

Institution: University of Newcastle
Unit of Assessment: 18 Law
<p>1. Unit context and structure, research and impact strategy</p> <p>a. Overview: The Unit comprises 36 research active scholars (34.6FTE) from 15 countries (19 female/17 male) all based Newcastle Law School (NLS). This includes 12 Professors, three Readers, 10 Senior Lecturers, and 11 lecturers. Nine members of the Unit are early-career researchers (ECRs). The Unit forms part of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (HaSS), the largest of the three faculties at Newcastle University. Since 2014, we have invested significantly in growing our research capacity with 17 new appointments, 11 of whom are women, to develop our strategic priorities and to grow our research capacity and our EDI commitment evident in our Athena Swan Bronze award (2019). We have strengthened and focused investment in career development of early- and mid-career colleagues with the successful internal promotion of 11 colleagues (5 female/5 male). We have grown our external research income from £96k to £248k since 2014 and quadrupled the number of UKRI awards. This includes grants in response to open calls from the AHRC and directed calls from the ESRC and EPSRC as well as awards from the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF). We have been awarded prestigious fellowship awards, including a Leverhulme Research Fellowship, an AHRC-ESRC-Foreign and Commonwealth Office Fellowship, and an Alan Turing Fellowship and several research network grants, including from the AHRC and the UACES. We have an excellent track-record of attracting outstanding postgraduate research (PGR) students, and PhD completions in the Unit have increased to 28 (in 2014-2020). Our research has shaped public policy-making and civil society across all UK jurisdictions, contributed to the development of third sector activities domestically and internationally, informed new legislation, developed judicial training and changed judicial practice across common law jurisdictions. It has also moved forward the initiatives of international organisations and helped to restore the right to vote for thousands of prisoners.</p> <p>b. Strategy and Structure: In 2015, NLS developed and launched <i>Law, Innovation and Society</i> as the Unit's overarching strategic research theme. The theme captures our commitment to interrogating the role of law in regulating innovation as a societal and technological phenomenon as well as innovation within law itself, focusing on new forms of regulation and the ways in which established legal institutions respond to innovation and shape societies. The identification of this strategic research priority has shaped our staff recruitment strategy and underpinned our primary objective to sustain and increase our capacity for delivering world-leading and internationally excellent and innovative interdisciplinary research in a way that facilitates direct engagement with societal needs. It also provides a basis for delivering our research-informed undergraduate and postgraduate taught and research programmes.</p> <p>The commitment to <i>Law, Innovation and Society</i> distinguishes the research undertaken in the Unit, signposts the Unit's research for beneficiaries and supports colleagues to collaborate across traditional disciplines, methods and areas of expertise. We have therefore made several appointments to the <i>Law, Innovation and Society</i> theme, including Chair in Law, Innovation and Society (inaugural chair, Quigley, 2015; Edwards January 2019); Chair in Law and Civil Justice (Clark April 2019); Chair of Practice (Maharg 0.2FTE February 2020); Reader in Emerging Technologies (Farrand April 2019) and a Reader with a research focus on law, environment and indigenous populations (Farran May 2019); Senior Lecturer in Law and Social Justice (Kinghan March 2020); and Lecturer in Law Innovation & Society (Turkmendag June 2016, subsequently promoted to Senior Lecturer, August 2019).</p> <p>The Unit's expansion means that we are in a strong position to respond to major societal challenges by encouraging and supporting the cross-pollination and diverse research activities needed to address them. To facilitate this, we are reorganising our research groupings to provide more focused sub-disciplinary spaces for innovation, collaboration and support (including mentoring, research assistance and funding). The groupings are driven by a combination of</p>

societal needs and our expertise. They are being developed collectively and comprise the following groupings:

- Environmental Challenges and Law
- Ethical Regulation of Technology and Data
- Constitutionalism and Governance
- Rights, Lawyering and Justice
- Law and Obligations
- Business Law and Governance
- Empirical Research

Colleagues and PGR students are encouraged to participate in those groupings that align with their research interests and expertise. The groupings will further embed *Law, Innovation & Society* as the collaborative basis for the Unit's contribution to transdisciplinary research initiatives across the University.

