

Institution: University of Oxford
Unit of Assessment: 19: Politics and International Studies
<p>1. Unit context and structure, research and impact strategy</p> <p>Overview</p> <p>Politics and International Studies at Oxford consists of researchers in the Department of Politics and International Relations (DPIR), the largest unit of this UoA, and researchers in politics and IR in three further departments: the Blavatnik School of Government (BSG), the School of Global and Area Studies (OSGA), and the Oxford Internet Institute (OII). All four departments are part of the University's Social Sciences Division. The UoA is united by a shared commitment to cutting-edge, impactful and innovative research that aims to understand the world's most pressing questions. While each department has its own distinct research foci and resources to support them, there are many shared interests across them. These shared interests are realised through research projects and collaborations involving members of different departments, and in overlapping memberships and participation in research seminars and networks. These are underpinned by interlocking administrative support at the departmental and divisional levels and guided by the strategies and structures of the Division's policies on research, planning and impact. The results are visible in joint funding bids and co-publications, and in the UoA's culture of interdisciplinary research and multi-stakeholder engagement (see 1.2 below).</p> <p>The UoA has grown in size and research reach since the last REF in 2014, submitting 121 individuals (114.8 FTE) in 2021 compared to 80 individuals (76.65 FTE) in 2014. This expansion has been underpinned by sustained successes in raising research funding from mainstream research councils as well as large private and charitable donations totalling over £31 million over the REF period. Our hard work in this regard has enabled the UoA to support all researchers at every career stage with significant resources and opportunities. For instance, over the REF period the UoA partly or fully funded 365 doctoral students with almost £7million in internal scholarship funds. Over 80 of our doctoral students have gone on to take up faculty or post-doctoral research positions (see 2.2 below).</p> <p>Our success in building a vibrant research culture has been internationally recognised. Politics and International Relations at Oxford was ranked first in the world in H-INDEX citations by QS in 2020. It is ranked first for research overall in the most recent THES global university rankings for Politics and International Studies, consolidating its position as one of the top four in the world which it has held in the QS rankings since 2017.</p> <p>1.1. UoA structure and context of research</p> <p>The UoA is distinguished by its commitment to addressing the most significant and salient questions and challenges in Politics and International Studies with the most appropriate methods and approaches. The UoA bridges four departments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Politics and International Relations (DPIR), • the Blavatnik School of Government (BSG), • the School of Global and Area Studies (OSGA), • the Oxford Internet Institute (OII). <p>Each of these departments hosts research centres and programmes that support specific in-depth research, interdisciplinarity, engagement and impact in a way that is agile and responsive to real-world challenges.</p> <p>As the largest unit within the UoA, DPIR is Oxford's home of teaching and research in politics and international relations. DPIR covers three main sub-fields of the discipline: Comparative Government, International Relations, and Political Theory. It also hosts the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism (RISJ), which extends our research to media and digital politics.</p>

BSG is dedicated through its research, teaching and engagement to improving the quality of government and public policy worldwide. It hosts several research programmes which further these objectives, such as the Alfred Landecker Programme in Values and Public Policy, the People in Government Lab, the Global Economic Governance programme, and Government Outcomes programme.

OSGA adds in-depth expertise in the study of different areas of the world, via its many centres of regional specialism. These include the Nissan Institute of Japanese Studies, Asian Studies Centre, Dickson Poon China Centre, Middle East Centre, Russian and East European Studies, Latin American Studies, and European Studies.

OII's main focus is the social science of the internet. It is home to the Oxford node of the Alan Turing Institute for Data Science and AI, as well as political research projects such as the Computational Propaganda Project.

Substantive research in politics and international studies across the UoA is strongly rooted in a commitment to **methodological rigour** as evidenced by the study of social science data in OII, BSG's Government Outcomes programme, and the Centre for Experimental Social Science (CESS) in Nuffield College. Moreover, DPIR's Oxford Spring School in Advanced Research Methods offers training to graduate students and faculty from universities across the United Kingdom in cutting edge methods in social science. We also take training in qualitative methods very seriously, as shown in the decision in the REF period to create a permanent position in the Qualitative Study of Comparative Political Institutions. Ezequiel Gonzalez-Ocantos who was appointed to the post has acted as the Director of Research Training for doctoral programmes in politics. He was also awarded the Philip Leverhulme Prize in 2017.

Oxford's UoA-19 submission includes 114.8 FTE and 121 individuals with outputs broken down by subject orientation as follows (see Figure 1).

Figure 1: Composition of outputs by subject area

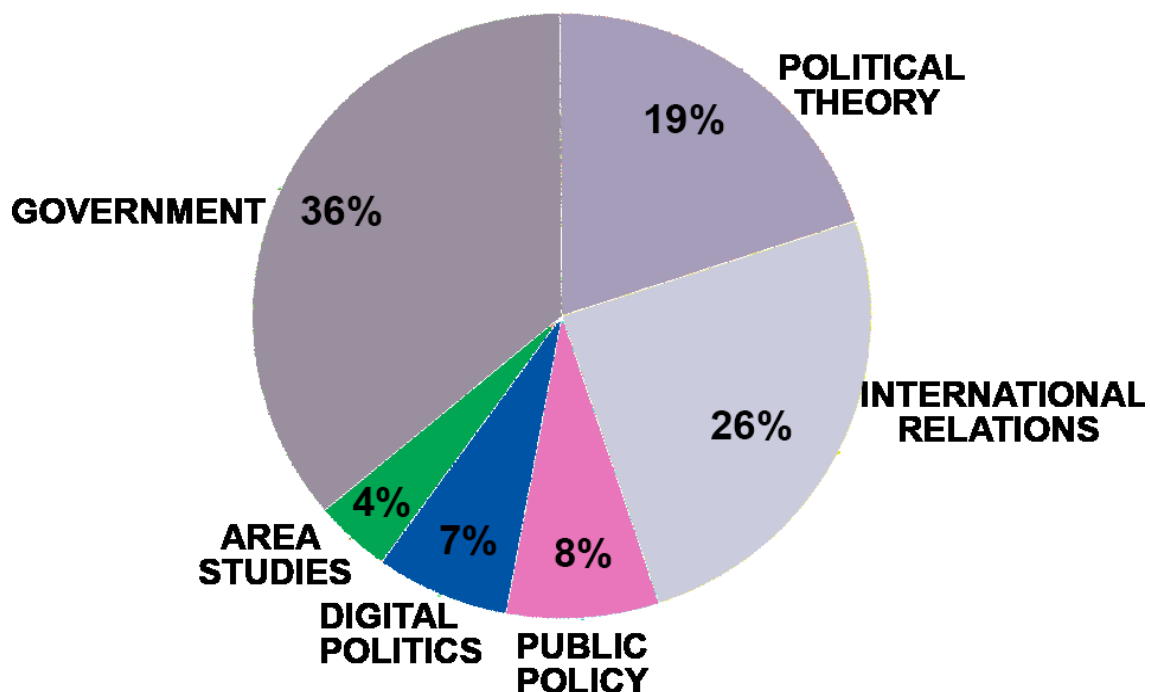
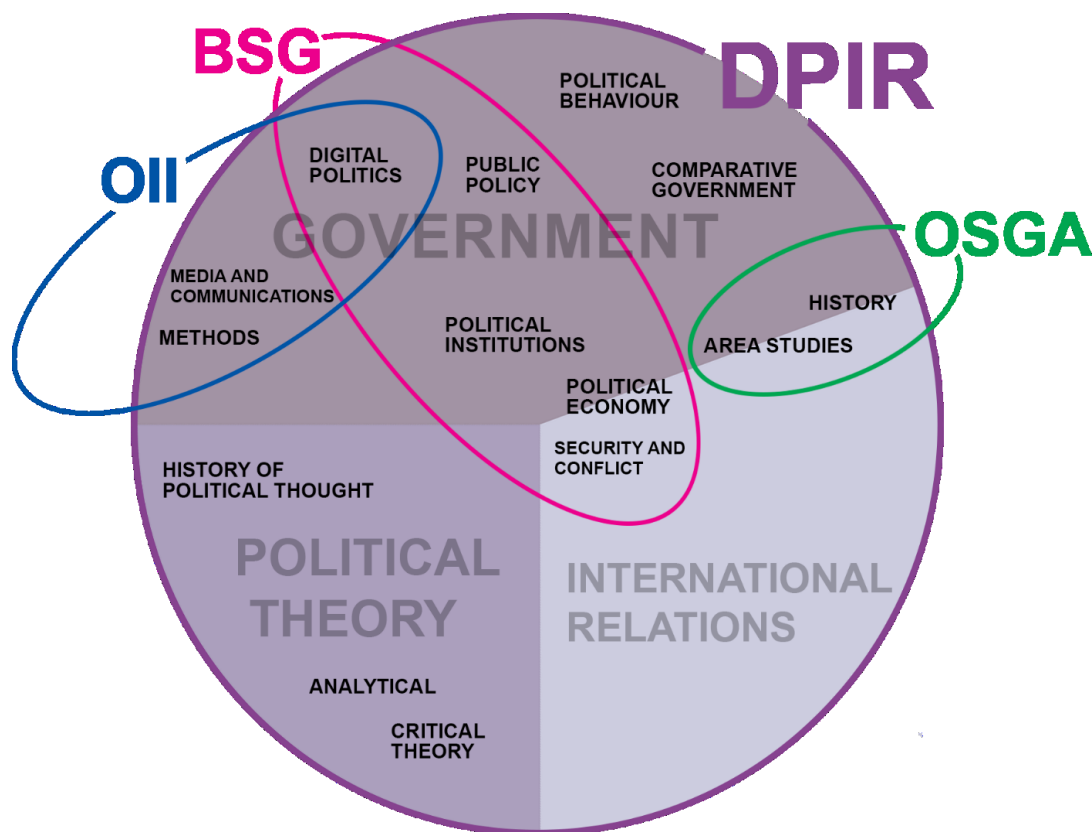


Figure 2: Cross-cutting themes across the departments



Cross-cutting specialisms: As Figure 2 above shows, the research supported by our four departments is characterized by a rich array of expertise and shared areas of interest. We have depth of expertise in **comparative government** (46 FTE) and **international relations** (29 FTE) in DPIR, BSG, OSGA and OII. The study of politics and international relations in DPIR, OSGA and BSG is closely connected to history and area studies and embraces **international security and conflict** through the Changing Character of War (CCW) centre. OII, BSG and DPIR (particularly through RISJ) have great strengths in the study of the **politics of the media** and **digital politics** (8 FTE). DPIR and BSG share a strong focus on **political institutions** and on **public policy** (9 FTE) which is at the core of the BSG mission, and on **political behaviour** as evidenced by our involvement, through Jane Green and Geoff Evans, in the British Election Study. We have considerable depth in **political theory**, which includes almost a fifth of our researchers (23 FTE).

