinburgh Student Law Review*, supported by Edinburgh Law staff reviewers, is also openly available (https://www.eslr.ed.ac.uk/).

We communicate our research and impact as widely as possible, including through ten Edinburgh Law-hosted blogs; for example, the Edinburgh Legal History Blog had 7,752 pageviews in 2019-20. Over the assessment period, we were delighted to see significant increases in engagement with our freely accessible **Research @ Edinburgh Law School** video channel (2017-18: 265 plays; 2019-20: 936) and our **@UoELawResearch** Twitter account (2014-15: 45,576 tweet impressions; 2019-2020: 214,447).

Exemplifying best practice in data open access, the 'Political Settlement Research Programme' created the **PA-X Peace Agreements Database**, a dataset with a repository of 1,868 peace agreements coded by topic, accompanied by the world's first gender and local agreements databases (1990-2020). It provides end-user tested search mechanisms; easy access to texts, corpus and statistics; infographics and creative visualisations that enable multiple entry points and 'ways of seeing' the data; and full integration with other conflict data. PA-X is free to use and open to all, benefitting mediators and parties in conflict, civic actors and researchers. It was developed with funding from FCDO; and supplemented by funds from UN Women and UoE's ESRC Impact Accelerator and Global Challenges Research Funds. Responding to the limitations of open research in the face of technological constraints, the team designed the 'PeaceFem' app (with Monash University, InclusivePeace and UN Women) in both Arabic and English, enhancing access for low-connectivity settings.

An Ethics and Governance Committee, led by a Director of Ethics, secures Edinburgh Law's **culture of research integrity**. It oversees proposals and ensures that researchers are supported to understand and provide appropriately for the ethical dimensions of their research and impact activities. Postdoctoral researchers receive methods and public engagement training

both via UoE's Institute for Academic Development (IAD) and bespoke to their roles in research projects. Research integrity is streamed throughout our PGR training programme (Section 2). Novel and imaginative conceptions of ethical research also spring from substantive projects. For example, Cairns' work on plagiarism as 'fine art' produced an in-depth study not only of differing attitudes towards comparative legal history but of plagiarism and academic standards generally.

The future: strategic aims for research and impact

To sustain and build on the diversity and quality of our research and impact enterprise, our strategic aims for the next five years are:

1. To deepen and extend research synergies: reflecting UoE's commitment to research without boundaries and further advancing our strategic trajectory from 'structure' to 'theme', we will identify and shape new directions in areas of established strength. This includes progressing our distinctive approach to comparative research; and intensifying work under 'challenges of change' to stimulate collaborative research and engagement partnerships that advance UoE's ambition to address tomorrow's challenges. We will also animate and support new themes across different subject fields, such as regulating AI, and law, markets and wealth.

2. To optimise opportunities for engagement and impact through EFI: while researchers have engaged with foundational EFI activities to conceive user-focused projects in areas such as data protection, criminal justice and FinTech, there is significant potential still to exploit in order to capitalise on cross-College appointments in data-use ethics, governance and justice, and through the framework of the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal. We will also progress new opportunities for industry and practitioner partnerships.

3. To progress a balanced research environment: we will review pressure points and further streamline processes in order to realise better alignment of research, impact and teaching activities. We will review completed and ongoing large-scale research projects to marshal best practice and learn from challenges experienced, especially to enhance ECR strategy.

2. People

Staffing and staff development strategy

Edinburgh Law hosts 77 (74.1FTE) Category A staff (53% male, 47% female) on research and teaching contracts (compared to 72 staff for REF2014); and 22 researchers on funded projects (17 for REF2014; 71 researchers were employed to support funded projects across this assessment period). We made 29 Category A appointments, reflecting: succession planning for retired or relocated staff (9 posts); funded fellowships and/or cover for colleagues holding grants or fellowships (five posts); and new posts shaped **to consolidate and expand areas of research strength** (Amaya Navarro in legal theory; Burgis-Kasthala, Lang and McCall-Smith in international law and global governance; Oke and Urquhart in IP, media and technology law; Dove, Ganguli-Mitra, Postan and Sorbie in medical law and bioethics; Hardman and Richardson

in commercial law; Xenidis in EU law; Fox and Ruiz Abou-Nigm in private law). Demonstrating sustainability as well as our investment in career progression, ten colleagues were promoted to chair, four to reader and 18 to senior lecturer.

Two Professorial Fellows with enduring links to Edinburgh Law are appointed on a 0.2FTE basis (Garland, NYU, since 2013; Laurie, following his stepping down from the Chair of Medical Jurisprudence in 2019), contributing peer review and mentoring as well as supervision for PDRFs and PGRs. Evidencing institutional as well as disciplinary legacy, 11 Emeritus Professors retain active connections with us. We have also constructed links with both academics and practitioners through the appointment of three honorary professors, one honorary professorial fellow and three honorary fellows.

The central objective of our people strategy is to **empower colleagues to realise their full potential** while viewing research, teaching, leadership and knowledge exchange as complementary and not competing dimensions of the academic role. Placing the researcher at the centre of our strategy ensures a **responsive environment**, supporting staff to conceive and progress their own research and impact ambitions from a position of confidence and tailored support. We facilitate planning and implementation through several mechanisms including 'Directed Research Time' (DRT), which **provides one year of research leave in every four**, one of the most generous schemes in UK law schools and an important factor in both recruitment and retention. Alongside limited 'automatic' entitlement for specified intensive office bearer roles, DRT is granted following review of the applicant's research profile as well as the quality and feasibility of the proposed research plan. All eligible Category A staff benefitted from DRT in the assessment period. Availing of **opportunities beyond the academy** is also actively facilitated: for example, Black, MacQueen and Steven were seconded as Scottish Law Commissioners in this assessment period. We further protect research time through a **transparent workload data tool**, reviewed annually and adjusted as necessary.

