

Institution: Liverpool John Moores University

Unit of Assessment:

UoA34 Communication, Cultural and Media Studies, Library and Information Management

1. Unit context and structure, research and impact strategy

Context and structure

LJMU last submitted to Communication, Cultural and Media Studies, Library and Information Management in REF2014. Since then this UoA has made sustained efforts to improve its research in both quality and quantity. With the strategic guidance and support of the University, the unit has developed its research activity in a number of key areas that are represented in this submission. Building on the research strategy outlined in the REF2014 submission and the research strengths of the staff, the unit is organised around two thematic clusters: 1) Journalism, Media and Communication (12 staff led by McLean: Brown, Chadwick, Dayan, Greene, Hodgson, Kooij, Lincoln, Marley, Newton, Papadimitriou, Wilkinson); 2) Culture, Identity and Policy (20 staff led by Li: Andrews, Blundell, Chalcraft, Hassan, Hayton, Howitt-Dring, Howson-Griffiths, Jimura, Knowles, Krüger Bridge, Liu, Millward, Monks, Parker, Piasecki, Tookey, Walker, Wise, Young). The research of some staff falls within the remits of both clusters. While the organisational structure of the two clusters remains unchanged since 2014, the size and research expertise of each cluster has expanded considerably. The total number of submitted staff has increased from 13 in 2013 to 32 in 2020. Together they have contributed to the formation of the Communication, Cultural and Media Studies Research Group (CCMRG). The aim of this research group is to analyse the content, operation and impact of the media including new media and social media, as well as the role of culture and identity in shaping public policy at local, national and international levels. The UoA has explored and identified synergies with researchers in external subject areas including Sociology, Education, Tourism Management, Sport Science, and Computer Science. Consequently, several core themes have emerged within each of these two clusters. The key themes in the Journalism, Media and Communication cluster include the use of digital technologies in business and society; reporting death, trauma and war; film, documentary, and film-making. The Culture, Identity and Policy cluster covers the research themes of identity discourse, security and peace; tourism, travel, culture and heritage; music, ethnomusicology and identity; culture, society and sports; age, gender and sexuality. There are important synergies and interactions among the clusters and with two research institutes centred in the Faculty of Arts, Professional and Social Studies: the Institute for Cultural Capital (ICC) and the Institute of Art and Technology (IAT), Liverpool's international flagship entities for cultural and creative research. This return draws on the relevant research specialisms across three Faculties (Faculty of Arts, Professional and Social Studies, Faculty of Business and Law, Faculty of Science) and five Schools (Liverpool Screen School, School of Humanities and Social Science, School of Education, Liverpool Business School, School of Sport and Exercise Sciences), bringing together a diverse community of researchers focused on subjects within UoA34, which promotes interdisciplinarity. The University's emphasis on research excellence in its strategic plan, coupled with its continued investment in staff, technology and infrastructure, has offered strong support for this cross-disciplinary research community. Indeed, the submitted unit has made considerable advances in facilitating and developing multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary, international research and collaboration with a wide range of external partners in the UK and around the world. It is within this context that a vibrant and dynamic research environment has been nurtured and sustained, which has resulted in the production of high-quality research outputs with significant impact nationally and internationally, increased generation of external funding and a growing PGR community during the assessment period.

Research and impact strategy 2014-2020

The research and impact strategy set out in the last REF submission has provided the strategic direction for the development of the unit's research activity. This UoA consists of broad and

diverse research expertise drawn from a range of disciplines across three Faculties, five Schools, a Research Group and two Institutes. The focus of the research strategy was to encourage and support all staff to produce 3* and 4* research outputs, generate research impact and disseminate this to the relevant stakeholders. To achieve these objectives the two research clusters have provided robust mentoring and monitoring procedures for staff (please see Section 2 'People' below for further information). They have also offered a base for developing interdisciplinary and collaborative research, and generating research council and other forms of peer-reviewed external grant income.

In line with the University's Strategic Aims for Research and Impact to 'nurture pinnacles of genuinely outstanding research and to embed a broad base of research and scholarship across the University', the UoA has made considerable progress to achieve the following six strategic aims as identified in the REF2014 submission and we will continue to develop and expand our research within this strategic framework.

1. To build stronger identities and profiles for the two thematic clusters within this UoA

The identities and profiles of the two thematic clusters have been strengthened via an expansion and consolidation of staff research networks nationally and internationally and presentations at high-profile international conferences. For example, within the cluster of Journalism, Media and Communication, the staff have organised a series of international conferences and research seminars, such as the 'Liverpool Screen School Research Seminar Series' since 2014. Staff in the cluster of Culture, Identity and Policy have also organised and led a range of highly successful international research events such as the 'Surveillance in the Digital Society Workshop' at the European Conference on Information Systems Conference at Stockholm University (Sweden, 2019). In addition, the research profiles of the thematic clusters have been raised substantially during the assessment period through the publication of many significant research outputs in such internationally recognised and refereed journals as *New Media & Society* (Lincoln), *Supply Chain Management: An International Journal* (McLean), *Sociology* (Millward), *International Review for the Sociology of Sport* (Hayton), *Asian Perspective* (Li), *Sexualities* (Parker), and *Arts & Health: An International Journal for Research, Policy and Practice* (Howson-Griffiths). The staff in this UoA have also published a variety of refereed chapters in books edited by leading scholars in their fields. Some staff have served as the editors of prestigious research handbooks including *The Oxford Handbook of Global Popular Music* (Krüger Bridge, Oxford University Press, in press) and *The Palgrave Handbook of Sound Design and Music in Screen Media* (Greene, Palgrave Macmillan, 2016). They have also been invited to contribute to encyclopaedias in their research areas, such as *The Routledge Companion to World Cinema* (Papadimitriou, 2017) and *The SAGE International Encyclopaedia of Music and Culture* (Krüger Bridge, 2019).