All departments of our UoA are embedded in the university's **collegiate structure**. Colleges are a unique feature of the Oxford research landscape and a major contributor to the strengths of our UoA. All permanent faculty have college affiliations. Colleges also provide a major forum for interdisciplinary collaboration. They contribute to the research environment by employing their own research active staff and by supporting research centres in which **cross-departmental collaboration** takes place. Examples include the Changing Character of War Centre (CCW) at Pembroke College, the Centre for South East European Studies (SEESOX) at St Antony's College, and Nuffield Elections Unit (home of the Oxford-part of the British Election Study team) and CESS, both at Nuffield College.

DPIR hosts three **research networks** that reflect and support the vitality of its three main pillars of research. The Centre of International Studies, Oxford Political Theory Network, and Research Network in Government and Politics organise regular events, host visitors, integrate researchers at all career stages, and facilitate collaboration in their respective areas within the University.

The UoA organised a large number of **seminars, public lectures and conferences** in the REF period: more than 1000 seminars, public lectures and conferences took place in DPIR; OSGA held over 1300 events across their 6 regional studies centres; BSG held over 400 high-profile events attracting audiences from within and beyond the university, and a wide variety of events in OII – over 350, including 297 that were open to the public - were specifically intended to reach a broad academic and non-academic audience. Examples include the annual Fulbright Distinguished Lecture (e.g., David Miliband and Michael Ignatieff), and the annual Cyril Foster lecture (e.g., Federica Mogherini), and the annual Elliot lecture (e.g., Fiona Hill).

Our **international collaborations** support a vibrant research culture. Via the Oxford-Sciences Po Paris (OXPO) programme we support faculty and research student exchanges that have led to close collaborations via seminars and more than 50 publications in the REF period. The Oxford–Berlin Research Partnership is a strategic research partnership, formed in 2017, between Oxford and the four universities making up the Berlin University Alliance: Freie Universität Berlin, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Technische Universität Berlin and the Charité. It supports high quality joint research initiatives and collaborative funding applications across all disciplines – for example, it supports Annette Idler's (DPIR), Justice, Peace, and Politics in the Creation of a Lasting Peace in Colombia's Marginalised Regions project in which Sérgio Costa from Freie Universität Berlin is the collaborator.

1.2 Strategic aims for research and impact during the assessment period

The UoA's research aims are embedded in each department's research strategies that are agreed by Social Science Division and regularly reviewed by divisional quinquennial external reviews. Our chief strategic aims over the assessment period were to:

1. produce **world-leading research** with a plurality of foci that address **the most important and salient challenges nationally and globally**; and to support that research with
2. **increased research funding and diversifying our funding base** in order to support more and wider-ranging research;
3. further embed **interdisciplinarity and collaboration**;
4. **enhance public engagement, research-to-policy translation and impact**;
5. foster an **inclusive and participatory research culture**.

Through these strategies, we have addressed topics of major importance ranging from Brexit and anger in politics; no-platforming, the rise of populism and authoritarianism; climate change; the role of religion in liberal societies; slavery, colonialism and racial hierarchy; the regulation of big data; digital news; responses to COVID-19; and making democratic governments more efficient and representative.

Our hiring policy, with faculty appointments specialising in the politics of Western and Eastern Europe, the USA and Latin America, Africa, the Middle East and Asia, ensures that our researchers have exceptional international reach, geographical depth and area expertise, in addressing these challenges.

Research-to-policy translation, public engagement and knowledge exchange are embedded in each department's research strategy, supported by both departmental (9 FTE) and by Social Sciences Divisional administrative staff (11.9 FTE) specialising in these functions. Our diverse portfolio of REF2021 impact case studies reflects the contribution of our research across the international community, governments, NGOs, the private sector, and civil society. The list below illustrates the wide range of beneficiaries from these case studies:

- Australian government & communities
- Financial regulators & pensioners

- Colombian borderland communities, the Colombian government, the Colombian military, UN agencies in Colombia
- United Nations Systems Staff College & international UN practitioners
- Royal College of Defence Studies, the Higher Command and Staff Course, NATO Defence College
- Military professionals including US Special Operations Command Europe (SOCOM) & Afghan National Army Territorial Force (ANA-TF)
- Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport
- Home Office
- Ofcom
- Information Commissioner's Office
- International Consortium of Investigative Journalists
- Angolan communities
- UN Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect
- African Union Commission
- Albanian government, civil society & communities

The following sections summarize key actions and achievements relating to each of the strategic goals:

Strategic aim 1: To *produce world-leading research* reflecting the diversity and plurality of our substantive foci and addressing the most important and salient challenges nationally and globally.

Actions:

Since REF2014, we have **broadened and strengthened our research portfolio** by continuing to:

- appoint, develop, reward and retain outstanding researchers in areas of research that were identified as of emerging substantive importance and of need for the progression of our doctoral community;
- support our researchers at all career stages with the training required to develop their careers, with research allowances, research leave, and technical support (e.g. supercomputing infrastructure);
- foster a vibrant and inclusive research culture that generates the collaborations and interdisciplinarity needed to address the most challenging and important research questions;
- provide researchers with expert support to secure research funding through our research support teams.

Achievements:

The success of this strategy is illustrated by our growth as a UoA in strategically defined areas of research, in our many funded and collaborative research projects, our prize-winning publications, and success in publishing with the highest ranked journals and publishers and presses.

(i) The UoA **expanded its research reach** substantially in the REF period, particularly in public policy at the BSG (from 25 research active faculty in 2015 to 64 in 2020) and in digital politics (OII has almost doubled in faculty size since the last REF with 40 faculty).

(ii) The **range of large, funded and collaborative research projects** hosted by UoA 19 includes:

- DPIR – Elite Framing of Migration (BA), Fairness, Risk and the Welfare State (BA), Impacts of the Transformation of Post-War Education (ERC), EU Differentiation and Democracy (ERC), Consequences of UN Peacekeeping Withdrawal (ESRC), the Crime-

Terror Nexus (ESCR), Changing Character of Conflict (AHRC), Politics of Wealth Inequality (ERC), Changing Party Stances in Europe (BA).

- OII – Online Populist Challenges to Europe (Volkswagen Foundation), Governance of Emerging Technologies (EPSRC, BA), Computational Propaganda (ERC).
- BSG – Reducing State Fragilities (DFID, Rockefeller Foundation), Future of Climate Cooperation (Mission 2020, ClimateWorks Foundation), Trust, Distrust and the Legitimacy of Government (Leverhulme Foundation).
- RISJ – Communications in the Coronavirus Crisis, Digital News Project, Trust in the News Project.
- CESS – Measuring Public Opinion via Digital Footprints.
- CCW – Rebellion Defense Collaboration, NATO Intra-Alliance Diplomacy after 2014.

(ii) The **prize-winning quality of the monographs and articles** written by our researchers (see section 4 for highlights). Of the 36 monographs included in our submission, **over 80%** are published with leading university presses including CUP (8), OUP (14), Yale (1), Princeton (2), Harvard (3), and Cornell (1).

Strategic aim 2: To *increase our research income* by facilitating and encouraging high quality research funding applications to national and international funders, and to *diversify our funding base* to include the Research Councils, Charities, Foundations, Trusts, and the corporate sector.

Actions taken:

Our research support teams, comprising research facilitators and research administrators, work closely with colleagues in finance, communications, and research project administration, to:

- Promote diverse funding opportunities (e.g. weekly research funding newsletter).
- Provide bespoke 1:1 advice to applicants on developing and strengthening funding applications.
- Understand funder priorities to maximise award success rates (see section 3.1 below).
- Assist in costing funding applications.
- Co-ordinate joint applications with other institutions.
- Support the research ethics approval process.
- Collaborate with specialist research support teams across the University including the Policy Engagement Team, the Social Sciences Divisional Research, Impact & Engagement team and the Knowledge Exchange & Impact team, the Public Engagement with Research team, and the Strategic Research team.

Highlighted achievements:

- Since REF2014, we have significantly increased our research income, from £2.08 million at the outset of the REF period to £6.57 million in 2019-2020.
- Funding applications are more numerous and are increasingly large, multi-disciplinary, complex applications to diverse funders. In 2019-2020, DPIR's research team alone supported 91 research applications, 58 of which were to 26 external funders. 32 applications were for more than £50,000. 25 applications to date were successful and 40% of these were awards for over £50,000.
- We have had particular success in supporting Early Career Researchers to find funding to drive their careers. 27% of internal university seed-grant money went to ECRs, to a total of over £278K; 24% of successful external grants were won by ECRs, to a total of over £2.6 million.
- The UoA is continuing its drive to broaden its external funding sources. In 2019-2020 we engaged with over 26 different funders. Trusts & Foundations included: Leverhulme Trust, Hewlett Foundation, Nuffield Foundation, Onassis Foundation, Smith Richardson

Foundation, Issachar Fund, Newton-Caldas Fund, Templeton Religion Trust, Korea Foundation, European Investment Bank, Microsoft, Rockefeller Foundation, International Red Cross, UN Habitat, Volkswagen Stiftung, Nuffield Foundation, Wellcome Trust.

- The UoA has used internally held Trust Funds of almost £2.2 million p.a. to support research positions, research activities especially among doctoral students, and major public lectures.

Strategic aim 3: To encourage interdisciplinarity and a collaborative culture of engagement with international and national partners, other UoA's of the university, research centres and the broader academic community

Interdisciplinarity and collaboration are embedded in the strategy, structure and policies of the UoA. All four departments foster collaborative research through an extensive range of **research events** (seminars, conferences, workshops) and **visitor and exchange programmes**. **Three of the departments** that form part of this UoA – OSGA, BSG and OII - **are explicitly interdisciplinary in nature**, bringing together researchers in political science, international studies, media studies, medicine, computer science, economics, history etc. We have eight **joint appointments** (shared by two departments, some of whom are entered in the REF through other UoAs), which foster interdisciplinary approaches between political science and related disciplines. The majority of our **appointments are embedded in colleges**, which provide an additional arena for interdisciplinary and collaborative research. All of our **research centres, networks and programmes** are collaborative in nature and many focus on interdisciplinary research.

Actions taken:

- Hosting research events, conferences, workshops and external speaker series.
- Investing in extensive visitor programmes.
- Hosting exchange programmes (e.g. DPIR's exchange programme with Sciences Po and the Berlin-Oxford Initiative).
- Continued investment in joint appointments.
- Continued investment in research Centres, networks and programmes that take a collaborative interdisciplinary approach (see page 3 for examples).