We have reformed internal funding processes to remove prescriptive spending caps for the **Individual Research Allowance** allocated annually (£1800). Researchers are now free to distribute their allowance across research assistance and/or travel as best fits their needs in a given year. To streamline the application procedure from the user perspective, we also consolidated various internal funding pathways into one **Research and Impact Facilitation Fund** (Section 3). Strategic criteria are periodically established for its distribution: for example, in 2018-2019, we prioritised research centre bids enhancing PGR integration (examples below). We also provide tailored career planning and career progression workshops, which advance the effectiveness and transparency of promotions processes. In 2019, we deepened engagement with research and impact in recruitment processes by requiring applicants to submit reflective statements on key published outputs alongside outlining their research and impact plans.

The **COVID-19 pandemic** shadowed the final phase of the assessment period, requiring rapid responsiveness across all activities. We prioritised staff and student wellbeing above all, overlaid with particular concern for equality and diversity implications across all protected characteristics. Examples of research environment adaptive initiatives included mechanisms to: capture and respond to individual and collective needs (including anonymised staff and PGR wellbeing surveys and confidential individual support); sustain the connectedness of our community (through creating a virtual staffroom and convening research seminars online); and mitigate cohort-specific challenges (co-producing solutions to alleviate ECR concerns, such as enabling

post-contract access to research resources, and conducting milestone PGR activities such as supervisions, review panels and research seminars online). The IT and Law Library teams provided exceptional support for remote working and studying throughout, rapidly expanding online research resources and boosting our capacity to access them.

<u>Staff Development</u>

Two priorities guide staff development strategy from the perspective of research and impact support: **proactive planning and training**; and **needs-centred mentoring**.

First, researcher-centred planning and training are critical aspects of our reflective Annual Review process. In addition to broader discussions with line managers, the Director of Research and Knowledge Exchange reviews all research and impact plans submitted as part of that process (as well as sabbatical/DRT applications) for **proactive identification of support and funding opportunities as well as promotion of the full range of research and impact training offered across UoE**. This includes IAD's research training programme and funding workshops provided by the Edinburgh Research Office and Edinburgh Innovations (REF 5a). UoE provision is supplemented by Law training where gaps or the need for tailored support are identified: for example, we created and convened workshops on writing, user engagement and impact, presentation skills, and the REF criteria for evaluating outputs. Many of these events are open to all researchers while others are designed for specific groups such as ECRs.

Second, mentors provide a crucial support system for colleagues at different career stages. All lecturers on open-ended contracts work with an appointed mentor for the first three years, covering all aspects of their academic role. Postdoctoral researchers have an appointed mentor who is not their line manager for the duration of their contracts. Any other staff member may request needs-centred mentoring at any point. Mentoring needs are also identified through the Annual Review process and individual planning discussions with the Director of Research and Knowledge Exchange. In 2020, the School Research Committee was reconfigured around the new role of **Research Mentors** to capture and extend the benefit of the depth and diversity of research and impact experience across Edinburgh Law. Research Mentors work individually with colleagues on issues ranging from research and impact planning to developing or completing a large-scale output or project. Appointment of mentors and oversight of mentoring relationships are managed by a Staff Development Officer with support from the Director of Research and Knowledge Exchange for Research Mentors specifically.

We fully endorse the principles of the UK Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers and our staff development strategy makes dedicated provision for **early career researchers**. On the workload data tool, an early career multiplier is applied for the first year of employment for lecturers to ringfence 55% of their time for research. All ECRs are strongly encouraged to present their work at staff research seminars and to attend but also suggest ideas for relevant training workshops.

We integrate the ECR community in strategic decision-making through elected representatives on School Management Group and School Research Committee. Regular meetings to address ECR-specific needs are convened by the Staff Development Officer and Head of School. We extend support for career planning and identification of career progression opportunities in full alertness to the impact on research staff of employment insecurity. For example, ECRs on fixed-

term research contracts have full access to the resources of our Research, Knowledge Exchange and Impact Office (RKEIO) and to internal peer review to support applications for further fellowships or to assist with completing existing grants. They also benefit from career planning discussions with PIs as well as a member of the Annual Review team; and receive an Individual Research Allowance of £750 per year (in addition to project-specific funds) to support research development if on contracts of greater than 0.4FTE for 12 months or longer. We have reduced reliance on teaching fellowships by creating a new **Early Career Fellow** template with protected research time for contracts connected to research award buyout/replacement.

Research students

Doctoral researchers are hugely valued members of the Edinburgh Law research community. We have **one of the largest cohorts of legal, sociolegal and criminology PGRs in the UK**, with 94 researchers undertaking doctoral studies at census date (37 Home, 11 EU and 46 overseas). Reflecting our commitment to interdisciplinary research, 15 PGRs were co-supervised with other UoE schools, including Architecture; Business; History, Classics and Archaeology; Medicine; and Social and Political Science.

130.5 PGRs successfully completed their studies during the assessment period (compared to 70 for REF2014) with **annual completions rising significantly** (18.64 compared to 14.17 for REF2014). Improved completion outcomes were achieved through our intensive training and support programme (outlined below); an equitable and transparent process of progress review; and an unbroken commitment to co-supervision for all PGRs.

Edinburgh Law recognises the vital importance of **funding security for doctoral researchers** and 37 PGRs received studentships administered by UoE across the assessment period, including (three) prestigious Principal's Career Development Scholarships. Reflecting a strategic concern for diversification, these awards came from a wide range of funding sources. Edinburgh Law offered two fully funded studentships per year from 2013-2019, increased to three from 2019-2020 onwards, and we also receive one fully funded CAHSS studentship annually. We are an approved pathway for two UKRI-funded Doctoral Training Partnerships: the AHRC Scottish Graduate School for Arts and Humanities and the ESRC Scottish Graduate School of Social Science (six and four awards respectively in the assessment period). In 2019, we collaborated with the University of Glasgow to establish four joint PhD studentships in criminology. Other sources of awards include: CREATe PhD Studentship; PhD Studentship in Law and Development (EDOLAD); *Modern Law Review* Scholarship; Edinburgh Legal Education Trust Scholarship; and Wellcome Postgraduate Research Scholarship. Further investment in PGR studentships is a key priority beyond REF2021 and we are working closely with UoE Development and Alumni to expand external support through the framework of an innovative Advancement Strategy.