2. To continue to develop cross-disciplinary research and collaboration

Since the last REF the staff within this UoA have continued to initiate and develop influential multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary collaborative networks and projects with external partners. An important collaboration between the unit and the University of Liverpool is the Institute of Cultural Capital (ICC). The Institute conducts interdisciplinary research funded by AHRC grants such as 'Instrumental Values: Professional Ethics in Collaborative Cultural Work', Leadership Fellowship (mid-career). Grant ref: AH/P009352/1, £114,140, July 2017-April 2019 (Wilson, PI). A major interdisciplinary collaborative initiative is the 'East Asian Security and Peace Project', funded by Riksbankens Jubileumsfond (Swedish Foundation for Humanities and Social Science) (Li, research grant £30,000, 2013-2015). This project involves collaboration with scholars of Peace Studies, International Relations, Economics, History, Sociology from Europe, East Asia and the United States. The leaders of the two research clusters have worked closely and regularly with staff on interdisciplinary research and funding applications.

3. To increase public engagement activity, impact and evaluation

Significant progress has been made to embed engagement and impact in our research. The strategy has led to the successful development of three impact case studies for submission (Chadwick, Li, and Tookey). At the beginning of the current assessment period, the UoA co-

ordinator and the research cluster leaders attended various university workshops relating to impact awareness including impact evaluation and recording. This was followed by workshops designed to assist all staff to increase their understanding of the nature of impact and to build impact activity into their research projects. For example, the 'East Asian Security and Peace Project' was conceived and designed as a policy-oriented project at the outset with the intention of engaging the foreign policy-makers and diplomats in Whitehall in London. As the project developed with the support from its international partners, the engagement and impact activities were extended to the policy and diplomatic communities in Europe and Asia. This has enabled the research findings to underpin the development of an impact case study for REF submission (ICS1).

At the same time, the projects of other staff have had considerable impact in the UK and abroad. For instance, Piasecki's adaptation of *Flight to Arras* deploys a second-world war account by the author Antoine De Sainte-Exupéry to discuss contemporary concerns relating to the mass flight of refugees across Europe. The performance of the adaptation was shown in the UK, France and Armenia. Piasecki was invited to give a presentation to the EU Parliament concerning the work for the World Refugee Day 2018, which framed a policy debate in its 'Promoting Peace: Creating a Welcoming Europe' roundtable event. Another example is Brown's documentary film that gives a portrait of Nepal's working mules. His film has been used to create positive change in the wellbeing of Nepal's working mules. This documentary was the winner of several prestigious film awards in Europe and America. Moreover, the film was screened in Russia and broadcast on a satellite TV station in Nepal reaching across South Asia.

Indeed, staff within the two thematic research clusters have continued to use their networks to develop deeper and more focused links with non-academic users, including cultural organisations (Arts Council England, National Museums Liverpool), NGOs (United Nations, World Health Organisation), government departments (FCO, MoD), and leading policy think-tanks (Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies, International Institute for Strategic Studies). Moreover, special efforts have been made to identify and invest in the development of specific projects where the potential to generate impact can be maximised through local QR funding and institutional Strategic Priorities QR funding. By actively and consistently engaging the external stakeholders, research projects have been developed and supported in relation to the need to address real world problems or issues thus enhancing the potential for impact. Key examples from this unit include Li's research on identity discourse and security relations and its impact on diplomatic dialogues and foreign policy-making in the UK, Europe and Asia (QR Strategic Priorities Fund: £10,000 2019/20, REF ICS Fund 2019: £853, Faculty QR Fund: £2,000: 2018), Chadwick's immersive documentary campaign on the impact of sea-level rise in the Philippines islands on the local community – another submitted impact case study from this UoA (HEIF Impact Uplift funding: £1,000, 2018, QR Strategic Priorities Fund: £2,000, 2019), Wilson's work on improving mental health and wellbeing by commissioning socially prescribed arts and cultural activities (HEIF Impact Uplift funding: £1,445, 2018).

4. To build capacity by increasing external funding

With the support from Research and Innovation Services (RIS) and the Faculty-based funding officer, staff have developed 23 applications for competitive external funding. New researchers have been mentored by the Professors and Readers within this UoA, encouraged to attend ACTivator (staff development) sessions, apply for internal pump-priming QR funding and then submit external grant applications. As a result, the unit has managed to secure a range of external research grants. Examples include Millward's British Academy Mid-Career Fellowship 'Exploring Supporter-Activism in Identity Politics-Centred Social Movements: A Cultural Relational Sociology Analysis of the European LGBTI+ Football Fans' Network' (2019-2020, £139,337), Li's research grants from the Swedish Foundation for Humanities and Social Science and the Swedish Institute of International Affairs on 'Identity and Security in East Asia' (2015-2018, £20,000), Parker's British Academy GCRF grant on 'Dignity Without Danger' (2018-2020, £300,000), and Chalcraft's British Academy International Mobility and Partnership grant on 'Developing Biblical Ethnography in India and the UK' (2013-2016, £30,000).

5. To Build the PGR Community

Since 2014 PGR student numbers within the UoA have increased considerably with 37 new PGRs enrolled in the 2019/20 academic year. Successful completions have grown from 2 during the last REF cycle (2008-2013) to 15 during the current period. Through the University's Graduate Teaching Assistant Studentships and the University Postgraduate Scholarships, this UoA has attracted some high calibre PhD students. Moreover, we currently have a PhD bursary student funded by Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council. Since the last REF, PGR Co-ordinators and dedicated PGR administrators have been appointed across the Schools and Faculties. Working closely with the Doctoral Academy and the Faculty Research Degrees Committees, the School PGR Co-ordinators and the staff have actively promoted the research culture within the unit through the Faculty Postgraduate Research Conferences, the 'Lunch & Learn' Seminar Series and the research seminars organised by individual Schools and Departments.