Highlighted achievements:

- College support for interdisciplinary research includes the Area Studies Centres at St Antony's College which focus on the intersection between politics and international studies with history, cultural studies, economics, and languages. They include the Middle East Centre, Russia and Eurasian Studies Centre, Latin American Centre, European Studies Centre, African Studies Centre, Asian Studies Centre, and Nissan Institute of Japanese Studies. Our college-based interdisciplinary research centres also include the Changing Character of War (CCW) programme (Pembroke College) and CESS (Nuffield)
- The **Oxford Martin School (OMS)**, which exists to support interdisciplinary research on urgent global problems, funded three collaborative projects that involved politics and international studies with departments in other UoAs, including: with the Environmental Change Institute on transboundary cooperation on climate, water and energy; the Department of Economics on governance in African transitions; and OII on junk science, fake news, and public understanding of artificial intelligence and climate change
- Collaboration is supported by our extensive research events programme. Over the REF period **DPIR and OSGA, for instance, hosted over 1000 research events** each.
- Over the REF period DPIR made **four joint appointments** with OSGA and one with History.
- The DPIR visitor programmes brought **369 extended visitors to Oxford**, including Zsolt Enyedi, Leverhulme Trust Visiting Professor in 2020 who is working with us on European populism; BSG brought 190 academic visitors for the REF period. These visits have resulted in collaborations on substantive research outputs, such as:

- Svitlana Chernykh from the Australian National University whose visit in 2017 resulted in a co-authored book by Timothy Power, David Doyle and Svitlana Chernykh, *Measuring Legislative Power: An Expert Reweighting of the Fish-Kroenig Parliamentary Powers Index*.
- Stefano Costalli from Università degli Studi di Firenze whose visit in 2019 produced a co-authored book by Andrea Ruggeri and Stefano Costalli, *Indignation, Ideologies, and Armed Mobilization: Civil War in Italy, 1943-45*.
- Our extensive **research programmes, networks, and centres** support a wealth of collaborative and interdisciplinary research (please see section 1.4 for detail).

Strategic aim 4: To support *policy-relevant* interdisciplinary academic work and engage with a greater variety of external stakeholders across policymaking, the private sector, and civil society

Actions taken:

The UoA has sought to develop its engagement and impact through:

(i). Developing individual and collective understandings of impact among academics and project administrators.

- Building pathway-to-impact-plans into research bids
- Encouraging successful applications by new members of the UoA for Open Policy Engagement Network (OPEN) Fellowships funded by the UK Higher Education Innovation Fund (e.g. Sullivan de Estrada).
- The appointment of a knowledge exchange officer (2013-17), a research communications and impact manager (2017-19), and a research impact facilitator (2018-2020). In 2020, a permanent research facilitator, with expertise in impact support and policy engagement, was appointed to lead the research support team at DPIR.
- Promoting funding opportunities relating to impact including a weekly research funding newsletter.
- The provision of strategic advice on knowledge exchange, public engagement with research, pathways to impact, engagement activities (including policy engagement), communications, evaluation, recording and evidencing impact by dedicated research support teams across the University.

(ii). Profiling and recognising research impact.

- Holding impact workshops to widen departmental awareness of impact.
- Recognising impactful research through the creation of departmental and university impact awards.
- Holding research impact showcasing events to facilitate collaboration between different fields of research.
- Promoting impactful research in our communications and blogs.

(iii). Building links with policy stakeholders

- The construction of a policy hub to connect academic researchers with policymakers.
- Events, workshops, conferences and programmes bringing policymakers to Oxford.
- Visiting fellowships for policymakers and support for secondments of academics to policy positions.

Highlighted achievements:

- **OxPoD** - Oxford Policy Dialogue, established in 2016, is a hub which aims to source and share the best research (in Oxford and beyond) with policymakers, so as to insert academic research into each stage of the policy process. It has provided tailored 'state of the art' research briefings and methodological advice to policymakers and analysts in the Home Office and the FCO including one in 2018 specifically on impact which brought UoA

academics specializing in counter-terrorism and countering violent extremism together with FCO officials.

- **BSG** hosts a regular **Policy Research workshop**, a one-day event which deepens researchers' understanding of how evidence is used in policymaking; enhances their ability to deliver impact through research; and widens their network of policymakers to influence.
- **RISJ's** world leading [Journalist Fellowship Programme](#) allows practising, mid-career journalists to come to Oxford to explore journalism in depth with our academics.
- [BSG policy fellowships](#) bring political leaders to Oxford over several months to engage with faculty, the wider Oxford community, and our students.
- **St Antony's College's** [Visiting Parliamentary Fellowships](#) bring sitting MPs to Oxford to organise policy and research relevant seminars.
- **OII's** [Internet Leadership Academy](#), a short course supported by Google and Microsoft, brings up-and-coming policy and thought leaders from around the world to engage with OII's researchers. OII also has a [Visiting Policy Fellowship](#) programme which provides opportunities for in-depth engagement between OII researchers and senior leaders in government, industry and civil society organisations.
- Funding from **Pembroke College and DPIR** has enabled the Fulbright Annual Distinguished Lecture which has attracted Nobel Prize winners (Joseph Stiglitz 2014) and leading politicians (David Miliband 2019), diplomats (Ambassador Jack Matlock 2015), and academics (Louise Richardson, 2016, Michael Ignatieff, 2017, Lord Stern 2018) to speak on major issues in global politics.

Strategic aim 5: *Grow and nurture our vibrant community of postdoctoral researchers, and to recruit, train and place world class research students*

Actions taken:

Postdoctoral researchers and doctoral students are vital to the research conducted by the UoA. Actions taken to recruit and develop graduate and postdoctoral researchers include:

- Supporting ECRs with the same high-quality research support that is offered to more advanced researchers.
- Recruiting post-doctoral researchers and research students from around the world. Training our doctoral students and post-doctoral researchers, who benefit from departmental methods training, the ESRC Doctoral Training Centre, and DPIR's Spring School in Advanced Research Methods, as well as the opportunities to conduct experiments provided by CESS and the £10,000 DPIR-funded YouGov scheme, which subsidizes survey-experimental research by our research students.
- Creating the role of Director of Research Training and Professional Development, dedicated to ensuring that research students and ECRs receive targeted training, mentoring, support in professional development and placement support.
- Providing world-class libraries, data and IT resources.
- Growing our research student funding (scholarships, bursaries, travel funding, writing-up allowances) and funding for post-doctoral fellowships.
- Providing numerous opportunities to present work in graduate and post-doctoral workshops.
- DPIR has set up an Early Career Network with termly meetings for fixed-term ECRs to strengthen mentoring, training opportunities, and network building.

Highlighted achievements:

- In line with our strategic aims, we have **increased our doctoral funding support by more than 46%** over the REF period, to a total financial support to our doctoral students from internal funds of almost **£7 million**.

- We have attracted **large numbers of research student applicants – 3,393 in the REF period** – with 379 enrolments in our doctoral programmes.
- Our four departments have entered **35 Early Career Researchers in REF2021**, who represent 30% of our total FTE. ECRs come from a large number of European countries, Asia, South America and the United States.
- Publication of the DPIR-funded peer-reviewed *St Antony's International Review*, which was created and is edited by our graduate students as a cross-disciplinary outlet for research on the most pressing contemporary global issues and which provides a forum for emerging scholars to publish their work alongside established academics and policymakers.
- DPIR's British Academy post-doctoral Fellow Martijn Van der Brink has joined the Divisional Forum of Fixed Term Researchers to represent the interests of fixed term researchers, to address the issues they face, and to ensure that their voices are heard in the groups set up by the University for the development and implementation of a research strategy.

1.3. Future research objectives and plans for vitality and sustainability of impact

Over the next five years we will seek to sustain our main research goals in a number of ways.

We will continue to sustain individual research excellence by:

- enhancing research support for staff seeking external research funding and further broadening our research income streams.
- supporting all academic staff at each career stage to continue with research methods training; supporting secondments to public interest think tanks; government and international organisations.
- raising annual research allowances to enable researchers to attend conferences and undertake fieldwork trips.
- Supporting researchers in accessing internal university funding for both large and small research projects.
- attracting national and international donor funding for new posts and graduate scholarships from diverse sources.

We will facilitate the progression of early career researchers by:

- continuing to support and host large numbers of post-doctoral fellows.
- further developing advanced research methods training via the DPIR and the Oxford Spring School.
- supporting applications for external and internal funding, such as applications to the John Fell OUP Research Fund, which is an important source of seed funding for ECRs.
- maintaining a strong track-record for the placement of ECRs in academic posts.

We will build upon our commitment to maximising research impact by:

- Strategically collaborating across the four departments, and other Oxford departments and college centres in our field.
- Exploring with Oxford University Innovation how to better support consulting opportunities for our researchers.
- Providing training for researchers, research students, and research project administrators to develop knowledge of engagement and impact.
- Creating an annual event to showcase research impact with involvement of high-profile external beneficiaries, to coincide with the award ceremony for DPIR's research impact awards.
- Ensuring that impact is embedded into the design and content for DPIR's new website, using the strong examples from OII and BSG as models.

1.4. Support for interdisciplinary research

We support interdisciplinarity in our organisational structure (three of our departments are explicitly interdisciplinary) and interdisciplinary research institutes by integrating strategies at the Divisional level; in our recruitment strategy, particularly in our joint appointments; and in our infrastructure of libraries, and shared IT facilities in the Manor Road Social Sciences building. We actively promote interdisciplinary applications through proof-of-concept pilot studies (via the University's John Fell Fund) and the strategically-directed interdisciplinary project funding supported by the Oxford Martin School; in research presentations and feedback from our research clusters; and in our search for external research funding in research projects that involve colleagues from different departments.

As noted above, the UoA consists of researchers based in multiple departments and many of our academics are jointly appointed, including with colleges with particular strengths in collaboration across politics, public policy, political communication, media, history and area studies. Two colleges are particularly notable for their concentration of politics and international studies researchers in a multi-disciplinary environment. Nuffield College is a graduate college of the University of Oxford dedicated to advanced study and research in the social sciences, particularly economics, politics, and sociology. 14 permanent politics faculty are employed there and the college supports a further 13 post-doctoral researchers. St Antony's College is a centre for research and teaching in global and regional issues and provides an interdisciplinary environment to study a range of subjects from development to international relations, with a multitude of regionally focussed research centres. 9 permanent politics faculty are employed there.

Our faculty lead seminars and research programmes that bring together many sub-disciplines of Politics and International Studies. For example:

- The research project on Politics of Wealth Inequality and Mobility in the Twenty-First Century has created a policy database on how governments have tried to manage wealth, bringing insights from economics and politics together to examine how European citizens think about the distribution of wealth in their countries.
- The Ethics in AI programme focuses on the ethical challenges posed by AI to fields ranging from medicine to technology and government.
- The Alfred Landecker Programme in Values and Public Policy draws on cutting-edge research across disciplines to understand how the rights and interests of vulnerable people and groups are under threat through the overreach of authority, and to recommend and advocate policies that benefit the integrity of democratic institutions.
- The Changing Character of War (CCW) platform challenges unidimensional understandings of conflict that derive from adopting single disciplinary and epistemological approaches. It draws on work in political science, international relations, military history and social psychology to explore the dynamism and non-linear nature of change in armed conflict.
- RISJ conducts social science research on changes in journalism, news, and media, and the social and political implications of these changes, bringing together expertise in media studies, political science, sociology, economics and other disciplines.
- CESS includes researchers from political science, sociology, social psychology, and economics using a highly interdisciplinary mix of methods, including laboratory, lab-in-the-field, online, and field experiments. Current research by members of CESS covers topics across the social sciences, including cheating and tax compliance across cultures, the dynamics underlying socially harmful traditions like female genital cutting, and the link between religion and social insurance in small-scale societies, as well as general research on experimental methodology.