In terms of **training and support**, PGRs enjoy full access to UoE research skills training, which Edinburgh Law complements with a tailored **research and wider skills programme**. Alongside research and methods training, the Year 1 programme (six seminars) includes contributions from the Director of Ethics, the Director of Equality and Diversity, and Law Library staff; as well as current PGRs and recent graduates. In 2018, a PGR-led retreat reviewed the Years 2 and 3 seminars, and refreshed these sessions around career opportunities, academic publishing, post-

doctoral research opportunities, preparing for thesis defence, academic writing, and achieving impact beyond the academy. Additional events across the academic year address planning for both academic and non-academic career pathways. Examples of collaborative training initiatives beyond UoE are outlined in Section 3.

PGRs in Years 2 and 3 are **supported to disseminate their work** through an Individual Research Allowance (increased in 2019 from £500 to £750). The PGR community also enjoys autonomy to determine the allocation of an annual £7.5k **PGR Research and Impact Facilitation Fund,** administered by the Postgraduate Student Research Board. Events supported include writing retreats, social activities that engender community spirit and an **annual PGR conference** – now in its fourth year and attracting doctoral researchers from 14 countries in 2020 on the theme of 'Law and the New World Order'. PGRs have access to the RKEIO when needed; for example, to support fellowship applications or impact events. A **'town hall' meeting** is convened once per semester, enabling PGRs to air any issues relating to their community directly to the Head of School, PGR Director and Director of Equality and Diversity. PGRs have **study space**, which is shared with visiting doctoral researchers (of whom 51 were welcomed during the assessment period).

Reflecting our commitment to **integrating PGRs into the wider research community**, PGRs are strongly encouraged to attend Edinburgh Law research events and a doctoral researcher presents their work in the Staff Seminar Series once per semester. Year 3 PGRs present at a weekly PhD seminar series involving Year 2 discussants and Year 1 chairs. As indicated above, **integration of PGRs in research centres** is a strategic priority and initiatives supported by our Research and Impact Facilitation Fund include: an Edinburgh Law/UCL Laws PhD colloquium organised by the Edinburgh Centre for Private Law; 'Talking Law' events for ECRs and PGRs conceived by the Centre for Legal History in collaboration with the University of St Andrews; and PGR workshops convened by the Edinburgh Centre for Constitutional Law and Edinburgh Centre for International and Global Law. PGRs serve as steering committee members for various centres. They are also warmly encouraged to participate in the Edinburgh Foundation for Women in the Law, which organises networking and career planning events, and to attend UoE 'Ingenious Women' and 'Enterprising Women' training, which promote entrepreneurial skills for female researchers. Edinburgh Law PGRs have participated in UoE's Festival of Creative Learning since its inception, delivering five events since 2017.

The **quality of our doctoral community** is evidenced by the fact that several researchers have gained recognition for their achievements. For example, Edinburgh Law PGRs won the Google Award for Best Student Paper at the BILETA conference in 2016 (Diver) and 2017 (Jewell); the British Society of Criminology's Policing Network Joint-Author Prize in 2017 (Harkin and Murray); and the award of Laureate of the International Academy for Arbitration Law in 2018 (García Martínez). Doctoral research has produced significant impact beyond the academy, notably Murray's work on 'stop and search' in Scotland (**Case Study 6**). Malik's PhD thesis was cited in two Scottish Parliamentary debates on policing and police governance. The calibre of our PGRs is further demonstrated by the fact that while our graduates pursue many career routes, most continue to work in academia and a significant majority of PhD graduates in the assessment period now hold positions at lecturer level or above – including, in the UK, at Birmingham, Bristol, Cambridge, Durham, Essex, Glasgow, Sheffield and Swansea Universities, as well as in Australia, Chile, China, Thailand, the United States and the West Indies.

Equality and diversity

Edinburgh Law is committed to ensuring equality of opportunity for all members of its research community. Both staff and PGR profiles are multinational (from 21 and 30 countries respectively at census date), enriching the range and reach of what we can achieve. UoE is a member of the **Athena SWAN Charter** and was awarded a Silver Award in 2015. Edinburgh Law achieved a **Bronze Award** in 2017 and is working towards submission for a Silver Award in 2022. Our staff are active participants in and promoters of the UoE Staff BAME and Staff Pride (LGBT+) Networks. For example, Kennedy and Rauhofer introduced LGBTQ+ advocates to Edinburgh Law in collaboration with Stonewall and students from Pride Soc; and Valsan launched a funding campaign for Waverley Care Edinburgh and the National AIDS Trust. Substantive research on 'law and (in)equalities' also informs research leadership practice. For example, Cowan, Professor of Feminist and Queer Legal Studies, worked with Kennedy (first as lecturer, later promoted to senior lecturer) to co-lead the **Scottish Feminist Judgments Project**. This team supported Black (consolidating a mid-career transition from commercial law to the regulation of family relationships) and PGR Jaiswal to contribute commentaries; and integrated an interdisciplinary (bioethics) commentary from ECRs Ganguli-Mitra and Postan.

Crucially, the Old College refurbishment enabled us to transform the accessibility and inclusiveness of our estate. That investment delivered fully accessible accommodation, with provision for gender-neutral toilets and publicly accessible baby changing facilities (clearly signposted in staff and student handbooks as well as throughout the building). An appropriate space to express and store breast milk, which can be accessed by visitors, staff and students by arrangement, was also created.

Across the assessment period, our equality and diversity strategy set two main priorities: **mainstreaming equality and diversity across all activities**; and **supporting and celebrating female researchers in leadership roles**.

Mainstreaming equality and diversity

While Edinburgh Law worked towards its Athena SWAN Bronze Award as a key objective over the assessment period, the wider remit of our Equality and Diversity Committee is **to implement a culture of inclusiveness alert to all protected characteristics**.

Key enhancements include: making e-Diversity in the Workplace and Unconscious Bias training compulsory for staff with responsibilities for admissions, recruitment, promotions, annual review and studentships; ensuring representativeness across our redesigned website and other online platforms; and introducing scheduling guidelines, which encourage organising seminars and social events in working hours where possible and publicising events 4-6 weeks in advance to allow staff with caring or other responsibilities to attend. We produced guidelines to ensure gender balance at seminars with respect to speakers and chairs; and we fund trans awareness training for staff and PGRs. The Director of Research and Knowledge Exchange also developed an equality and diversity 'toolkit' for research centres and emphasised these issues when providing feedback on centre annual reports.