6. To Develop Staff At All Stages of Their Research Careers

With the support from the University's Leadership Development Foundation, we have actively targeted development opportunities appropriate to each member of the UoA. During the current REF cycle, 35 members of unit staff have engaged with ACTivator. Consequently, some staff have progressed from Senior Lecturer to Readers (Greene, Krüger Bridge, Lincoln, Papadimitriou, Parker, Wise). Moreover, we have organised discipline specific research training and development locally. For example, we have organised various types of women researcher events such as Women Researcher's Retreat, and the Women Professors Network Mentoring Scheme. These events have helped female staff within the UoA to gain promotion and strengthen their research outputs (Greene, Krüger Bridge, Lincoln, Papadimitriou, Parker). In addition, every early career researcher (ECR) is assigned a mentor from their research area. The ECRs are also supported by their heads of departments via the PDPR process. They are usually given lower teaching loads to enable them to develop their research. Furthermore, the REF Coordinator of this unit is an active member of the University's Concordat Task Group, which has provided extensive support for the career development of researchers, especially ECRs. As a result of their engagement with the development activities, ECRs within the UoA have been able to complete their PhD studies (Kooij, Marley), develop an impact case study (Chadwick, ICS2) and produce outputs (Dayan, Howitt-Dring, Howson-Griffiths, Jimura, Kooij, Liu, Marley, Wilkinson) for inclusion in the REF submission. Since 2018 our staff have benefitted from the University's 'REF Upskilling Project', which is designed to offer new, lapsed or lesser-published researchers the opportunity to learn and develop from more experienced colleagues (e.g. Rudin/Moran, Brown/Krüger Bridge, Wise/Melis).

In sum, the development of the thematic groupings within the UoA has provided a clear sense of direction and impetus for a diverse and interdisciplinary research community, which has made immense progress in producing high-quality outputs and generate significant impact on the economy, society and public policy both nationally and internationally. The work we have achieved will continue to thrive into the next REF period.

Future research and impact strategy 2021-2026

The existing strategy of this UoA has been reinforced and recalibrated in response to the augmentation of the staff base that has occurred since 2014. Building on the dynamic growth of several research specialisms within the unit, our strategy for 2021-2026 seeks to address and capitalise on the advantages and opportunities provided by an expanding constituency. In line with the University's Research and Scholarship Strategy, the UoA will utilise the Communication, Cultural and Media Studies Research Group (CCMRG) as the focal point for strengthening and integrating the diverse areas of research within the unit. The CCMRG will continue working with the three Faculties and five Schools to develop robust methods of research oversight and strategic management. On the basis of the achievements and success during the current REF cycle, this UoA will use the following six strategic aims to guide us towards the development of our research in 2021-2026.

1. To strengthen the identities and profiles of the two thematic clusters while supporting the growing research areas within each cluster

The unit will seek to support the development of the new research areas that have emerged within each of the two existing thematic clusters while maintaining the overall identities of the clusters. For example, within the 'Journalism, Media and Communication' cluster, we will offer additional support for the staff in the growing research area of documentary and film making (Brown, Chadwick, Dayan, Kooij, Marley) such as offering mentorship for designing practice-based research projects. For the 'Culture, Identity and Policy' cluster, greater support will be provided to staff working on the research themes linked to culture, place and society (Andrews, Howitt-Dring, Howson-Griffiths, Jimura, Monks, Piasecki, Wilkinson). In addition, we will support different forms of research within the unit, especially practice-based research such as documentary making, immersive theatre and creative writing, regardless of which clusters the researchers belong to (e.g. Brown, Chadwick, Dayan, Howitt-Dring, Howson-Griffiths, Kooij, Marley, Monks, Piasecki). With the expansion of research specialisms, we will be well positioned to produce both high-quality traditional outputs (e.g. journal articles and books) and practice-based work. This will help strengthen our profiles across the range of academic communities related to the key themes of this UoA.

2. To continue to develop cross-disciplinary research and collaboration within and beyond this UoA

Building on the synergies among the researchers of different disciplines within this UoA, we will develop and facilitate cross-disciplinary collaboration across the unit and beyond. Drawing on our rich and diverse specialisms, we will identify and develop suitable projects for multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research (e.g. the challenge of the Covid-19 pandemic and its cultural, social, economic and political implications). We may use some QR funding to start the projects while seeking external grants from UK research councils and other funding authorities. In particular, we will consolidate and expand our collaborative partners within the University (e.g. Institute of Art and Technology) and externally (e.g. Bluecoat in Liverpool, Foundation for Art and Creative Technology (FACT), UK Academy for Information Systems) in order to increase our profile and establish efficient working partnerships, equipping us to respond rapidly to relevant calls for funding and other collaborative opportunities. A major new initiative is underway for LJMU to establish an Entertainment Technology Centre (ETC) under the direction of LJMU's Liverpool Screen School, at the Littlewoods Studios site forming an educational partnership with Twickenham Studios who will be the anchor tenant. As this site evolves into a hub for the creative and digital sector in Liverpool, staff in this UoA will work closely with practitioners in developing and adopting new technologies, workflows and practices in the fields of film, TV, games and immersive experiences through a research and innovation lead and PGR students working at the leading edge of this sector. The ETC will provide excellent opportunities and facilities for cross-disciplinary research for our 'Journalism, Media and Communication' cluster, especially for practice-based researchers.

3. To further increase research impact and public engagement activity

Moving forward into the next REF period there will be a continued commitment to producing research that has a demonstrable impact on policy, industry and society. Staff in the two research clusters have a track record of end user engagement, with many projects being founded on action research and outreach principles. Building on our established record of public engagement and impact activities as presented in REF3, we will continue to embed engagement and impact in our research from planning to execution, and through delivery and dissemination. As a research group we are becoming more established in practice-based research. Through this we have seen increased impact and public engagement. The development of the ETC described above, means that impact and public engagement activities will be at the fore of this exciting initiative. Discussions have already begun with theatres, venues, schools and colleges, production and technology companies, as to how we will work more closely together at the ETC.