The UoA's interdisciplinary structure encourages close collaboration on research across its component units including funded projects involving members of multiple departments, including:

- Kate Sullivan de Estrada (DPIR and OSGA), Maritime Security Strategies in the Indian Ocean: Learning from the Indian Ocean Commission, OPEN Fellowship/Knowledge Exchange Fund.

- Phil Howard (OII) and Rasmus Nielsen (RISJ), Trusted Innovation: junk science, fake news, and public understanding of artificial intelligence and climate change, OMS funded.
- Ricardo Soares de Oliveira (DPIR) and Stefan Dercon (BSG and Economics) Governing the African Transitions, OMS funded.
- Marina Borges Martins da Silva, Nuffield College, Vote Buying, Political Recruitment, and Representation: The effects of vote buying on minority-groups representation, British Academy funded.

1.5. Our commitment to an open research environment and research integrity

The UoA is committed to the University's Open Scholarship policy. All outputs submitted in REF2021 are available through the Oxford Research Archive. Our research officers monitor the University's Act on Acceptance reports, and we encourage staff to make data and other research material available through Researchfish and other platforms. We seek to make our research data available to the social science community as a whole for the public good. As one of the institutions involved in the British Elections Study (BES), we support the sharing of its recent and historical data.

We expect high standards of research integrity, and require staff to adhere to ethical, legal and professional frameworks. Since REF2014, the university has become a signatory of the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA), as part of a movement towards the responsible use of research metrics. Every piece of research involving human participants and personal data is subject to review by the Central University Research Ethics Committee (CUREC), and since 2020 DPIR has its own Departmental Research Ethics Committee (DREC), created to address the specific ethical issues arising in politics and international studies, such as how to conduct research in authoritarian states, how to conduct experiments, and how to use and cite digital sources.

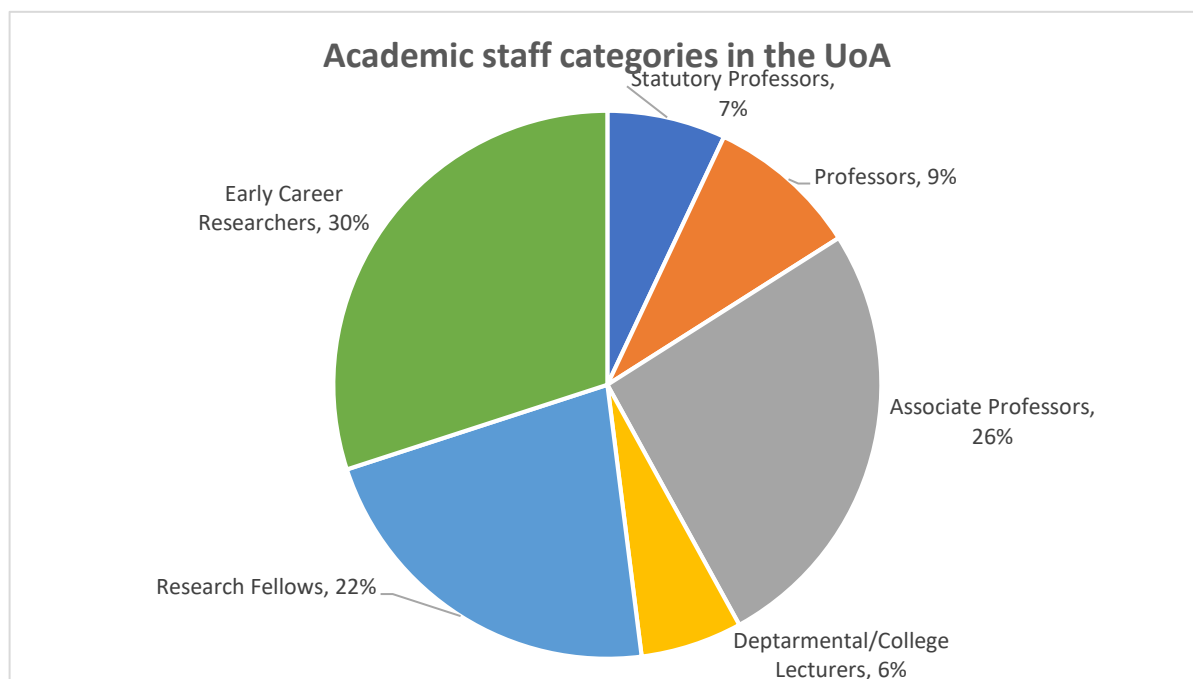
2. People

Our strategic goal to achieve individual and collaborative research excellence is an essential component of staff recruitment, retention and career development. We seek to deliver on this goal by attracting, recruiting and retaining the highest calibre staff; by attracting and supporting the strongest research students and helping them build successful academic and other careers; by achieving a diverse staff profile; and supporting staff in their personal and professional development.

2.1. Our staffing strategy and commitment to staff development

Recruitment and hiring follows from the strategic goals of the UoA outlined above. We aim to ensure that our faculty can produce high quality publications and can contribute to the creation of a collaborative and pluralistic research environment. In addition, following our regular strategic reviews, we have shaped our recruitment to enable us to meet the interests and methodological needs of our research students by focusing on growing substantive areas of research, particularly in political economy and public policy, and by hiring faculty with specialisms in qualitative research methods, experimental methods, and the analysis of big data.

The four departments of the UoA currently employ 244 academic staff (of whom 18 are Statutory Professors, 21 are Professors, 63 are Associate Professors, 53 are Research Fellows, 15 are Departmental/College Lecturers and 74 are Early Career Researchers (included permanent and fixed-term contracts). Many of the faculty in our four Departments are returned to other UoAs, including Business and Management Studies, History, Economics, Social Policy, Law, Education, Area Studies, Development Studies, Philosophy, and Public Health, which provides another important basis for interdisciplinary collaboration and insight.

Figure 3: Academic staff categories in the UoA (October 2020)

Of all the posts listed above, 43% are held by women.

Appointments to the UoA are based on teaching and research excellence with an explicit focus on quality of publications, research impact, the expected contribution to departmental citizenship, and social and intellectual diversity. In the first instance, all newly appointed tenure-track faculty (excluding Statutory Professors) are appointed for a five-year probationary period. This period may be shortened in cases of outstanding performance. During this period, staff:

- are assigned a research mentor with whom they can discuss current and planned research.
- are exempted from major administrative and examining roles.
- receive both an interim and formal review of their research achievements.

Research excellence is central to career progression and promotion, which occurs first through reappointment to retirement age and then through the promotion to Full Professor. Staff can achieve promotion through the University's Recognition of Distinction exercise, in which external assessments are used to award the title of Professor. Evidence of our success in this goal can be seen in the fact that of UoA staff appointed as Associate Professors in the REF period, 21% had achieved the title of Full Professor by spring 2020.

We support the career progression of our faculty through a variety of well-embedded mechanisms.

Appraisal: We conduct annual non-compulsory and quadrennial compulsory appraisal meetings, in which all UoA academic staff members meet with the Head of their Department to discuss their experience of teaching, administration and research, with the aim of exploring opportunities for future development, setting goals, discussing areas of concern and identifying ways of providing support.

Mentoring: All ECRs and academic members of staff in their probationary period are assigned a mentor to support their research, teaching and professional development. In case of desire or need, informal mentoring is also arranged for senior members of staff.

Balancing burdens: Consideration of the additional burdens faced by new members of staff is reflected in reduced administrative and examining burdens, and enhanced research funding. For established staff holding onerous administrative duties, additional research leave is provided as compensation, along with research assistance and reduction in teaching commitments. Examining duties are treated separately, by monitoring examining commitments among all members of staff to ensure equality of contribution. Finally, we seek to balance burdens among members of staff with joint appointments by regular monitoring of their activities.

Research support: The university provides generous sabbatical entitlement with faculty eligible for one term's research leave after six terms of service (or one full year after six years). Staff are supported with a buy-out from teaching when leading major research projects, or with leave-of-absence as recipients of residential fellowships outside Oxford. Each Department provides generous *research allowances* for all staff, including post-doctoral researchers. For example, each established member of DPIR receives an annual research allowance of £3,000, which is often supplemented by college research allowance. Each ECR receives an annual allowance of £1,500. These funds may be used to support data collection, attendance at conferences, equipment, and travel and research assistance.

Additional research assistance is provided to those holding significant administrative offices and to others on application depending on need. For example, all faculty undertaking administrative responsibilities are given up to 60 hours of research and administrative assistance by graduate students, who are of course paid for their work. To compensate those who undertake administrative work that is highly demanding, such as Head of Department, additional academic leave is given in compensation. The Departments hold separate funds in *support of conferences/workshops* which are open to bids from all staff members. *Seminar funding* is also available for events that are open to all members. Both these additional support costs are available to academic staff and students (with the endorsement of a permanent academic staff member) in the department. Departments also seek to support all staff in the dissemination of their research and in achieving impact, through the research support teams.

Training and other support: Across the UoA, we support the on-going upgrading of staff's methodological skills by making available all methods courses and, in particular, those in quantitative methods, via the Oxford Spring School in Advanced Research Methods run by the DPIR every year. We also encourage staff to select courses to support their specific career development needs from the broad range of training options offered by the University's unit for People and Organisational Development. For instance, for first-time PIs, training is available on project management (grants), as are courses for senior staff taking on administrative leadership roles. The communications teams of each department also provide assistance with media engagement as does the University's media office.

The UoA strongly supports our Early Career Researchers, including in response to the many new challenges that they face as a result of the impact of COVID-19 on their research and career trajectories. We follow the University's Code of Practice for the Employment and Career Development of Research Staff.

2.2. Integrating doctoral students into the UoA's research environment

Our aim is to recruit the highest quality students from around the world, who demonstrate excellence in their academic records, clarity and significance in their proposed research, methodological rigour from a plurality of perspectives in their approaches, and a strong connection to the expertise and diverse interests of our faculty. We aim to provide our students with the training, supervision, research support, infrastructure and pastoral and career advice that will enable them to achieve superlative careers on completion.

DPIR offers two 3-year doctorates (DPhils): one in Politics – with distinct research streams in Political Theory and in Government – and one in International Relations. BSG offers a doctoral

programme in Public Policy. OII has two doctoral programmes: in Social Data Science and in Information, Communication and the Social Sciences. The spread of applications and enrolments across each of these pathways is presented in the table and two figures below.

Applications for each doctoral programme are robust. The size of each doctoral programme is capped by the University and has therefore remained fairly constant over time, other than in strategic investment in those in Digital Politics which has grown steadily from 5 on course in 2014 to 17 in 2020. Our growing numbers of applicants have led to increasing competitiveness of the application pool. Approximately 29% of on-course students are from the UK, 26% from the EU and 45% from non-EU overseas countries. Of those current students from outside the UK, there are significant cohorts from the United States (35 students) and from Germany (21 students).