Edinburgh Law evolved the CAHSS **Annual Review** Discussion Mandate to ensure that questions around training, mentoring opportunities, leadership responsibilities, family leave,

flexible working and workload concerns are articulated and addressed. Requests for flexible working are reviewed by the Head of School, who oversees monitoring of agreed arrangements (five researchers benefitted in the assessment period). We also provide Returner Career Support of £1000 per person above and beyond the £1800 annual Individual Research Allowance allocated to all researchers plus a 30% reduction in teaching for the first year after return to maximise training, development and dissemination opportunities.

Edinburgh Law job adverts are framed by a declaration of commitment to equality in recruitment processes and include links to information on family-friendly policies, to our equality and diversity website, and to other information reflecting our inclusive culture. Recruitment exercises make explicit reference to diversity and include welcoming statements for those currently under-represented in our academic community. We have also developed targeted recruitment campaigns for female PGRs through use of podcasts and videos as well as hardcopy materials, which refer specifically to funding opportunities, family friendly policies and support mechanisms such as needs-centred mentoring.

As indicated above, our **PGR training programme** is not limited to study skills: there is increased attention to researcher wellbeing and to an environment of inclusion and respect. For example, in 2019, we piloted a seminar on micro-aggressions in cooperation with the Edinburgh University Students' Association; and the Director of Equality and Diversity leads a training session on wellbeing and respect twice per year. One of the three Edinburgh Law PGR studentships was ringfenced from 2020 onwards to support projects addressing questions on equality, diversity and social justice across our substantive research areas. Beyond REF2021, we aim to raise the level of resource provided for PGR studentships from all available sources, including endowments that focus on equality and diversity.

Finally, we embraced **UoE's REF2021 Code of Practice**, which promotes maximum inclusivity through a return of 100% of eligible academic staff. In line with UoE and CAHSS guidance, we adopted a rigorous, fair and transparent approach to output selection, framed by a review mechanism to ensure equality and diversity oversight of output distribution by gender and career stage (noting that accurate data on other protected characteristics cannot be accessed because of the voluntary nature of this information and constraints on updating personal details). 44% of outputs submitted are authored by female staff (who comprise 47% FTE) and 58% of staff contributed two or more outputs. Throughout all of our REF preparation work, we endeavoured to implement an optimal balance between openness and transparency around our processes, and expectations of confidentiality and responsiveness around individual circumstances that have affected colleagues' research activity.

Supporting and celebrating female research leadership

For REF2014, a significant improvement of female representation at chair level was an important strand of our equality and diversity story (two female chairs RAE2008; eight by REF2014). While 62% of our new appointments in this assessment period were female (producing an overall staff ratio of 53% male/47% female), we have a relatively low proportion of females at chair level (33%) and are working to address this in three main ways. First, we ensured that all female Grade 9 staff had individual discussions with a member of the Staff Development Committee, above and beyond annual review, to assist with planning and achieving **career progression goals**. These discussions continue in order to support Grade 9 colleagues through appropriate

chair pathways. Second, we created a **recruitment strategy taskforce** to embed, coordinate and progress equality, diversity and inclusion objectives from the Edinburgh Law academic career starting point.

Finally, we **supported female colleagues to excel in research leadership roles**, showcasing their successes to inspire the next cohort of female professors. For example, McAra, the first female Edinburgh Law Head of School at REF2014, was subsequently appointed as UoE Assistant Principal for Community Relations and Director of the Edinburgh Futures Institute. She was also elected as President of the European Society of Criminology, the second largest society of its kind in the world. In 2015, Nic Shuibhne was appointed as joint editor of the *Common Market Law Review*, the leading journal in EU law, becoming only the second scholar to have held editorships of both the *Common Market Law Review* and *European Law Review* in the journals' histories. Female colleagues promoted to chair within this assessment period have demonstrated strong commitment to inclusiveness in their research leadership achievements. In 2017, Macgregor was appointed as the second female editor of the *Edinburgh Law Review*. She implemented a diversity audit including gender, career stage and range of topics. As a result, she proactively commissioned new work, resulting in female authors contributing ten of the 12 articles published in the May 2020 issue, on a diverse range of subjects from a historical account of women as pursuers of criminal actions to an analysis of gender self-declaration. In 2020, Macgregor was appointed as the first ever female holder of the Chair of Scots Law in its 298-year history. The achievements of these colleagues as research leader role models were enabled on a needs-centred basis through additional research assistance, teaching support and/or focused mentoring. We have also worked to address a gender pay gap and have now successfully eliminated previous disadvantage for female chairs.

3. Income, infrastructure and facilities

Research income

Edinburgh Law researchers won £15m through 82 external funding awards within the assessment period: 54 as PI; and 28 led by other units/institutions with our researchers as co-investigators. At census date, PIs held 15 UKRI, 37 UK charity and two UK Government awards. These achievements cement our position as a **disciplinary leader for research income in the UK**. As highlighted in Section 1 and reflecting the equality and diversity commitments outlined in Section 2, we also closed a PI gender gap and ensured stronger distribution of success across all career stages.

Funding awards support all kinds of activities and progress different strategic priorities. First, as outlined in Section 1, we reinforced our track record in **leading large-scale research projects that engage and aim to benefit research users and are premised on interdisciplinary approaches** (Bell, £6.4m, FCDO; Laurie, £1m, Wellcome; and McVie, £1.5m, ESRC). The ground-breaking research produced by this work has contributed to the shaping of both policy and practice at local and global levels, and involved disciplinary contributions from anthropology, bioethics, international relations, political science and sociology.

Second, as also detailed in Section 1, prestigious AHRC, British Academy and Leverhulme Trust fellowships (£1.3m in total) have **stimulated projects of ambitious breadth and depth in key research areas** (Amaya Navarro, Kennedy, Nic Shuibhne, Shaw, Sutton, Walker), underlining Edinburgh Law researcher contributions to the evolution and enrichment of concepts and of governance frameworks.