4. To strengthen capacity by increasing external funding

A number of existing staff (e.g. Chalcraft, McLean, Millward, Li, Parker) and recent appointments (Brown, Piasecki) have track records of individual grant income generation. Building on these

track records, we will establish a systematic programme of support and review for grant submissions in collaboration with partner organisations in the UK and abroad. The key aim is to strengthen our capacity for interdisciplinary research and public engagement through bids to the AHRC, ESRC, British Academy and European funding bodies. Based on our previous successful strategy, we will seek external funding early in the next REF cycle to allow the researchers sufficient time to produce high-quality research outputs, develop impact case studies and apply for further grants. These efforts will be supported by a dedicated and experienced Faculty Research Funding Coordinator (Thomas), in addition to the advice provided by the University (RIS). We have received £479,701 research grants in the current REF cycle and are planning to attract external funding of £700,000 in the coming cycle.

5. To improve PGR experience in both research and teaching

Building on the vibrant research culture and postgraduate research activities within the unit, we will seek to improve PGR experience in both research and teaching in the two research clusters. The focus is on developing closer links between staff and PGR research interests and delivering a quality experience for our research students. This is in line with the most recent Faculty Research, Scholarship and Knowledge Exchange Strategy (2020). We will seek bursaries and other external funding opportunities for students allied to staff research. We will also attract and recruit PGR students of high potential and aspirations in subjects complementary to staff research interests. PhD students will be given more opportunities to gain teaching experience through the Faculty's successful PGR into Teaching Funding Scheme. All this would help integrate PGRs into the research community within the UoA and prepare them for a career in higher education.

6. To continue to develop staff at all stages of their research careers

Through various University and Faculty staff development schemes, including the Leadership and Development Foundation's researcher development workshops and departmental and School ECR mentorship schemes, we will continue to identify development opportunities appropriate to each member of the UoA and organise interdisciplinary and discipline specific research training and development locally. The main focus is to help staff to develop research projects, apply for external funding, and embed impact in their research. Specifically, we will continue to offer support for ECRs through research mentorship within the clusters and sub-groups in the UoA, the PDPR process and the LJMU Concordat. We will give ECRs lower teaching loads to allow them to develop their research work. The more experienced researchers will be offered advice and support on building their research profiles and seeking promotion that reflects their research achievements and standing.

2. People

Staffing strategy

The staffing strategy and staff development policy of this UoA are designed to support and sustain the research of a diverse group of researchers from various disciplines. Two professors within the submitting unit (McLean and Li) provide overall leadership and strategic guidance for managing research across the structural boundaries and entities in three Faculties and five Schools. The strategic decision of the UoA to maintain the vibrancy and sustainability of the research clusters has led to a staff recruitment policy that seeks to attract research-active staff, especially ECRs. With the support of the Faculty PVCs and School Directors, we have succeeded in recruiting staff with specialisms whose work is included in this submission. Within the 'Journalism, Media and Communication' cluster, six ECRs researching in documentary and film making have been recruited (Brown, Chadwick, Dayan, Greene, Kooij, Marley) since 2014. Seven new staff members with expertise that fits in with the 'Culture, Identity and Policy' cluster have been recruited (Howitt-Dring, Howson-Griffiths, Jimura, Liu, Piasecki, Wilkinson, Wise).

During the current REF cycle this UoA has benefitted from investment in staff at senior level (appointments of McLean as Professor of Digital Media and Director of Liverpool Screen School, 2014; Li as Professor of International Relations 2020; Piasecki as Professor and Subject Head of Drama and Creative Writing, 2019; Chalcraft as Professor and Head of Sociology, 2014; Millward as Professor of Sociology, 2019; Papadimitriou as Reader in Film Studies, 2015; Parker as Reader in Development Studies, 2016; Lincoln as Reader in Communication, Media and Youth Culture, 2017; Krüger Bridge as Reader in Music, 2017; Greene as Reader in Film and Sonic Arts, 2019; Wise as Reader in Tourism, 2019). The senior appointments have strengthened both the capability and expertise of the UoA substantially in research leadership, management and international collaboration. Thematically, the appointments have enhanced the work of the two research clusters, while introducing new directions (e.g. McLean's work on digital technologies; Millward's research on sociology of sport; Piasecki's work on performance and cultural identity). These strategic appointments are closely linked to the future research development of the unit.

In addition, nine members of staff at ECR level have been appointed, which has provided the vitality and new research specialisms that would ensure future sustainability of the UoA (Brown, Chadwick, Dayan, Kooij, Marley – media production and documentary making, Howitt-Dring – culture and creative writing, Howson-Griffiths – immersive theatres and health issues, Jimura – heritage and tourism, Wilkinson – children, young people and identity).

Staff development

As part of the University and Faculty strategies, a clear focus has been given to research as a distinctive element in the context of the University's PDPR with a view to supporting researchers' career development. The University's staff appraisal and development mechanisms encourage both ECRs and established staff to maintain and develop robust research agendas. In particular, all ECRs have been given teaching remission to establish their research expertise.

At the same time, a wide range of University and Faculty workshops have been put in place to offer general and bespoke activities for researchers. A notable example of this is the Research Cafés organised by the Library Services that have taken place regularly. Through these research seminars, staff across the University can share their common research interests and find collaboration opportunities. In addition, 35 staff members have participated in the University's researcher-specific training and development programme ACTivator. This programme includes workshops on project development, research ethics, grant applications, knowledge exchange and commercialisation, and impact generation and dissemination. Moreover, staff from this unit have successfully applied for the University's staff development scheme 'REF Upskilling Project' (e.g. Rudin/Moran, Brown/Krüger Bridge, Wise/Melis), which enables them to pair with more experienced researchers to produce 3*/4* outputs. Furthermore, RIS has offered 'writers retreats' and fortnightly drop-in sessions to staff from various Faculties. The Research Excellence team offers advice and support to academic staff on how to produce research outputs and outcomes that can contribute to the REF and how to maximise research impact. In relation to the development of impact case studies, staff from this UoA have been supported through the HEIF Follow on Funding (Chadwick; Wilson), the REF ICS Fund (Li) and QR Strategic Priority Fund (Chadwick; Li). The funding has led to the enhancement of two case studies for submission (ICS1, ICS2). The Doctoral Academy has also offered regular Supervisor Training workshops for staff, especially for ECRs and those who are new to PhD supervision (staff attended the workshops include Greene, Hodgson, Marley, Hassan, Howson-Griffiths, Jimura, Tookey, Wise).