Table 1. Graduate applications and enrolments in the REF period

Totals for DPIR, BSG & OII	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	totals
Applications	609	602	544	428	424	389	397	3393
Enrolments	60	51	53	57	54	46	58	379
<i>Government</i>	18	12	19	16	22	19	23	129
<i>IR</i>	14	15	15	15	16	13	19	107
<i>Theory</i>	10	4	6	11	4	6	8	49
<i>Public Policy</i>	1	6	4	4	3	2	3	23
<i>Digital Politics</i>	17	14	9	11	9	6	5	71

Figure 4. Applications by sub-field

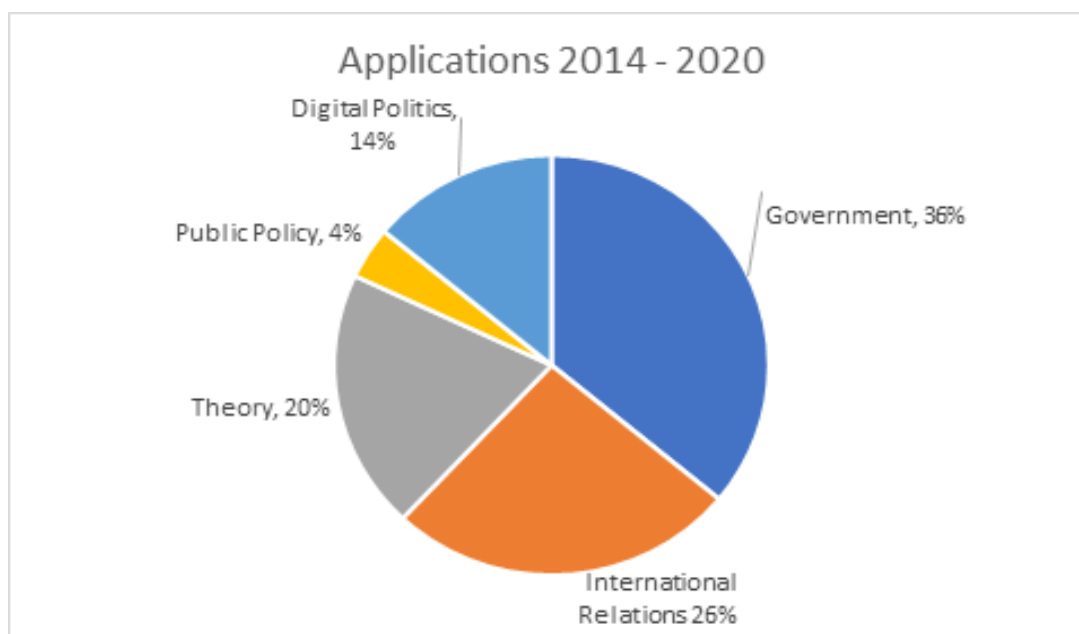
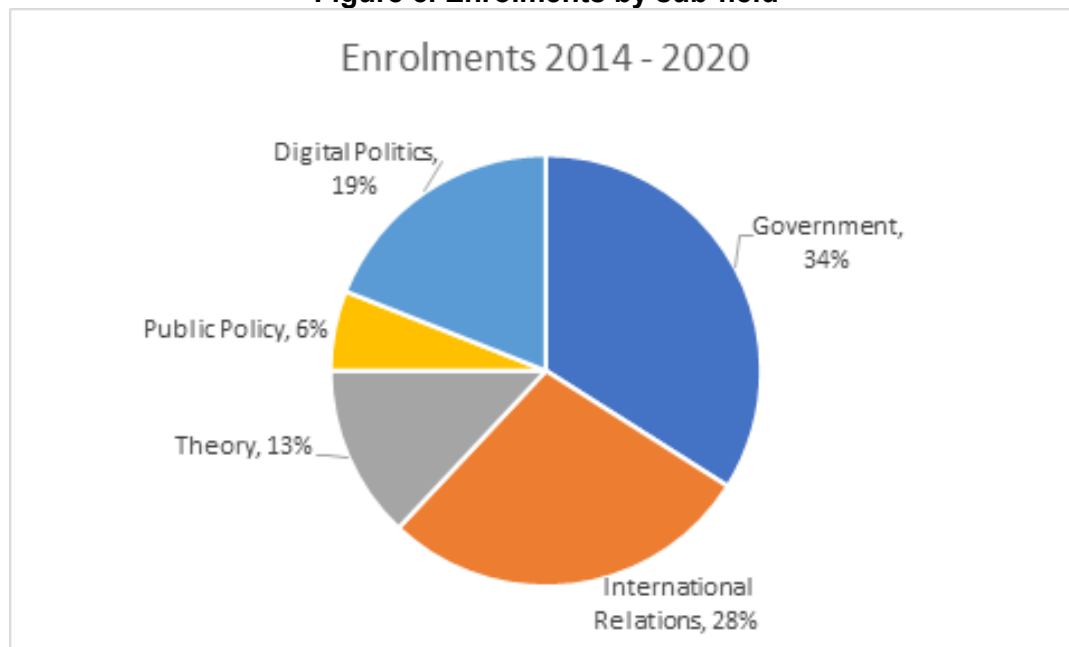


Figure 5. Enrolments by sub-field

Candidates are normally admitted as Probationer Research Students (PRS) and gain DPhil status if they successfully complete Transfer of Status (normally by the end of term 4). On students' arrival, we provide induction weeks, and devise a programme of training in consultation with supervisors. This may involve:

- research methodology seminars (both qualitative and quantitative)
- research ethics training
- language tuition
- training modules offered by the Social Sciences Division in topics such as research integrity, additional research methods, writing and communication

A second progression milestone, Confirmation of Status, must be completed by term 9. Each doctoral student has a departmental assessor in order to ensure more timely completion of milestone assessments. These assessors can also serve as second supervisors for RCUK-funded students.

The structure of doctoral research achieves a balance between rigorous assessment and expert input, and timely completion of the students' dissertations. Of a total of 379 DPhil students who were enrolled across the UoA in the REF period, only 4% (14) students have withdrawn from their programme of study and 3 have transferred to other programmes at Oxford. Over the period 2003-2020, the UoA has a 94% completion rate, and a completion rate in the current REF period of 79%. Over the last 5 rounds, over 83% of our research students report themselves satisfied or very satisfied (Student Barometer, 2014-19).

We also invest in the training of doctoral supervisors. The Oxford People and Organisational Development unit trains academics in doctoral supervision, and other relevant topics, including implicit bias, admissions, and preventing harassment. Termly reports on each doctoral student are scrutinised by the Directors of Graduate Studies in each department and by college mentors in

order to provide feedback to students and faculty on progress and problems in a timely and effective way.

As doctoral students are an important part of the research environment in each department, we seek to maximize their contribution through:

- opportunities to present their research at centre and departmental research seminars
- funding for conferences and other dissemination events
- representation of graduate students on departmental and divisional graduate studies committees

Doctoral students are well supported by a variety of funding sources. 91% of students (365) received almost £7 million in internal funds as scholarships over the REF period. An additional £198,000 in hardship awards was also given to a further 41 students.

Table 2. Internal scholarships in the REF period (£)

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	totals
Amount	918,939**	1,407,766	1,132,599	1,184,329	856,789	771,341	626,160	6,897,923

** The decline in 2020 is due to the impact of COVID-19 on doctoral enrolment.

Additionally, many students were in receipt of external scholarships, including:

- ESRC Doctoral Training Partnership awards (7 per year)
- Clarendon Scholarships (2 per year)
- AHRC Doctoral Training Partnership awards (2 per year)

Doctoral students are provided with teaching training and opportunities:

- The Preparation for Learning and Teaching at Oxford course is open to all graduate students.
- Graduate students are also advised to take advantage of the Centre for Teaching and Learning course on Developing Teaching and Learning and the postgraduate Certificate in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education.
- DPIR offers a Graduate Teaching Scheme that offers substantial teaching opportunities to doctoral students in the department. In this scheme, supervisors work closely with their doctoral students to teach “from the ground up,” devising their own syllabi from which they deliver up to four hours of lectures within existing undergraduate course modules.
- OII puts on an annual summer doctoral programme that brings together outstanding doctoral students from around the world.

Oxford Politics and International Relations dissertations are recognised internationally for their excellence. Over the REF period DPIR DPhils were awarded a combined 3 American Political Science Associations awards, 9 Political Studies Association awards and 4 International Studies Association awards, amongst other prizes (see section 4 for highlights).

Our doctoral students completing their degrees in the REF period have an outstanding record of further achievement. DPIR supports their academic career progression by organising a Politics Research in Progress Workshop for DPhil Politics job market candidates to present their work. Of the 297 doctoral students (no research-based professional doctorates) who graduated during the REF period:

- 29 have obtained tenure-track positions across 13 countries, including at the Universities of St Andrews, Toronto, Geneva, Amsterdam, Belfast, UCL, Leiden, LSE, Hong Kong, SOAS, Western Australia

- 39 have secured post-doctoral research positions across 12 countries, including at the Universities of Frankfurt, Nottingham, Zurich, Princeton, Harvard, Stanford, Berlin, EUI, UCD, Sciences Po, Yale

Furthermore, many of our former doctoral students (a further 80 in the REF period) have gone on to deploy their expertise across 19 countries in fields outside academia. This includes work for foreign ministries (UK and elsewhere), advisors to government ministers, founding or working in commercial and risk consultancy companies, positions in human rights and international law organisations, NGOs and charities, working in media organisations, and as independent scholars and writers.

Responding to COVID-19, the UoA has responded swiftly to the major disruption that the pandemic is causing to the research trajectories of many of our doctoral students, including delays in gaining access to libraries and archives, conducting interviews and fieldwork, in addition to significant financial pressures. We responded by providing broad academic support to the students in adjusting their research to COVID-19 restrictions, additional workshops on updating research plans and, where necessary, in redesigning their research. We have supported extensions to their stages of research progression and expanded our teaching assistantship scheme to provide additional career development opportunities. We also supported applications to the GCRF QR fund by eligible students.