Third, funding awards **enabled the deepening and expansion of areas of existing strength.** For example, McAra's **Nuffield Foundation grant** (PI, £299.3k) established Phase 8 of the Edinburgh Study of Youth Transitions and Crime (ESYTC). Additionally, McVie's ESRC networking funding (PI, £26.7k) extended the 'Understanding Inequalities' project through collaborative activities with international partners and Shaw's British Academy project funding (PI, £35k) consolidated strands of previous work on the acquisition and loss of nationality.

Fourth, research income **inspired new seams of collaborative activity**. For example, in addition to the examples presented in Section 4 below, Black founded the Family Law Academic Network Scotland (FLANS) with representation from all 11 Scottish law schools, supported by the Clark Foundation for Legal Education (PI, £5.8k); Ghaleigh established an ESRC-funded network (PI, £46.6k) to strengthen links between UK and Japanese lawyers (including ECRs and practitioners) with overlapping emphases on environmental, trade and constitutional policy and practice; and Campbell led an AHRC-funded network on corruption in commercial enterprise (PI, £33.3k).

Fifth, our strategy communicates the **attainability of research funding for colleagues at all career stages**. Examples include Lock's British Academy Rising Star Engagement Award (PI, £13.1k) to establish a mentored engagement network, supporting ECRs to contribute meaningfully and safely to public debate on Brexit; Ruiz Abou-Nigm's British Academy funding (PI, £28.2k), to lead a cross-regional study of private international law and the development of integrated markets; and Welikala's convening of The Keith Forum on Commonwealth Constitutionalism (PI, £15k, Royal Society of Edinburgh), applying a reservoir of ideas from the Commonwealth to UK constitutional debates and aiming, in turn, to inform Commonwealth states facing similar challenges (a current project, in partnership with Melbourne Law School, examines the idea of 'constitutional endurance').

Finally, as signposted in Section 1, our Research Communications and Impact Manager supports researchers to **exploit impact-focused initiatives, especially for exploratory projects**. Resulting successes in, for example, CAHSS KE funding competitions include: Mancano's work with criminal and immigration lawyers in Scotland as part of the preliminary design of 'Protection in the Law of Expulsion and Aid in Scotland' (PLEAS, £2.9k), which mapped provisions of Scots and UK law that trigger the expulsion of non-UK nationals; and Harrison's SOS-LAW project ('Save Our Seas Through Law', £2.8k), a collaboration with the Community of Arran Seabed Trust that led to engagement with a range of stakeholders (NGOs, communities and public bodies) on several reform processes underway within Scotland, including the development of the marine protected area network and the modernisation of sub-national fisheries governance. Researchers also won UoE/ESRC Impact Acceleration Awards for projects on: creating tools for accessing peace agreements (Bell, £20k); the implications of Brexit for fundamental rights protection (Lock, £6.4k); and developing a best practice framework for civil society groups in Scotland to progress incorporation of international human rights obligations (McCall-Smith, £19.9k).

Organisational infrastructure

The **Research, Knowledge Exchange and Impact Office (RKEIO)** is crucial to the success of our research and impact endeavour. It works with researchers to align ideas with funding opportunities; to identify, signpost and respond to training needs; and to provide information and advice on pathways to impact and the development of public engagement and media strategies. We created a new Grade 8 post for Head of RKEIO to capitalise on REF2014 achievements and to support scaled-up project ambitions by working proactively with colleagues to model support options. Success can be demonstrated: between 2015 and 2017, 63% of our research funding awards were £10k or less and 17% were £100k+; between 2018 and 2020, only 12% were £10k or less with 41% at £100k+.

Since REF2014, we have also grown the RKEIO from 4.5FTE to 6.5FTE, investing in two new posts to ensure sufficient resource for facilitating and evidencing impact as well as compliance with open access requirements for published research. Additionally, we have a 4FTE IT and web development team and all members of academic staff are provided with laptops to support flexible working.

We mobilise funder experience and subject expertise within Edinburgh Law across all stages of the research funding application process through **robust and supportive internal peer review mechanisms**. Peer reviewers are provided with guidance and examples of best practice through a 'peer review primer' that harnesses collective experience from past successes. We also convene funder experience seminars across the academic year. We recognise research and impact achievements by all staff and PGRs through the **sharing of success stories** across internal and external communications platforms, including the prominent 'Latest News' section of the Edinburgh Law website.

From internal funds, Edinburgh Law invests in staff ideas through a **Research and Impact Facilitation Fund** (£286k over the assessment period), with particular emphasis on pump-priming projects. The Law and Polity project co-convened by Mac Amhlaigh, Michelon and Walker, supported initially by a £5k RIIF award, exemplifies how internal support seeds wider and deeper achievements. Building on the pilot award, subsequent Royal Society of Edinburgh funding (£10k) enabled comprehensive exploration of the disaggregation of law and polity through a series of seminars and a major international conference, producing in turn a special issue of the *International Constitutional Law Journal* in 2018. Mac Amhlaigh then conceived the offshoot International Legitimacy project (£6k RIIF; £15k RSE) from these foundations.

The nine **research centres and institutes** affiliated to Edinburgh Law receive baseline funding to support core activities such as annual lecture series and engagement events (Section 4) and may bid for additional support from the Research and Impact Facilitation Fund (examples prioritising PGR integration were provided in Section 2). Six highly-active **PGR-convened research groups** – in constitutional law, EU law and policy, international law, legal theory, IP and technology law, and criminology – also receive funding to support their activities, especially to invite external speakers.

Providing an example of **support for research infrastructure through external funding**, the Europa Institute, which celebrated its 50th anniversary with a series of academic and

engagement events across 2018-19, won a second Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence award in 2018 on the theme of FUTURES (coordinated for Law by Lock then Andreangeli). As part of these activities, Edinburgh Law awarded two Jean Monnet Early Career Visiting Fellowships in 2019-20.

Estate and facilities

As emphasised in Section 1, the most significant infrastructure investment in the assessment period was the **£35m regeneration of our Old College estate**, formally reopened in September 2019 after an extensive five-year work programme. We actively pursue opportunities to intensify research interactions in the refurbished building. Accessible, flexible and optimally equipped spaces provide excellent locations for public events such as conferences and lectures as well other forms of civic engagement such as meetings, workshops, training seminars and exhibitions.