In addition, Faculty support is being provided for staff through a system of sabbatical leave and QR funding across Schools/Faculties. Two UoA members have benefitted from the sabbatical scheme (Lincoln 2017; Merkin 2018). Moreover, staff have been given support from the QR fund through a competitive process: 2016 (Chalcraft, Krüger Bridge, McLean, Newton, Parker), 2017 (Chalcraft, Greene, Hassan, Li, Millward), 2018 (Hassan, Jones, Krüger Bridge, Parker), 2019 (Andrews, Li, McLean, Wise). At the UoA level, the UoA Coordinator has organised a series of

research workshops and events, which have helped staff gain valuable insights into developing both traditional and practice-based projects and producing high-quality outputs, thus contributing to the development of the research staff.

Research students

While the Doctoral Academy has the overall responsibilities for training and supporting postgraduate research students, this UoA has placed a great deal of emphasis on the development of a vibrant postgraduate research environment through the Faculty Postgraduate Research Conferences, the 'Lunch & Learn' Seminar Series and regular research seminars held at School and Departmental levels. PGR student numbers within the UoA have increased considerably and successful completions have grown from 2 during the last REF cycle (2008-2013) to 15 during the current period. Our PGRs have won 4 University PGR scholarships and 2 Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA) posts. Moreover, the UoA has established an International PhD Programme with a number of universities in China including Zhejiang University of Media and Communication and Shanghai Normal University. This will help increase PGR student numbers further in the next few years. The diverse range of research expertise from the two research clusters within this UoA provides strong supervisory capacity including interdisciplinary PhD projects. In the current REF period staff have supervised students to successful completion on topics across the spectrum of UoA34 and the supervisory teams are drawn from more than one subject area. Examples include: Social Media @ Global News Agencies: A Case Study of a Professional Culture of Practice (2016); Island Tourism and Sustainable Development in Thailand (2017); The Role of Welsh-language Journalism in Shaping the Construction of Welsh Identity (2018); A study into the Value Placed on Numeracy as Symbolic Capital within the Journalistic Field (2020).

Since 2019/20 a Faculty 'PGR into Teaching Scheme' with approximately £40,000 funding has been introduced to offer teaching training linked to 3Is and paid opportunities for PGRs to develop their teaching skills and gain valuable experience. PGRs normally receive training from the University's Teaching and Learning Academy and continuous mentorships from the relevant academic staff. In the meantime, specific Faculty funds are allocated for PGRs to apply for financial support to present papers at conferences and organise postgraduate research events (approximately £20,000 in 2019-20). PGRs have frequently been invited to assist staff in organising international conferences. PGR representatives from each School attend FRDC meetings (once every two months), where they have the opportunities to raise and discuss any PGR issues. Research students benefit from dedicated PGR rooms with full ICT workstation facilities in the refurbished John Foster Building and Redmonds Building. All this has contributed positively to the development of the PGR culture and the enhancement of PGR experiences. We will continue to improve PGR experience in both research and teaching in the two research clusters (please see Point 5 in the section 'Future research and impact strategy 2021-2026' above).

3. Income, infrastructure and facilities

Income

At the start of the current REF cycle, a strategic decision was made by this UoA to seek competitively awarded funding from UKRI and international funding agencies to mobilise collaboration with international partners.

As a result of this strategic drive, the UoA has had success in attracting external funding for the development of individual and collaborative research. There is also a good balance of activity across the two research clusters within the unit. In total the unit has submitted 23 bids of which 10 were successful. The UoA's total external grant income during the current REF cycle is £479,701 compared to £130,633 in the last REF cycle. Most notably, Millward gained a competitive grant of £139,337 (2019-2020) from the British Academy for a Mid-Career

Fellowship; Yeoman was awarded a British Academy Small Grant to examine of the role of news literacy in journalism education (2019-2020, £9,000); Internationally, Li has received grants from the Swedish Foundation for Humanities and Social Science and the Swedish Institute of International Affairs to conduct research on identity discourse and security relations in East Asia (2015-2018, £20,000). Li's project was funded relatively early in the REF cycle, which enabled him to collaborate with a group of European and Asian scholars. This led to the publication of three 4* and one 3* research outputs (as judged by independent external reviewers and former REF sub-panel members) and the development of an impact case study for submission.

The growing volume of bids being submitted over this REF period reflects the support by both Faculty and University investments and systems. At the Faculty level, our staff have received training from RIS on the Grants and Projects system (GaP). Following the e-GaP training, Principal Investigators are able to add projects to GaP and create their own costings for externally funded projects. In addition, the University has offered financial assistance to staff for developing or strengthening their impact cases through several funding schemes. The unit has benefitted from this funding via QR Strategic Priorities Fund (£12,000 Chadwick, Li.), REF ICS Fund (£853 Li.), HEIF Impact Fund (£2,445 Chadwick, Wilson), and the Faculty QR Fund (£2,000 Li). In addition, the support for the grant application process was enhanced through two institutional actions. First, a Research Funding Coordinator was appointed (Thompson 2014-2017; Thomas since 2017) to support staff within UoA34 and other units in the APSS Faculty. Second, a faculty-based peer review process has been introduced with the aim of improving the success rate of grant applications. Grant applications are reviewed within the Faculty prior to submission to the Research Support Office. The pool of reviewers includes both academics who are experienced in writing grant applications and ECRs who will develop their own skills by reviewing a range of applications. In particular, staff have benefitted from the expertise and insights from UoA34 colleagues who are appointed members of the peer-review panels of AHRC (Krüger Bridge, Li, Wilson) and ESRC (Li).