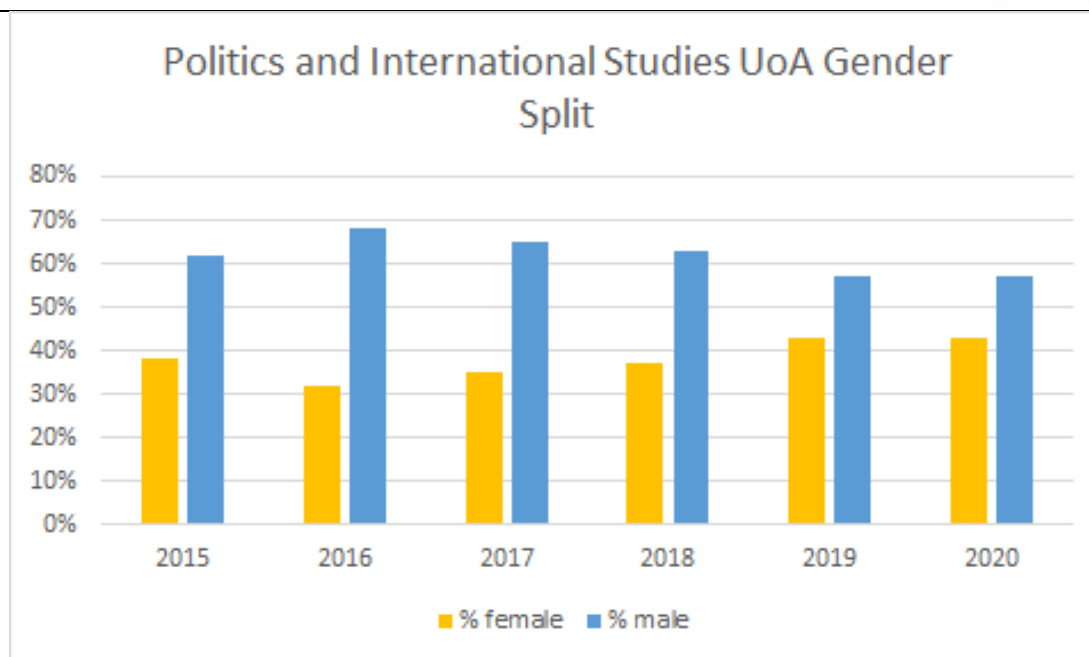
2.3. Equality, diversity and inclusion

The UoA follows the University's policy and codes of practice regarding equality, diversity and inclusion. The University's suite of professional development and training courses available to all members of staff include, for instance, modules on implicit bias, race awareness and inclusive teaching. All four departments have taken initiatives to attract strong and diverse candidates to apply for their posts by reaching out to underrepresented groups, updating their advertising practices and highlighting attractive HR policies such as flexible working. All recruitment panel members are expected to complete recruitment and selection and implicit bias training, and panels are balanced to ensure diverse representation. Each department has either been awarded or has embarked upon Athena Swan accreditation. The UoA operates under the University's [Policy and Procedure on Harassment](#) and each department has at least one fully trained dedicated Harassment Officer.

All staff are supported with departmental mentoring schemes which are ongoing for new and existing staff; strong HR teams supporting and being available for staff throughout their career; and specific policies such as the Returning Carers Fund, which awards grants up to £5,000. Targeted professional leadership support and training is also offered to women in the form of the University's Oxford Senior Women's Mentoring Network (OxSWMN), a mentoring scheme intended to encourage senior women to explore their leadership potential within academic life.

The UoA as well as the University as a whole have also been highly engaged in supporting all faculty and students – as well as all staff in general – to deal with the effects of the pandemic, and in particular the effects of COVID-19 on their research, by supporting applications for funding extensions; extending deadlines for submission of doctoral research materials; hardship funding; and seminars and mentoring about how to adapt research plans that were dependent on access to materials and resources that COVID-19 made unavailable.

There has been an increase of 11% in the number of female academics across Politics and International Studies since 2016, including Early Career Researchers (many of whom are women) on funded research projects who are not yet REF eligible, up to the current level of 43% of the total.



2.3.1. Equality and diversity in constructing this REF submission

The unit convened a REF Working Group in 2016, with activities conforming to the University's REF Code of Practice. The Group comprised 18 members, including 13 senior research faculty and 3 senior administrators, of which 6 were women. It was supported by a dedicated REF Research Administrator and by relevant administrators for Finance, Graduate Studies, and the Head of Administration. Following Divisional practice, the Head of Department was the unit's REF Coordinator and another group member was the unit's REF Co-ordinator. Members of the Group ran regular information sessions at department meetings open to all staff to discuss the REF process, and the REF Coordinator and Head of Department have communicated regularly with all researchers throughout the preparation process. The Head of Department and REF Coordinator undertook equality and diversity training organised by the University Central REF team.

The selection of outputs followed a rigorous process to ensure parity of treatment across all researchers. Starting in autumn 2018, all Category A staff were asked to nominate up to 5 outputs they felt were their most REF-suitable work. Each nominated output was then reviewed twice and blind by faculty in relation to the REF criteria for output excellence. Three external assessors were then engaged in their area of expertise to review divergent internal scores and to validate the overall quality assessment. From the pool of assessed outputs, based on the review grades, those finally returned were selected to meet the minimum criteria of one per Category A staff and overall output excellence for the UoA. This confidential process was co-ordinated by the REF Lead, REF Coordinator and the REF Research Administrator.

Our data on submissions profiles by gender indicates that while men were more likely on average to be submitted with more than 1 publication, female staff were significantly more likely to be submitted with 5 publications (17% of women) than men (9%), were as likely to be submitted with 3 publications (20% and 19%), and that no women, as compared to 3 men, were returned with 0 outputs.

Tables 2 and 3 below provide a breakdown by gender and ECR status of the UoA's output profile.

Table 2: Output profile for all FTE's

No of outputs	Female	Male	Total No of researchers
0	0	3	3
1	17	25	42
2	7	20	27
3	8	14	22
4	1	12	13
5	7	7	14
Total No of researchers (inc. ECRs)	40	81	121

Table 3: Output profile for ECR's

No of outputs	Female	Male	No of ECRs
0	0	0	0
1	11	13	24
2	3	7	10
3	0	2	2
4	0	0	0
5	0	0	0
Total No of ECRs	14	22	36

3. Income, infrastructure and facilities

3.1. Research funding and strategies for generating research income

Research funding portfolio

Table 4: Research funding in the REF period (£)

Source	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/28	2018/19	2019/20
Research Councils	661,643	671,589	572,146	727,180	799,520	463,081	557,899
UK Charity (QR)	389,907	536,482	753,183	521,086	607,948	546,970	627,042
UK Charity (no QR)	34,386	281,752	186,569	25,000	133.56	142,331	198,653
UK Public Sector	30,483	30,527	47,850	415,309	577,960	1,025,314	1,583,572
RDEC		390,094	-960.49	32,961	5,821		
UK Industry (QR)	134,483	187,336	66,730	31,539	58,981	165,567	283,380
Other Sources	16,232	18,855	41.26	£25,000	500,000	500,000	166,792
EU Government	298,149	346,264	309,300	416,140	404,090	752,114	1,142,787
EU Charity (QR)	24,547	43,305	3,190	£992			30,382
EU Industry (QR)	62,323	24,281	866,079	1,608,411	1,697,618	1,676,130	1,443,729
EU Other	51,875	96,425	73,836	42,104	61,036	80,448	79,427
Non-EU Charity (QR)	306,052	379,500	244,811	50,818	124,850	462,738	118,801
Non-EU Industry (QR)	28,788	56,505	5,051	7,435	289,121	497,595	104,941
Non-EU Other	38,398	82,771	167,946	124,831	222,028	259,288	232,310
Health Research				12,781	991	834	
	2,077,271	3,145,692	3,295,777	4,041,591	5,350,103	6,572,414	6,569,720

Strategy for increasing and diversifying research income

Research income over the current review period has increased three-fold, with gains achieved across a very wide range of funding sources, including research councils, UK, EU and non-EU charities, the UK public sector, and UK and EU industry, in line with our funding diversification strategy. This was achieved through stronger support for grant applications by our departmental research support teams, including the organisation of peer review by experienced scholars through our research networks, workshopping of large applications, and the use of mock interviews for shortlisted applicants. For example, political theory funding applications are reviewed through the Political Theory Network and Centre for the Study of Social Justice. Workshops and mock interview panels benefit from participation by experienced colleagues within each department, assisted by successful applicants from other related departments and divisional research support staff.

The research support teams play a central role in advertising funding schemes, advising academics about the most appropriate funding sources for their projects, costing grant applications, assisting academics in research activity and impact-planning for research grants, processing grant applications, reviewing approaches by corporate donors and giving post-award support.

Infrastructure and facilities

The UoA is committed to maintaining a work environment that supports the research activity of its members through the following provisions:

- Well maintained office space for ECRs and work station facilities for research students and visitors at its premises in the Social Sciences Building, BSG Building and the OII building.
- The provision of the Social Sciences Building which has a lecture theatre and seven seminar rooms, with improved A/V and lecture capture capabilities, available for research training, meetings and conferences.
- The provision of the innovatively designed BSG building which, through its award-winning design, represents the values of openness, collaboration and transparency that are key to the School's overall mission of improving public policy.
- Enlarged research spaces and upgraded communal areas to encourage greater interaction between faculty, staff and students in all three buildings.
- Access for its staff, students and visitors to the University's world-class library facilities including electronic holdings

During the pandemic, we have worked with the University to ensure that all our buildings and infrastructure have been made safe and compliant with government regulations, to provide resources to access materials online, and to provide support for students and faculty who are unable to work at home.

Investment in new areas of research and innovation

Decisions on the allocation of resources and on hiring are coordinated across the UoA by the Social Sciences Division, to which an academic as well as a business case for appointments need to be made. The Division has supported the expansion of research in public policy at BSG and digital politics at OII and in RISJ, as well as joint appointments between DPIR and OSGA in area studies. It has also supported our goals in developing strategic concentrations of expertise in political economy, political behaviour, international relations, political theory, research methods and area expertise. Since the last REF we have made nearly 100 appointments of academic staff (including replacements and new posts), covering a wide range of permanent and fixed-term roles. BSG has seen considerable growth since its foundation, increasing from 25 researchers in 2015 (including 8 post-doctoral researchers) to 64 in 2020 (including 12 post-doctoral researchers and 24 research staff). OII has almost doubled in faculty size since the last REF with 40 faculty (including 11 post-doctoral researchers and 17 research staff).

3.2. Addressing equality and diversity issues in research funding

All departments in the UoA closely follow university-wide policies on equality, diversity and inclusion as they pertain to funding. These policies are detailed in the institutional-level environment statement. The UoA supports all academics in acquiring research funding, and all opportunities for early career applicants are regularly published through its website, notifying applicants of internal deadlines and giving detailed information on application procedures. We provide details of the success of our ECRs in obtaining research funding in the list of highlighted achievements regarding strategic aim 2 above.

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

The UoA regards methodological rigour and collaboration across disciplinary and methodological boundaries as central to its approach to research. Collaboration is underpinned by the place of the UoA in Oxford's collegiate system. Additionally, we foster such collaboration through academic appointments, in our research publications – 121 (42%) of our submitted outputs involve collaborative partnerships – our research centres and seminar series, and our doctoral training and methods. We host academic visitors from around the globe, welcoming their contributions while in Oxford, and engage with them in ongoing academic partnerships. Our researchers routinely work in collaboration with non-academic partners from the public, private and voluntary sectors. It is central to our mission to contribute to the research base in politics and international studies and to realize research impacts in our work with practitioners, policymakers, and the private sector globally and in the UK.

4.1. Research collaborations, networks and partnerships support

The UoA promotes and actively supports collaborative work through multiple institutionalized schemes.