Environmental Challenges and Law: As one of the leading institutions in the UK for research into law and the environment, the Unit has made great impact in this area during the review period. The AHRC funded (2019 £887k) interdisciplinary research into urban commons has significantly advanced modern understandings of new governance tools for empowering communities to protect local greenspaces (**Rodgers**). The grouping's interdisciplinary work is unique in the legal academy by directly engaging with the disruptive challenges arising for environmental governance in Northern Ireland (in particular in light of Brexit). This work identifies the fundamental shortcomings in the existing governance structures of Northern Ireland in the context of environmental challenges and the impacts they have on the physical environment across the island of Ireland (**Brennan**). To make an active contribution to filling this governance gap created by the suspension of the Assembly at Stormont and to advance the impact of this work, the Unit launched the **Environmental Justice Network Ireland (EJNI)** in 2019 as a focal point for facilitating civil society contributions to environmental governance in Northern Ireland. The EJNI is the first and only Ireland-wide network, which combines the expertise of academic researchers and environmental activists in one organisation. The commitment to engaging in research of cutting-edge societal importance is present also in the grouping's work on modern and innovative energy technologies, including hydraulic fracturing (**Pedersen**) and the EPSRC funded (2020 £1.2 million) research project interrogating deep surface geothermal resources as a potential heat source (**Pedersen**). To advance the grouping's expertise in the area of global challenges and the environment, in 2019 the Unit appointed **Farran** whose recent AHRC-funded GCRF network research (2019 £45k) is already shaping understandings of resource management and the customary law of Pacific Indigenous populations. This collaborative research has resulted in **Farran** being awarded a highly prestigious 0.6FTE AHRC-funded (2020 £196k) fellowship with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Asia Pacific desk to be held between 2021-2023, allowing the Unit to embed its research in high-level and international policy-making.

Ethical Regulation of Technology and Data: The world-leading work in this grouping has advanced major international policy debates on privacy, deepfakes and the omnipresence of algorithms in a data-heavy world (**Edwards**) and on misinformation (**Farrand**). The grouping has attracted significant external research income from the EPSRC 2015 (£4Million) (**Edwards, Co-I**), UACES network grant 2019 (£5k) (**Farrand**) and British Academy/Leverhulme £10k 2019 (**Turkmendag**). The grouping's work is highly interdisciplinary, drawing on computer science, molecular biology, political sciences and ethics, and engages with urgent questions of disruptive innovation and regulatory responses, including questions pertaining to the right of children to know their genetic origins in mitochondrial donations (**Turkmendag**).

Constitutionalism and Governance: The grouping has made significant contributions to law and policy-making and advanced public knowledge in the context of Brexit, Northern Ireland, the UK-Ireland common travel area and the UK common market. Cutting-edge ESRC funded collaborative work (2018 £200k) by **Murray** and **de Mars** examines the impact of Brexit on perceptions of identities and citizenship in Northern Ireland. This research has had demonstrable impact on

public policy and shaped the agendas of the Irish and the Northern Irish Human Rights Committees as well as public understandings of the unique challenges that Brexit poses in Northern Ireland (**Murray** and **de Mars ICS**). Research on the right of prisoners to vote has had significant impact throughout the UK, shaping directly law-making across the devolved administrations (**Murray ICS**). The highly sophisticated and interdisciplinary work undertaken in the context of legal history has reconceptualised modern understandings of important and centuries old ideas of legal institutions, including that of the English constitution (**Ward** and **Mullender**) and the criminal jury (**Crosby**). The grouping's work has fed into the work of Parliament, including the Select Committee on the Constitution's report on *The Union and Devolution* (Tenth Report of 2015–16, HL 149) and underpins key reform proposals in the Committee's report on the *Office of Lord Chancellor* (Sixth Report of 2014–15, HL 75) (**Murray**). The grouping maintains a commitment to innovative and cutting-edge interdisciplinary research methodologies, e.g. in the emerging field of global constitutionalism, where the application of feminist legal theories is breaking disciplinary ground (**Houghton**).