Infrastructure and Facilities

In line with the University's strategic aim to support and develop 'targeted areas of world-leading research excellence', the UoA's research focuses around its research groups and research institutes. In particular, the Communication, Cultural and Media Studies Research Group (CCMRG) brings together the research staff from a number of Schools and Faculties, while working closely with the Institute for Cultural Capital (ICC) and the Institute of Art and Technology (IAT). The University's Research and Innovation Services is responsible for LJMU's overarching research strategy. It provides leadership, guidance and support for staff within the University to secure external funding, prepare for the REF, and facilitate research training programmes. The Coordinator for this UoA works closely with the University's Head of Research Excellence and Research Strategy, PVC for Research and Enterprise, Associate Deans for Research and School Directors.

The research staff for this UoA are located primarily in the £37.6 million Remonds Building and the adjacent John Foster Building. These buildings contain state-of-the-art equipment, as well as social learning spaces, modern lecture halls and seminar rooms. Our facilities provide research staff and PGR students with excellent media and film production equipment. The Liverpool Screen School has first-rate media tech, including IT suites with Adobe Production software, Apple Mac suites with Final Cut Pro X and Avid post production suites. In addition, we have a professionally-equipped HD TV studio as well as a TV news studio. Our studios contain post-production edit suites. We also have four fully-equipped newsrooms, which have Adobe Creative Cloud software. Research staff and PGRs can use the fully-equipped, professional radio studio, which has editing and audio booths. These facilities, which were provided by Sony Europe Limited and are valued at around £1 million, together with modern staff offices have enabled our researchers to conduct both theoretical and practice-based research. The close proximity of the buildings facilitates greater interaction and collaboration among the staff and the development of a cohesive research culture. Indeed, the buildings and facilities provide a substantive resource

base to underpin the research developments in this unit. These facilities have contributed to the success of many high-profile international conferences and events organised by our staff.

In addition, the staff within this UoA work closely with the Institute of Cultural Capital (ICC). Established in 2010, this centre of cultural policy research is a strategic collaboration between the University of Liverpool and LJMU. The ICC was initially set up to examine the impact of Liverpool's designation as Capital of Culture in 2008. Since then, the ICC has participated in a number of national research projects, forums and seminars, and community activities. It is particularly focused on the ways in which the university and community can work together through shared cultural research projects which explore the role of community as a means of articulating community identity and shared histories. The ICC Head of Research is a member of this UoA (Wilson), who has led a number of AHRC-funded projects. The Institute is currently undergoing a review aimed at exploring wider community and research partnerships within Merseyside. It is expected that the ICC will continue to operate as a university research centre with closer trans-disciplinary links between LJMU's other research institutes, its university neighbours in Liverpool and the region's cultural organisations.

Finally, staff and PGRs who are working on digital technology in this unit have close research links with the Institute of Art and Technology (IAT), and they can use the excellent facilities of the Institute for their projects. The IAT is a supported and linked collective network of artistic research and technologies laboratories. It has a conglomeration of an inquisitive team of brilliantly talented experts; five internationally recognised Art and Technologies Labs (Art Labs), including the award-winning Face Lab; excellent resources including Liverpool Fab Lab; global research collaborations; partnerships with Liverpool's world-renowned cultural institutions such as Liverpool Biennial and Liverpool Tate; a large community of PGRs; and close working relationships with businesses and communities in a collaborative, ambitious and edgy city full of culture, arts, music, storytelling, creativity, technological innovation, events and networks. Each specialist Lab pursues specific research interests and develops research activities across the IAT, including contingent Pop-up Labs. Indeed, IAT has enhanced the UoA's research environment, assisted staff to expand their research networks, and helped germinate interdisciplinarity. For example, Woodbridge, a researcher from the Liverpool Screen School, was co-leader of the cross-School Experimental Technologies Lab (ETL) with Wright from Liverpool School of Art and Design (LSAD) to make it a Lab within IAT. He worked alongside LSAD researchers in X-Gallery and Fab Lab facilities in John Lennon Art and Design Building as a part of ETL. He also worked with Wright on a project to present the World Museum on-line during the Covid-19 pandemic and other immersive experiments. An interdisciplinary network involving Woodbridge, McLean from this UoA and Waraich in Computer Science have a joint PGR funded by Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council looking at placemaking and regenerating the high street through immersive technology. Professor John Hyatt, Director of IAT, ran a research event about different ways to present research for our staff with a talk on his Ammemorium project. He delivered a 'Writing for Practice-based Research' afternoon to our UoA staff team. Moreover, a number of our practice-based researchers have been mentored by Professor Hyatt on an ongoing basis (e.g. Monks, Young, Maxwell, Jackson). Finally, staff working on documentary and film making have benefitted from collaboration with the IAT and the facilities of the LSAD in John Lennon Building (Brown, Chadwick, Dayan, Kooij, Marley).

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

Staff within this UoA are active contributors to the academic communities within their disciplines and are involved in a wide range of activities that evidence their status and esteem. Collaboration takes place at all levels from PhD studentships, funded research and publishing partnerships, to co-organising research events and developing joint research projects. Several staff in the UoA hold prestigious offices and positions in their research fields. They are regularly invited to referee academic publications and research proposals, serve as members of committees, Research Councils, review or advisory boards, editorial boards, and give keynotes, lectures and public talks. In the current REF cycle staff of this UoA have reviewed numerous

journal papers, book proposals and research bids for highly rated journals and for esteemed funding bodies.

To facilitate research collaboration, the unit organises regular research and networking events at School and Faculty levels for staff to exchange research ideas, discuss potential projects and explore collaboration opportunities (e.g. Liverpool Screen School Research Seminar Series, the 'Lunch & Learn' Seminar Series, international conferences at LJMU). Moreover, the Co-ordinator and senior staff of the UoA regularly meet with the staff in groups and individually to discuss their research and offer advice on project development and research collaboration. The unit has also hosted guest speakers and visiting scholars who share similar research interests with its staff. Typically, the scholars would stay at LJMU between a few days and three months. Over 25 scholars from the United States, Europe and China have visited us and developed research collaboration with the staff (e.g. Liverpool Film Seminar; Identity and Security Discourse Project).