- *joint academic appointments* across departments, colleges and disciplines – for example, Rana Mitter who is a joint appointment between the Faculty of History and DPIR; Paul Chaisty (Russia and Eastern Europe), Kate Sullivan de Estrada (South Asia), Miles Tendi (African Studies), David Doyle and Tim Power (Latin America), and Yaacov Yadgar (Israel Studies) who are joint appointments between DPIR and OSGA
- *shared research training* and teaching programmes across departments and disciplines
- *research centres, institutes and programmes* for advanced research that provide a collaborative interdisciplinary approach to specific areas of Politics and International Relations
- a vibrant *visitor programme* which hosts visitors from Europe, North America, South America, Africa, and Asia each year. BSG, for instance, appoints over 50 Visiting Fellows, each with an academic sponsor to oversee and coordinate the collaboration with faculty and research teams. A dedicated visitor programme team works with each appointed Fellow to identify opportunities for engagement with faculty, students and research programmes and for lectures, workshops and knowledge exchange. Visiting Fellows continue their engagement once they have returned to their home institutions, providing an ongoing channel of communication, shared practice and global collaboration. As we note in section 1.2, our visitor programmes regularly result in collaborative research projects, funding applications and publications.
- formal *collaborative research partnerships* with several external institutions, including OxPO (Oxford-Sciences Po) and the Berlin-Oxford Initiative. For instance, 13 monographs or edited volumes and more than 40 articles have been published in the REF period that were supported by the seminars, conferences and collaborations facilitated by the OxPO network.
- collaborative research projects within the University and with external HEIs and/or policy institutes, and international non-governmental organisations (INGOs)

Table 5. Academic visitor profile across research centres

	Centre for International Studies	Centre for the Study of Social Justice	Ethics, Law and Armed Conflict	OXPO	Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism	Cyber Studies	Dept	Total
2013-14	2	1	4	1	7	n/a	10	25
2014-15	4	2	3	2	5	n/a	5	21
2015-16	4	3	4	0	6	1	10	28
2016-17	1	4	2	3	4	3	9	26
2017-18	3	3	1	1	5	6	6	25
2018-19	3	3	0	1	5	5	6	23
2019-20	3	6	0	2	8	1	11	31
Totals	20	22	14	10	40	16	57	179

4.2. Impactful research

The UoA's research impact has international reach and significance, making contributions to the understanding and solution of many current global challenges. The UoA's strategy and institutional support for impact, engagement and knowledge exchange are highlighted in Section 1 (strategic aim 4). Following departmental and divisional reviews of research impact in 2016 and a commitment in the 2019 impact strategy to developing clusters of impactful work, four principal areas have been the focus of impact work, supported and developed by impact leads in each of the four departments and a linked team of impact facilitators in DPIR and the Division.

(A) Influencing policymakers and practitioners in the field of peacekeeping and conflict resolution.

Work in this area aims to provide policymakers in governments and international organisations with cutting-edge research to inform their policymaking on issues concerned with **security and conflict**. Jennifer Welsh's work on the Responsibility to Protect and humanitarian intervention has been deeply influential at the United Nations, where she served as Special Adviser to the UN Secretary-General and developed a toolkit and training for the United Nations. Richard Caplan has continued to work with the UN Peace Building Support Office to inform the UN's peace building practices and stabilisation measures, through the use of benchmarking and measurement techniques to evaluate the success of peacekeeping measures after the withdrawal of UN missions. Andrea Ruggeri's research has been impactful in evaluating the work of UN missions in three countries, and especially in guiding the choice of staffing by the Swedish national government, the UN and other international organisations including NATO and UNDP. Annette Idler's research on Columbia has informed the Columbian Government's approach to peace negotiations and provided the basis for UN training and toolkits for practitioners to use in this and in other borderland areas. Idler won the 2020 Early Career Innovator category in the Vice-Chancellor Innovation Awards for her work on rethinking conflict to build peace and was highly commended in the Inspiring Leadership category.

Impactful work has a strong **historical dimension**: Robert Johnson's research has guided the development of NATO peace negotiation tactics in Afghanistan as well as shaping NATO's policy on work with the Afghan National Army. He has trained UK military leaders and helped to develop UK military training curricula. Karma Nabulsi's website *The Palestinian Revolution* is a major bilingual Arabic-English digital resource which has brought together 300 original archives and primary texts, linked by twelve research-led essays, and which aims to secure a better understanding of the historical origins of conflict in Palestine among interested publics. The website was awarded the 2019 Middle Eastern Studies Association (MESA) Undergraduate

Education Award and its Youtube channel has achieved 2,230 subscribers and 428,861 views of its videos since it was created on 2 Sept 2016.

UoA researchers have also had impact in assisting policymakers to identify **new challenges** in this field. Impactful work here has been concerned with the ending of civil wars and the processes of adjustment that this requires. Lucas Kello's research and that of the Centre for Technology and Global Affairs has informed stakeholder understanding of cyber-security issues and policy developments in NATO's Emerging Security Challenges Division, GCHQ and the Estonian Government.

(B) Improving the understanding of developments in political communication and among media professionals and the public.

Impactful work in this area aims to raise the level of understanding of trends in media and public opinion and electoral outcomes.

RISJ produces the annual Digital News Report (2012-present) which is the most authoritative, up-to-date and influential source of information on cross-national trends in digital media. It is required reading among decision-makers in the media who use its data and analysis for strategy development and ideation in areas such as online disinformation. The Report is presented at all the most significant media conferences and gatherings worldwide (more than 50 events in 20 countries in 2018) and at annual private briefings for companies and senior media figures (RISJ's Editor-in-Chief/CEO Forum, Public Service News Forum, and News Innovation Forums). RISJ has provided 200 research-led briefings for almost all the principal stakeholders in digital news research, including Ofcom, the Cabinet Office, the Department for Culture, Media & Sport, the BBC, the Irish Broadcasting Regulator, the Council of Europe, the European Commission, and media companies including the Google, Facebook, Reddit, SnapChat, Twitter, YouTube, the *Financial Times*, the *Indian Express*, the *South China Morning Post* and the *Washington Post*. RISJ was a major participant in the European Commission high-level hearing on Preserving Democracy in the Digital Age (2018) and 'Countering Online Disinformation: Towards a more transparent, trustworthy and accountable digital media ecosystem' (2019).

The British Election Study (BES) is co-directed by Jane Green and Geoff Evans of this UoA, in collaboration with colleagues at the University of Manchester and Royal Holloway. Its impact strategy is designed to maximize the use and reach of BES data and BES research findings so as to raise the level of discussion of electoral data by communicators, especially politicians, media commentators, campaigns, charities and think tanks and other civil society / democratic stakeholders. It also aims to achieve impact through public events, expert commentary, and policy influence through work with the Electoral Commission to improve levels of voter registration.

(C) Improving political accountability

Impactful work in this area has focused on (1) the political regulation of financial institutions in the wake of banking crisis and globalised finance and (2) improving parliamentary accountability, especially in the UK.

Walter Mattli's work on the **regulation** of global capital markets was the foundation of an impact conference in April 2017 attended by key figures in capital market regulation from the European Securities and Markets Authority, the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission, the IMF High-Level Advisory Group on Finance and Technology and the EU Commission. Pepper Culpeper's ERC-funded research project on the feedback loops between policies regulating banks, public anger towards banking elites and mass media framings has identified shortcomings in the democratic oversight of bank regulation, and formed the basis of a formal submission for the UK Treasury's consultation on the Future Regulatory Framework for Finance. Ricardo Soares De Oliveira's research has been impactful in two areas: in shaping Oxfam America's global strategy for the extractive industries and the governance of natural resources and - as evidenced in the impact case study - in informing investigative journalism concerning financial corruption in Angola (the Luanda leaks of 2020).

Parliamentary accountability, legislation, representation and constitutional rules have also been the focus of impactful work. Petra Schleiter has given written and oral evidence to several UK parliamentary committees and to the Irish Citizens' Assembly on no confidence motions, and

fixed term Parliaments. Radoslaw Zubek and David Doyle's machine-readable textual analysis of UK parliamentary legislation has been used in support of proposals to make legislation more business friendly. Zubek, a recipient of knowledge exchange seed funding and funding from the University's Research & Public Policy Partnership Scheme, has also created a data website (ParlRulesData.org) which digitizes, analyses and makes available to interested publics historical, machine-readable records of parliamentary rules. He has formed an ongoing research and public policy collaboration with the House of Commons Library (HCL) and the Parliamentary Digital Service (PDS). Matthew Williams' work, also on textual analysis of legislation, has helped to inform policymakers of the consequences of the changing language and complexity of legislation, via briefings of Canadian legislators, UK parliamentary councillors (legislative drafters) and the Home Office. Stephen Whitefield's research has been instrumental in efforts to raise women's representation in the Albanian legislature. Also in the field of UK political accountability, Stuart White's research has been used in advocacy by the Labour Party and UK think tanks for the development of a constitutional convention for the UK.

(D) Improving governmental efficiency

The UoA's research has also been impactful in generating new ideas and approaches to improve **efficiency in government**. Since 2018, Helen Margetts has been Director of the Public Policy Programme at the Alan Turing Institute, the UK's national institute for data science and artificial intelligence. The Programme works with policymakers to research and develop ways of using data science and AI to improve policymaking and service provision, foster government innovation and establish an ethical framework for the use of data science in government. It comprises over 25 research projects involving 60 researchers across 10 universities. Martin Williams's research has made improvements to the delivery of public services in Ghana. Ray Duch's impact case study shows the impact of his research on the Financial Conduct Authority's consideration of pension freedom. Thomas Elston and Ruth Dixon's research on local government resource pooling and the sharing of public services since 2010 has implications for the future of the policy. Emily Jones directs the Global Economic Governance Programme which examines how global markets and institutions can better serve the needs of people in developing countries. She has helped train 45 senior government officials in Indonesia and 100 UK civil servants.

Our research impact work has responded with agility to the challenges presented by the **COVID-19 pandemic** and government efforts to manage it. Ngaire Woods has contributed to the OECD forum 'Tackling COVID-19' (July 2020) and to the World Economic Forum discussion of Global Governance after COVID-19' (May 2020). RISJ's COVID-19 Information Project has provided policy briefings and analyses on how the British public navigates information and misinformation about coronavirus and about how the government and other institutions are responding to the pandemic to the World Health Organisation. Stephen Whitefield has produced a report for the European Commission (via the Mayors for Economic Growth Project) on policy responses to COVID-19 on economic development projects in 6 Eastern Neighbourhood countries. In the field of knowledge exchange, Thomas Hale has led a collaboration to produce the Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker (OxCGRT) which systematically collects information on several different common policy responses that governments have taken to respond to the pandemic on 18 indicators such as school closures and travel restrictions. Its Risk of Openness Index aims to help countries understand if it is safe to 'open up' or whether they should 'close down' in their fight to tackle the coronavirus.

4.3. Public engagement with research

In line with our strategic commitment to connect our core academic research with a broad range of stakeholders, including public servants and officials, private and charitable sectors, and with citizens more broadly, UoA staff have worked to deepen public engagement through numerous public events. Some examples include:

- BSG holds a regular series of major open public events – more than 36 in 2020 alone – on topics such as Reimagining Public Service in the Wake of COVID-19, Harnessing Data to Improve Government Effectiveness, Remote Work in Governments, Politics of Vaccines,

an Online Summer School on Minorities, Rights and Inequality, Coronavirus and Minority Rights, a series in the build-up to COP26, People in Government from a Behavioural Perspective, and many others.