Researchers at all levels and professional services staff are now co-located on the same site, with much improved social spaces and meeting hubs to encourage and facilitate integration and collaboration. Attendance at staff research seminars provides an example of the energising difference that unified accommodation has made. Both structural and refurbishment-enforced dislocation had considerably lowered engagement with these critical community-forging events; now, it is standing room only.

An important change flowing from the refurbishment is that the **Law Library**, one of the most significant academic law libraries in the UK, was relocated within the building to enhance its visibility and accessibility for staff, students and visitors. It offers outstanding digital resources

alongside a world-leading print collection (59,894 items at census date, including a unique collection for Scots law research), with relocation providing the opportunity to adopt a unified classification system for the first time.

Edinburgh Law contributes significant supplementary funding (£315k in the assessment period) for the Law Library over and above UoE investment. All Edinburgh Law researchers, including PGRs, are encouraged to make recommendations for purchase and thereby play an active part in the collection's evolution: for example, in 2019-2020, student book requests were supported at the same level as staff book requests. The Law Library provides 226 individual study spaces; additionally, a combination of informal and group study spaces integrated into the overall re-design facilitates collaborative as well as individual research.

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

Edinburgh Law deeply values the remarkable range of ideas and influences that a research community of our scale produces; not least through collaboration with researchers and research users, and through service to the discipline and wider society.

Research collaborations, networks and partnerships

Evidencing the value that we place on **collaboration within UoE**, Tierney's work on repatriation of competences after Brexit connects to the Centre on Constitutional Change (Social and Political Science) and was supported by an ESRC Brexit Priority Grant (Co-I, £42.1k). Laurie

collaborated with colleagues across UoE to secure a Wellcome Discretionary Award (£1.2m) to establish the UoE Centre for Biomedicine, Self and Society. SCRIPT is a key partner in the implementation of UoE's digital strategy, with members serving on the Law and Ethics group of the Edinburgh Data Science Initiative. Edinburgh Law assumed stewardship of UoE's Global Justice Academy in 2019. Led by McCall-Smith, the GJA is an interdisciplinary network supporting research, teaching and knowledge exchange. It provides an institutional forum for dialogue with local and global justice practitioners, notably as the secretariat of the Association of Human Rights Institutes.

For **collaboration beyond UoE**, examples of research cooperation beyond those outlined in Section 3 include McVie's contributions to the ESRC-funded Scottish Centre for Administrative Data Research, connecting researchers at the Universities of Glasgow, Edinburgh Napier, St Andrews and Strathclyde (Co-I, £271.2k); and Sparks' contribution to an ESRC-funded project on 'Place, Crime and Insecurity in Everyday Life' led by Keele University (Co-I, £89.5k). These projects engage Edinburgh Law's strengths in the conceptual and empirical dimensions of criminological research. Providing examples of interdisciplinary collaboration on our 'Challenges of Change' research theme, Sethi won Wellcome funding in 2019 (£11.3k) to consolidate international collaborations in Argentina, Australia, New Zealand and Singapore; and Schafer participates in a Nordforsk-funded project ('Taking Surveillance Apart') led by the University of Dundee (Co-I, £17.3k), working with police practitioners from the UK, Norway, Finland and Sweden on the human rights implications of surveillance legislation. Additionally, SCRIPT is an active member of the Global Network of Internet and Society Centers and its researchers are at the heart of an initiative by the Commonwealth Expert Working Group on Data Protection to develop a model data protection law for all Commonwealth member states.

We have invested significantly in **PGR networks and partnerships** over the assessment period. For example, **within UoE**, SCRIPT works with the Institute for Science Technology and Innovation Studies (ISSTI) to ensure that PGRs attached to the UKRI doctoral training centre for biomedical AI (School of Informatics) have solid grounding in the legal and ethical implications of new technologies. **Within Scotland**, significant PGR collaboration is realised through the Scottish Centre for Crime and Criminal Justice Research (SCCJR). Aydin-Aitchison and Sparks convened the training pathway in sociolegal studies and criminology for the ESRC/SFC Scottish Graduate School of Social Sciences, the template for which was provided by SCCJR. Four Edinburgh Law ESRC-funded studentships in the assessment period are directly attributable to that initiative and it also underpins the UoE/University of Glasgow joint PhD projects created in 2019 (Section 2). Further links with the University of Glasgow were forged through the Edinburgh Centre for International and Global Law's co-convening of an inaugural Edinburgh-Glasgow International Law Workshop in April 2019 and hosting doctoral training on 'Method in International Legal Research' in June 2019. **Beyond Scotland**, Edinburgh Law renewed its participation in the League of European Research Universities (LERU), which supports PGRs to spend time as visiting researchers in partner institutions (23 universities in 12 countries; 16 PGRs benefitted in the assessment period). In 2019, UoE launched a new PGR exchange programme with KU Leuven. The first iteration emphasised interdisciplinary legal studies, focusing on projects in law and economics, history, sociology, media and information technology. Edinburgh Law is also an associate partner in the Ius Commune Research School, a collaboration of the Universities of Amsterdam, Leuven, Maastricht and Utrecht, contributing in particular through the Edinburgh Centre for Private Law.

Providing another route to potential collaboration, we welcome **outstanding visiting scholars**, principally through a MacCormick Fellowship Scheme and Visiting Scholar Programme (101 visitors from institutions in 35 countries in the assessment period). The Edinburgh Centre for Private Law offers a Distinguished Visitorship in Private Law funded by the Edinburgh Legal Education Trust; and the Edinburgh Centre for International and Global Law is a host institution for fellows from developing states participating in the United Nations–Nippon Fellowship Scheme, providing capacity-building and human resource development on the law of the sea.