Journalism, Media and Communication cluster

Within the Journalism, Media and Communication cluster, McLean's individual and collaborative research on the impact of digital technologies on society such as surveillance is well recognised. She was voted by the members of the UK Academy for Information Systems (UKAIS) to the position of President Elect in 2015. She took up the role of President in 2016-2018 as the first woman to hold this office in twenty-one years of UKAIS. Since 2015, Mclean has co-chaired the UKAIS annual conference. She was also co-chair of the ECIS 2019 workshop 'Surveillance in the Digital Society' at Stockholm University, Sweden. The workshop invites short papers that reflect upon surveillance in the digital society by looking at how these practices are constructed, organised, experienced and regulated; other partners included University of Gothenburg and University of Salford. Since 2007 McLean has served as Associate Editor of Information Technology and People (ABS 3* rated). In 2020 she was invited to give a keynote at the Modern Business and Technology Doctoral Symposium at the Senate House of University of London. In recognition of her research expertise and status, McLean has been appointed a sub-Panel member for REF2021 (UoA34).

Papadimitriou, a prominent scholar in European and Greek cinema, has established and led the Liverpool Film Seminar, a major collaboration between LJMU and Liverpool University. The seminars given by the wide range of distinguished film scholars in the UK, Europe and the US have offered new insights into film research and facilitated international collaboration. An indication of Papadimitriou's research achievements is the invitation to act as a Member of Programme Committee for the 6th Conference of the 'European Society of Modern Greek Studies' in Lund, Sweden (October 2018) and for 'Contemporary Greek Cinema Cultures Conference' in Seattle, Washington (May 2015). She has reviewed research applications for the British Academy, the AHRC, and the Leverhulme Trust. Since 2013 Papadimitriou has been Principal Editor of the Journal of Greek Media and Culture. She is a reviewer for Journal of Modern Greek Studies, Modern Greek Studies Online, International Journal of Media and Cultural Politics, Studies of European Cinema, Journal of Gender Studies, and a reviewer for book proposals and manuscripts for Intellect, Routledge, Continuum and Edinburgh University Press. Since 2014 Papadimitriou has served as a member of the editorial board of Modern Greek Studies Online and the advisory board for the bilingual online peer-reviewed journal Filmicon: Journal of Greek Cinema Studies. She is the Book Series Editor for Remapping World Cinema: Regional Transformations and Global Transformations (Routledge).

Another member of this cluster, Greene, is a recognised expert in the areas of film sound and Irish cinema. She has regularly been invited to speak at international conferences and events at various institutions, including University of Ulster (Magee), Northern Ireland (2020), Merz Akademie, Stuttgart, Germany (2019), Free University Berlin, Germany (2019), British Film Institute (BFI) Film Academy, Nerve Centre, Derry/Londonderry, Northern Ireland (2017, 2019), and Cork Film Festival, Ireland (2015). She is the organiser of the '12th Irish Screen Seminar Series' at Dublin City University (Ireland, 2016). In May 2016 she acted as a member of the Conference Selection Committee for the Music and the Moving Image Conference at NYU

Steinhardt, USA, and co-facilitator with Professor Catherine Grant (Birkbeck) of the Workshop on The Audiovisual Essay at Maynooth University, Ireland. Greene is a frequent reviewer for *Alphaville: Journal of Film and Screen Media* [in]Transition, Music and the Moving Image, Screen, The Soundtrack, Oxford University Press, Edinburgh University Press, Palgrave Macmillan and Bloomsbury Press. In recognition of her research specialisms, she has been invited to serve on the editorial boards of Music, Sound and The Moving Image (2019 to present), *Alphaville: Journal of Film and Screen Media* (2015 to present), The Soundtrack Journal (2012 to present).

Culture, Identity and Policy cluster

The most significant research collaboration in the Culture, Identity and Policy cluster is Li's Identity and Security Discourse Project, which involves collaboration with many scholars and diplomats in the UK, Europe, Asia and the US. Working with researchers at the Swedish Defence University, Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam, Peking University, National University of Singapore, Academia Sinica in Taiwan and other prestigious partner institutions, Li's research has contributed significantly to the understanding of identity discourse in conflict prevention and peace promotion among diplomats and foreign policy-makers. This is part of a £2.3 million research programme supported by Riksbankens Jubileumsfond, Swedish Foundation for Humanities and Social Sciences. Li has been a Research Associate of the Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University, Sweden. He has acted as Associate Editor and Editorial Board Member of *Security Dialogue*, a high-ranking peer-reviewed journal published by the International Peace Research Institute in Oslo. He is a regular reviewer for leading journals including *European Journal of International Relations*, *Geopolitics*, *Journal of Peace Research*, *Journal of Strategic Studies*, *Pacific Review*, *International Relations for Asia Pacific*, *Journal of Contemporary China* and many other journals. He has also assessed book proposals and manuscripts for Oxford University Press, Amsterdam University Press, Sage, Routledge and other publishers. In recognition of his research expertise, Li has been appointed a Member of the AHRC Peer Review College (Academic College and International College, 2017-2022) and a reviewer of UKRI's Covid-19 Funding Initiative (since 2020). He has reviewed a wide range of AHRC research proposals and has been invited to serve as a funding panel member. He is also a regular reviewer for the ESRC. Internationally, he has been appointed by Academia Sinica, Taiwan's most preeminent academic institution, as an Expert Advisor for its research appointments board. Supported by a competitive grant from Academic Association for Contemporary European Studies, Li co-organised a two-day interdisciplinary international symposium 'Brexit in a Changing Geopolitical Context' at LJMU in June 2017, which involved some 40 scholars from the UK and around the world as well as think-tank specialists and EU officials. As part of the event, he co-organised a Roundtable that was open to the public in Liverpool and facilitated a lively debate around the issues relating to Brexit, which was reported by the media. Li's identity research has had a significant impact on the foreign policy and diplomatic communities in the UK, Europe and Asia (see ICS1 for details). As an indicator of his esteem, Li has been regularly invited to speak to high-level academic and policy audiences. He is an invited Expert Member of the EU-funded Europe-China Research and Advice Network at the Royal Institute of International Affairs, London. He speaks regularly at the Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies in Whitehall. In addition, Li has delivered invited presentations to officials and diplomats in Belgium, Sweden, Singapore, Taiwan and Vietnam.