- OII similarly holds public events to connect its research with a wider public, on topics such as AI and Fairness, Data Science for Resilient and Fair Policy Making in Crises, Countering the COVID-19 Misinfodemic with Text Similarity and Social Data Science, What Big Tech Does to Discourse, Tech Responses to COVID-19, Data, Governance and Geopolitics, Digital Racism, How Social Media Disrupts our Elections, Economy and Health.
- DPIR hosts the annual FCO-Chevening Gurukul Programme for Leadership and Excellence which brings 12 high-flying mid-career Indian leaders from business, government, and civil society organisations to Oxford to engage with many issues of core research interest to the UoA, especially connected with the politics of globalisation. Faculty in the UoA also contribute to other FCO-Chevening funded programmes, including CRISP, and the Africa Media Fellowships. We maintain our connection to the alumni of these programmes through an active outreach programme to update them of our latest research achievements.
- The British Election Study (BES) website aims to provide a 'data playground', allowing any interested user to access and analyse BES data online.
- RISJ held over 50 public events again in 2020 alone on subjects such as the Importance of Young Voices in the British Media, Reporting on COVID-19 in South Africa, the Value and Future of Public Service Media, Missing Perspectives of Women in COVID-19 News, How People Get Their News about Climate Change, Public Sector Broadcasting and Trust, Holding Power to Account, Brexit in a Time of Crisis.
- CCW held regular public seminars that brought together academics and policymakers and military officers on subjects such as Maritime Strike Warfare (Rear Admiral Mike Utleigh and Commodore Steve Moorhouse), Rethinking Western Strategy and the Character of War in the 21st Century, the Future of Western Overseas Counter-Terrorism Intervention (William Evans, FCO), Russian Military Modernisation, Cognitive Biases in International Politics, Forecasting Political Violence, Terrorism and Human Rights.
- St Antony's College hosts Visiting Parliamentary Fellows on an annual basis including in the REF period Lord Inglewood, Baroness Andrews, Lord Lipsey, Lord Cooper, Baroness Rock, Lord Collins, Lord Bridges and Lord Wood.

Public engagement and knowledge exchange also occur via **broadcasting and print media:**

- James Tilley has written and presented six documentaries for BBC Radio 4, and two for the BBC World Service, since 2017 which have covered a range of topics from the politics of primates, to conspiracy theories, to the voting age.
- **Jane Green was the psephologist on ITV News coverage of the UK general elections in 2017 and 2019, using British Election Study data to inform her commentary.**
- Ngaire Woods makes regular high-profile contributions to World Economic Forum and Davos.
- Sudhir Hazareesingh's research on Toussaint L'Ouverture was presented in a five-part BBC Radio 4 series, *Black Spartacus*.
- Amia Srinivasan has written essays and criticism on subjects including politics, sex, animals, death, the university, technology, anger, in *The New Yorker*, *The New York Review of Books*, *Harper's*, *the Times Literary Supplement*, *The Nation*, *The New York Times* and *TANK*.
- Rasmus Kleis Nielsen gives frequent presentations on the changes and challenges facing news media, at both academic conferences and industry events, and his work has been covered by a range of news media including the BBC, the *Economist*, *Financial Times*, *The Guardian*, and various other international media.

4.4. Contribution to the academic research community

Among the highlights of our contributions to the research community are:

- **Editing:** Members of the UoA hold 72 editorships and editorial board memberships of scholarly journals, including *Comparative Political Studies* (co-editor); *British Journal of Political Science* (editor); *African Affairs* (co-editor).
- **Conferences convened:** These include 55 conferences, seminars and webinars, jointly organised with Sciences Po in Paris alone in the REF period, on subjects as diverse as 'ethics and public policy', 'the transformation of connectivity', 'primaries and populism', 'War, Overconfidence and Perceptions in International Politics'. Many of these conferences were specifically designed to allow our graduate students to present their work to faculty and their counterparts in Paris.
- **Prizes:** Member of the UoA have won best paper prizes at APSA every year since 2014 (in different categories). Among other prizes are 'Research Communicator of the Year' 2015 (Jane Green); Bill Gates Sr Award for Research 2015 (Raphael Lefevre); 2015 winner of Grand Prix du Livre d'Idées (Sudhir Hazareesingh); Guardian Higher Education Network Inspiring Leader award 2017 (Karma Nabulsi); Arab Woman of the Year 2018 (Karma Nabulsi); BA Brian Barry Prize for Excellence in Political Science 2018 (Zeynep Pamuk); BA Academy of Management Teaching Excellence Award 2019 (Thomas Elston); European Consortium for Political Research Lifetime Achievement Award 2020 (David Miller), Historical Association Medicott Medal for Outstanding Services 2020 (Rana Mitter).
- **Elections to learned societies:** The UoA's researchers include 27 faculty members who have been elected to learned societies, including the British Academy (9 Fellows); Royal Irish Academy; John Hopkins Society of Scholars; National Academy of Insurance and Policy; Royal Historical Society; Academy of Social Science; American Academy of Arts and Sciences; Council of the American Political Science Association; Alan Turing Institute Public Policy Programme; Royal Society of Edinburgh; and Académie Royale de Belgique.

Our faculty research has been widely recognised via international prestigious prizes, as illustrated by the following highlights:

- Ben Ansell won both the 2015 APSA Woodrow Wilson Foundation Award and the 2015 APSA William Riker award for his 2014 CUP book with David Samuels, *'Inequality and Democratization: An Elite-Competition Approach'*
- Sudhir Hazareesingh's monograph *How the French think: an affectionate portrait of an intellectual people* was awarded the Grand Prix du Livre d'Idées (2015). His 2020 book, *'Black Spartacus: The Epic Life of Toussaint Louverture'* was short-listed for the UK's Baillie Gifford Prize for Non-Fiction.
- Cecile Laborde's *Liberalism's Religion* was awarded the Spitz Prize (2019) for its 'outstanding intellectual achievement'.
- Todd Hall's, *'Emotional Diplomacy: Official Emotion on the International Stage'*, was joint winner of the 2016 Best Book Award, by the Diplomatic Studies Section of the International Studies Association.
- Sophie Smith's paper 'The Language of "Political Science" in Early Modern Europe' was awarded the Selma V. Forkosch Prize for the best paper by the *Journal of the History of Ideas*, and her paper 'Okin, Rawls and the Politics of Political Theory' was awarded the Best Paper Award from the Foundations of Political Thought section of the American Political Science Association 2018..
- Thomas Hale's *'Between Interests and Law: The politics of transnational commercial arbitration'* was runner up for the Harold and Margaret Sprout Award for best book in global environmental politics by the International Studies Association (2015).
- Robert Johnson's *'The Great War in the Middle East: A Strategic Study'* (2016) was awarded The Trench Gasgoigne Prize, 2016 by The Royal United Services Institute and shortlisted by the Society for Army Historical Research for the Templer Medal and the Royal United Services Institute prize.

- Patricia Owens' *Economy of Force: Counterinsurgency and the Historical Rise of the Social* was awarded the Susan Strange Prize (2016) by the British International Studies Association.
- Jan Zielonka's *Counter-Revolution: Liberal Europe in Retreat* was awarded the 2019 Best Book Prize of the University Association for Contemporary European Studies.
- James Tilley was awarded the American Political Science Association prize for best paper 2019 for '*Divided by the vote: Affective polarization in the wake of Brexit*' (with Sara Hobolt and Thomas Leeper) in the Elections, Public Opinion, and Voting Behavior section. He also received the Political Studies Association Richard Rose Prize 2016 for a 'younger scholar who has made a distinctive contribution to the study of British politics'.
- Ezequiel Gonzalez Ocantos' book *Shifting Legal Visions: Judicial Change and Human Rights Trials in Latin America* (2016) won the Herman Pritchett Best Book Award from APSA's Law and Courts Section, the best book award from ISA's Human Rights Section and the Donna Lee Van Cott Best Book Award from LASA's Political Institutions Section.
- Alex Kuo's paper '*Why do Asian Americans Identify as Democrats? Testing Theories of Social Exclusion and Intergroup Solidarity*' (with Neil Malhotra and Cecilia Mo) (2015) received the Franklin Burdette/Alpha Pi Award for best paper presented at 2014 APSA.
- William Allen's paper '*Factors that Impact How Civil Society Intermediaries Perceive Evidence*' was awarded the Carol Weiss Prize for Best Paper by an Early-Career Researcher in Evidence & Policy (2016).
- Zeynep Pamuk's paper '*Justifying Public Funding for Science*' received the British Academy Brian Barry Prize for Excellence in Political Science (2018).

Oxford Politics and International Relations doctoral dissertations are recognised internationally for their excellence, with multiple awards. Just in 2019-20, these include:

- 2019 Walter Dean Burnham Best Dissertation Award by the American Political Science Association in Politics and History (Matthias Dilling)
- 2019 Thomas E. Patterson Award dissertation award in political communications American Political Science Association and the 2019-20 Lord Bryce Prize, Political Studies Association (William Allen)
- 2019-20 Elizabeth Wiskemann Prize for the best dissertation in (in)equality and social justice, Political Studies Association (Diana Koester)
- 2019-2020 Shirin M. Rai Prize, for the best dissertation in international relations, Political Studies Association (Annette Stimmer)

4.5. Contributions beyond the academic research community

Many members of the UoA serve on Government, NGO and INGO advisory boards. Prominent examples from a total of 81 such memberships include:

- Member of CEBRI Brazilian Council of Foreign Relations, Rio de Janeiro (Andrew Hurrell)
- Member of the Advisory Council of the European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI) (Gwendolyn Sasse)
- UK Government Department for International Trade: Member of the Trade and Economy panel; Member of President's High-Level Panel on the Future of the African Development Fund; Co-Chair of the World Economic Forum's Global Future Council on Values, Technology and Governance; UK Government National Leadership Centre's Expert Advisory Panel; Department for International Trade's Trade and Economy Panel (Ngaire Woods)
- Member of the UK Cabinet Office Cross-Whitehall Trial Advice Panel (Ray Duch)
- Max Planck Scientific Advisory Board; American Political Science Association Council (Ben Ansell)
- Advisor to the French Conseil d'Etat (higher administrative Court) on the secularism laws (Cécile Laborde)

- Member of two expert advisory groups for UK Department of International Trade; Trade and Development Expert Advisory Group and the Trade and Sustainability Expert Advisory Group (Emily Jones)
- Member on the UK Government's Digital Economy Council; Member of the Home Office Scientific Advisory Council and the Government Digital Advisory Board (Helen Margetts)
- Council of European Council on Foreign Relations; founding member of the Spinelli Group; RENEW programme (Rethinking Europe in a Non-European World); and Programme on Global Trade Ethics (Kalypso Nicolaidis)
- International Supervisory Board of Georgia's Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation (Neil Macfarlane)
- European Commission's High Level Expert Group on Online Disinformation; chair of the Independent News Emergency Relief Coordination (INERC); chair of the working group on sustainability of Reporters without Borders' Forum on Information & Democracy (Rasmus Nielsen)