Contribution to economy and society

Over the assessment period, illustrating the reach of our engagement beyond the academy, Edinburgh Law expertise supported research users **locally** (e.g. Amnesty International Scotland; Chief Economist of the Scottish Government; Community Justice Scotland; Edinburgh Poverty Commission; HM Chief Inspector of Prisons for Scotland; Law Society of Scotland, NHS Scotland; Police Scotland; Scottish Book Trust; Scottish Human Rights Commission; Victim Support Scotland), **within the UK** (e.g. British Medical Association; Competition and Markets Authority; National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children; Nuffield Council on Bioethics) and **beyond the UK** (e.g. Commonwealth Secretariat; Council of Europe; European Banking Authority; European Central Bank; European Commission; European Parliament; European Securities and Markets Stakeholder Group; European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights; Food and Agriculture Organisation; Foundation for International Law for the Environment; International Federation of Musicians; Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission; Norwegian Centre for Conflict Resolution; OECD; OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights; Swedish National Council on Medical Ethics; and several UN agencies/bodies). Staff also engage keenly with various modes of local, national and international media.

Embedding impact into research design is a strategic priority. An example flows from the 'Liminal Spaces' project, with Dove convening a roundtable of research ethics committee members, research managers, regulators, patient advocates and researchers in 2019 to explore 'regulatory stewardship', a novel model of health research oversight arising from the project's research findings. The event was productive for the support garnered for the stewardship model as well as feedback that further research was required to distinguish it more sharply from other models. Similarly, for the 'Political Settlement Research Programme', three non-governmental organisations – Conciliation Resources; Rift Valley Institute; Institute of Strategic Studies (South Africa) – and international organisations (International IDEA; UN Women) were involved in research design and implementation. These partners engaged networks of researchers in Africa, Asia and the Middle East to widen end-users of the work. Major research themes emerged through 'Joint Analysis Workshops', which included conflict actors, policymakers, peacebuilding organisations and mediators. The project's agenda and methods were framed through this 'praxis' mode of identifying real-time problems in the field. Through this approach, the process of research design was collaborative in ways that seek to optimise end-user uptake.

A notable **example of thematic engagement with research users** is provided by collaborative work in the area of policing. Henry is Edinburgh Law liaison for the Scottish Institute for Policing Research (SIPR), a collaboration between Police Scotland, the Scottish Police Authority (SPA) and 14 Scottish universities. He led the multi-disciplinary Police Community Relations network

until 2018 and designed academic-practitioner collaboration (involving Police Scotland, the SPA, Scottish Government, local government, local partner agencies, and international police partners) through competitively funded 'sandpit' events and strategic Executive Sessions. Jones and Schafer contribute to the Evidence and Investigation Network on issues of AI, cybercrime, surveillance and policing. Other examples of engagement facilitated by SIPR in the assessment period include: Aydin-Aitchison, Henry and Malik's study of local police governance; Mancano's collaborative expert seminar series on legal aid and post-Brexit expulsion from the UK; and McVie's police crime and analyst training. With project scoping facilitated through SIPR, Souhami's pioneering work on 'Policing at the Periphery' was funded by the British Academy (PI, £9.1k) and Carnegie Trust for the Universities of Scotland (PI, £7.5k). This project is an ethnography of policing in the northern islands of Scotland exploring, through extended fieldwork in two remote archipelagos, how order is maintained in remote island communities as well as the role and culture of police work in that context.

Edinburgh Law **informs professional practice through significant provision of CPD, training and consultancy** – for the legal profession (including the Judicial Institute for Scotland), public and private bodies, and third sector organisations. We deliver a broad programme of CPD events across our research fields. Additionally, online courses enable flexible and supported access; for example, we engage our distance learning platform to deliver CPD on medical law and bioethics to a wide range of health care professionals all over the world. A Director of Consultancy and CPD has strategic oversight of these activities, a notable feature of which is their deployment towards funding PGR studentships. For example, Avgouleas consulted on global markets and crypto-assets regulation for the US tech start up IOHK.hk to fund two awards (held jointly with the School of Informatics); and CPD delivered by colleagues in our commercial and private law research centres funds an Edinburgh Legal Education Trust studentship. As examples of **research-based training contributions**, Fontanelli coordinated a Council of Europe working group tasked with creating a module for judges and practitioners on the right to property; and Harrison contributes annual training sessions to the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea–Nippon Foundation Capacity-Building and Training Programme for government officials and researchers, mainly from developing countries.

Finally, Edinburgh Law researchers frequently organise **collaborative events engaging research users**. For example, for his work on financial regulation and financial stability, Avgouleas convened a range of events in collaboration with key stakeholders, including a 2018 Round Table Interdisciplinary Workshop on Financial Stability with the Bank of England, Scottish Finance Enterprise and the Chief Economist of the Scottish Government, with keynotes from the Chairman of the European Banking Authority and the Bank of England Director of Financial Stability. Also in 2018, Black organised a conference on 'Changing Families: Family Law Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow' at which academic speakers (including two ECRs) were paired with practitioner respondents (judges, solicitors and advocates).

Responsiveness to national and international priorities

Edinburgh Law researchers actively respond to local and international priorities across a remarkable span of topics from Brexit to media transparency to trans rights. Taking the thematic example of priorities identified through **law reform and parliamentary processes**, researchers have submitted oral and/or written evidence to the Scottish Parliament, Scottish Government, UK Parliament and UK Government; and responded to Scottish Law Commission and Law

Commission (England and Wales) consultations, both individually and collectively. As examples of collective responses, Campbell, Cornford, Cowan and Kennedy submitted collective evidence in 2015 to the Scottish Justice Committee on the Abusive Behaviour and Sexual Harm (Scotland) Bill; Casanas-Adam and McCall-Smith responded to a Scottish Parliament consultation on the Children (Equal Protection from Assault) (Scotland) Bill in 2017; and, in 2018, the Mason Institute engaged with Scottish Government consultations on the Human Tissue Authorisation (Scotland) Bill, introducing presumed consent for organ donation, and proposals for reform.