Another internationally renowned scholar within this cluster is Millward, whose research has had a profound impact on our understanding of discrimination in sports events. Funded by the European Commission under the ERASMUS+ Sport Programme (€78,850), Millward's multidisciplinary collaboration with European scholars has produced important recommendations on tackling homophobia and promoting anti-discrimination around major sports events. Indeed, he plays a leading role in the internationally-recognised network 'Football Collective'. He has reviewed grant applications for the ESRC, AHRC and British Academy. In addition, Millward has been invited to review articles for such top Sociology journals as *Sociology*, *The British Journal of Sociology*, *International Review for the Sociology of Sport*, *Journal of Sport and Social Issues*

and Sociology of Sport Journal. He has also reviewed book proposals and manuscripts for such publishers as Sage, Palgrave, Routledge, Oxford University Press and Manchester University Press. In recognition of his research status in the field, Millward has been invited to serve on the editorial boards for Sociology [Associate Editorial Board] (2016-2017) and [Full Editorial Board] (2017-ongoing), Sociology of Sport Journal (2017 to present), Soccer and Society, and Communication and Sport (2013 to present). He is Co-editor of Special editions of journals in Sociology (e-special issue) 2019; Soccer & Society 20(5).2019; International Journal for Sport Policy and Politics 10(1) 2018; European Sport Management Quarterly 17(1) 2017; Sociological Research Online 20(2) 2015. He is one of the Book Series Editors for the 13 volumes series Football Research in an Enlarged Europe (Palgrave). A leading scholar in the sociology of sport, cultural approaches to social movements and relational sociology, Millward has been invited to give many keynote talks including Keynotes to the Football Collective Inaugural Conference in Manchester (2016) and Football Safety Officers Association Conference (2020).

Andrews, a well-respected scholar in tourism, culture and identity, is the Chair of the Royal Anthropological Institute's Tourism Committee. She has been invited to give Keynote speeches and talks on identity, discourse and tourism at University of Brighton (2015), University of Köln, Mallorca (2018), University of Aarhus, Hvide Sande, Denmark (2019) and other universities. Andrew has reviewed journal papers submitted to such leading journals as Tourism, Hospitality Planning and Development, Annals of Tourism Research, International Journal of Consumer Studies, National Identities, Tourist Studies and International Journal of Cultural Studies. She is also an External Reviewer for Leverhulme Grant applications. Also worth noting is Andrews' organisation of the Anthropology, Tourism and Photography Conference at Royal Anthropological Institute and British Library, London (May 2014) and the Tourism, Materiality, Representation Conference at Royal Anthropological Institute and British Museum, London (June 2018).

Krüger Bridge, another member of this cluster, is a well-established expert on ethnomusicology and popular music studies. She has edited The Oxford Handbook of Global Popular Music (New York: Oxford University Press, in press, two volumes). The handbook contains 70 chapters by internationally renowned academics and is the first collection of its kind on global popular music. Krüger Bridge is a member of the AHRC's Peer Review College and reviewer of its Covid-19 funding applications. She was also a grant reviewer for Swiss National Science Foundation, Bern, Switzerland in 2016. Moreover, she has been Editor-in-Chief of Journal of World Popular Music (Equinox) since 2013. She has served on the editorial boards of Journal of Popular Music Education (Intellect) (2016 to present) and Ethnomusicology Forum [International Advisory Board member] (Taylor & Francis/Routledge) (2014-2019), Metal Music Studies [Editorial Advisory Board] (Intellect) (since 2019). In addition, Krüger Bridge is an editor of the book series Transcultural Music Studies (Equinox) and a regular reviewer for Journal of Popular Music Education, Twentieth Century Music Journal and Journal of the Royal Musical Association, Ethnomusicology.

The research achievements of the staff in this UoA are widely respected by their peers, and have wide-ranging impacts within and beyond the academic community at local, national and international levels. In summary, the research of our staff has:

- informed decisions on the use of digital technology in business and public services (McLean);
- contributed to high-level policy debates and policy making (Li on foreign policy and diplomacy in the UK, Europe and East Asia; Chadwick on the Philippine government and the United Nations);
- enriched our cultural and artistic life (BBC radio programmes written by Monks and Young; Tookey's engagement with Bluecoat in Liverpool, the Wirral Council and the general public; Papadimitriou and Greene's work on European, Greek and Irish cinema);
- helped tackle gender discrimination (Millward's work on homophobia in sports events; Parker's research on gender based violence);

- inspired reflection on challenging social issues (Piasecki's staged adaptation relating to refugees and the migration issue);
- stimulated our thinking on the impact of major political developments and health crises on tourism (Andrew's research on Brexit, Covid-19 and tourism);
- helped us appreciate the links between media/social media and youth culture (Lincoln and Wilkinson's work);
- improved our awareness of the role of art in mental health issues and dementia (Howson-Griffiths and Wilson's work);
- enhanced our understanding of the challenges of news reporting (Newton's work on reporting death and trauma);
- increased our knowledge of human relations with animals (practice-based research of Brown and Kooij through documentary).

In conclusion, through their individual research and collaboration with external research partners and joint research projects, the staff in this unit have made substantial contributions to advance knowledge in various fields. As the evidence above demonstrates, the dissemination of this knowledge and related impact activities have contributed significantly to public policy, the economy and society.