Andreangeli's work on the intersection of markets and public health informed a hearing in the Scottish Parliament Committee on External and European Affairs in 2014; she was academic fellow at the Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICe, 2019-2020) and a member of the Scottish Government Task Force on Consumers and Markets (2017-2019). Fontanelli was SPICe academic fellow from 2018-2020 and appointed as adviser to the Scottish Parliament Committee on Europe and External Affairs in 2019. Richardson was a member of the advisory group for the Scottish Law Commission's Discussion Paper on Remedies for Breach of Contract and contributed in 2020 to the UK Parliament Knowledge Exchange Unit's COVID-19 survey on areas of concern and priority for law and business. Tierney is Legal Adviser to the Constitution Committee of the House of Lords; his influence in that role is demonstrated in **Case Study 2**. Beyond the UK, researchers have contributed expertise to an extraordinarily diverse range of public sector consultations and reform initiatives, contributing to processes of reflection and reform in Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, the Gambia, Germany, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Myanmar, Namibia, Papua New Guinea, São Tomé and Sri Lanka. **Case Study 1** exhibits a thematic example on constitution-making to support post-conflict transitions.

Engagement with diverse communities and publics

A strong theme of Edinburgh Law engagement activity taps into **synergies between academic research and the creative arts**. For example, the Mason Institute co-organises an annual Bioethics Film Festival at the Edinburgh Filmhouse in collaboration with the Scottish Council on Human Bioethics; and Cairns assisted playwright May Sumbwanyambe on three projects about the slavery case of *Knight* v. *Wedderburn,* including a play produced by the National Theatre of Scotland. Edinburgh Law researchers contribute regularly in the Edinburgh Festival Fringe 'Cabaret of Dangerous Ideas' (for example, Kheria has performed 'No copyright, no problem?' annually since 2017; and McAra and McVie's 'Hug a Thug' event was performed from 2015-2017). MacQueen was consulted on the UK Supreme Court's 'Chartered Voyage: The Impact of Magna Carta' exhibition in 2015.

During her tenure as Director of the CAHSS Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities, Shaw curated the 'Dangerous Women' project, which examined questions about the dynamics, conflicts, identities and power relations with which women live today. The project collected 365 responses from across the world between International Women's Day 2016 and International Women's Day 2017 (disseminated through public events including at the Edinburgh International Book Festival and Book Week Scotland), which will inform two books in progress.

The 'Understanding Inequalities' project team collaborated with UoE colleagues on an EFI-funded initiative focused on inequality and inclusion, working with a graphic illustrator to devise and design two data comics that illustrate the narratives behind some of the project's research

into inequalities in Scotland and beyond. Finally, communicating research concepts and research findings through the creative arts was a foundational aim of the Scottish Feminist Judgments project. Activities included an exhibition ('Reimagining the Law from the Outside In') launched at the Scottish Parliament in 2018 and then on free display in various locations including Old College as part of the Edinburgh Fringe; showcasing poetry, illustrations, performance art, photos and textiles produced as a creative response to the project.

Contribution to the research base

Edinburgh Law promotes the sharing and development of ideas through an array of dissemination events. Flagship **annual lecture series** include the Edinburgh FinTech Law Lecture (Edinburgh Centre for Commercial Law), Europa Institute Mitchell Lecture, and WA Wilson Memorial Lecture (Edinburgh Centre for Private Law). Across the assessment period, public lectures were delivered by leading academics, policymakers and judges, including the Presidents of the UKSC, CJEU and EFTA Court. We **disseminate our own research findings within the UK and across the globe**, with the majority of staff delivering keynote addresses in the assessment period. Postan was invited to deliver the Rising Star Lecture at the International Neuroethics Society annual conference in San Diego in 2018, exemplifying ECR esteem. Thirty-one researchers held visiting professorships.

Providing examples of **international dissemination partnerships**, the Centre for Legal History hosted the 73rd session of the Société Internationale Fernand de Visscher pour l'Histoire des Droits de l'Antiquité in September 2019. Laurie and Sethi won Wellcome and Nuffield Council on Bioethics grants (£62.5k) to host the 13th World Congress of the International Association of Bioethics in 2016, attracting 711 delegates from 41 countries (with 40 bursaries for ECR and LMIC delegates). In 2019, SCRIPT co-sponsored the 'AI Beyond the Hype – Benefits, Challenges and Liabilities' conference, hosted in Edinburgh for the European Association of Lawyers in partnership with the Faculty of Advocates, Scottish Society for Computers and Law and British Computer Society.

Demonstrating **contributions to academic citizenship and leadership** during the assessment period, nine staff were general editors of book series with leading academic publishers (e.g. Cambridge Bioethics and Law; Cambridge Studies in European Law and Policy; Edinburgh University Press Future Law; Oxford Studies in Roman Society & Law; Oxford Constitutional Theory). General journal (co-)editorships include *Global Constitutionalism*, *Journal of Medial Law* and *Youth Justice,* and over half of our researchers served on journal editorial or advisory boards. Colleagues served on UKRI Peer Review Colleges and national or international grants committees; and peer reviewed proposals for major funders within and beyond the UK.

Several colleagues provided **leadership through learned societies and disciplinary associations**. For example, MacQueen chairs the Law section of the British Academy; Ghaleigh was the first convenor of the Society of Legal Scholars' Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee; Kheria is International Liaison Officer for the Socio-Legal Studies Association; Laurie chaired an Expert Review panel for the ESRC, MRC and Wellcome to establish an overarching body on best practices in managing data access and was appointed to the AHRC COVID-19 expert peer review group; and Sparks won an ESRC consultancy award (£10k) to prepare a 'think piece' on future UKRI investment in Crime and Justice research.

Finally, particularly notable **esteem indicators and awards** achieved by our researchers in the assessment period include: election as Fellow of the British Academy (Bell) and of the Royal Society of Edinburgh (Bell; McVie; Shaw; Tierney), to the RSE Young Academy of Scotland (Ganguli-Mitra), and as Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (Garland); the conferral of CBE (MacQueen; McAra) and OBE (McVie); UACES Lifetime Achievement Awards (Scott; Shaw); and ESRC Celebrating Impact Prizes (McAra and McVie; Murray). Mancano won the *Common Market Law Review Prize* for Young Academics in 2018. Honorary doctorates were conferred on Garland (University of Oslo, 2015) and Sparks (KU Leuven, 2019). In 2017, Walker was appointed International Francqui Professor at KU Leuven (Philosophy) and Université Libre de Bruxelles (Law) and awarded the Francqui Medal for outstanding international scholarship.