The *Rights, Lawyering and Justice* grouping is dedicated to advancing the ways the law/lawyers accommodate, or fail to accommodate, special considerations of society's most vulnerable groups. Discipline-shaping research on children's rights and youth justice highlights the many inadequacies in the way courts engage with young people and (benefitting from AHRC network support 2015-17 £35k) has significantly impacted on judicial training and practices in the UK, New Zealand and Canada (**Hollingsworth ICS**). The group has, moreover, made pioneering contributions to the emerging right to asylum in third-countries (**Gil-Bazo**) and clarified the obligations of states in international law in the context of forced displacement and armed conflict (**Katselli**). The grouping's work on the treatment of the Chagos Islanders was relied upon by the Supreme Court in *Bancoult no 2* [2016] UKSC 35 (**Murray**); other work has advanced new important definitions and meanings of fatherhood as well as understandings of the individual and societal impacts arising from the lack of appropriate work-life balances in the legal profession (**Collier**). Within this grouping sits the Human Rights and Social Justice Forum (led by **Katselli**), a cross-disciplinary Forum that has raised the international profile of Newcastle University through its membership of the Association of Human Rights Institutes.

Law and Obligations explores how the well-established rules and principles of law respond to modern innovations and technological challenges. Through studies of auto-generated wills (funded by the SLS), the grouping's research calls into question the accuracy and suitability of online wills and ultimately identifies how the legal remedies presently available fall short (**Whayman**). The doctrinal work in the group reconceptualises established rules and principles such as vicarious liability and has been relied upon by courts in Australia and by the UK Supreme Court (**Beuermann**) in *Prince Alfred College v ADC* and *WM Morrison Supermarkets plc v Various Claimants*. The grouping also engages in discipline-shaping contributions to our understanding of the societal challenges arising as a result of legal innovation in emerging economies and jurisdictions, including the first ever study into the history, development and modern approaches to the law of conflicts and private international law in China (**Tang**) and elsewhere, including in Canada where the Supreme Court has cited the group's work on conflicts of law (**Tang** in *Douez v Facebook*).

Business Law & Governance gives force to the Unit's commitment to interrogating the interplay between law, innovation and society through its work on corporate law and regulatory responses by governments and markets to novel beings (funded by the Wellcome Trust 2016 £29k) (**Lawrence and Morley**) and the emerging regulatory and ethical challenges of Islamic finance (**Aldohni**) and the disruptive interplay between global supply chains and branding (**Griffiths**). The Group's research is highly interdisciplinary, drawing on deep collaborations with colleagues at Newcastle University Business School (NUBS), including the groups work on social impacts of high-cost-short-term credit (**Aldohni**).

Empirical Research plays a central role in driving forward the Unit's commitment to innovation in research methodology and practice, including the first ever empirically-based and award-winning account of the use of foreign judgments in the UK Supreme Court, which mixes a sophisticated

textual case analysis of decisions with interviews of the Supreme Court judges (**Tyrrell**). Through advanced empirical analyses of mediation responses in Scotland, the grouping interrogates significant societal questions of whether the law manages to respond sufficiently to participants' needs in family and civil mediation (**Clark**). The group's innovative and empirical research into the use of new sanctioning and enforcement regimes by the Environment Agency (**Pedersen**), reveals how these tools fundamentally alter the dynamics of regulatory and criminal enforcement, calling into question long-held assumptions in the discipline of environmental law. The archival and statistically advanced research calls into question established assumptions about important legal institutions, including judicial review (**Arvind**).

The establishment of the Empirical Research grouping reflects the value we place on methodological diversity in our research, which also includes doctrinal, theoretical, socio-legal, law and economics, historical and critical studies and any rigorous interdisciplinary combinations. We ensure that our research is undertaken in an ethical manner and all research involving human subjects undergoes full research ethics review, which is integrated into the costings process, through the HaSS Faculty's Research Ethics Committee (chaired by a Unit colleague, **Turkmendag**).

To implement its strategic priority of delivering world-leading interdisciplinary research, the Unit actively embeds its research activities in the wider research culture across the Faculty and University and actively collaborates with colleagues elsewhere in the University and beyond. Colleagues in the Unit take leading responsibilities in cross-Faculty and cross-University research groups. Examples include: **Gil-Bazo's** Co-Convenorship of the research group on International Studies in Forced Migration, which includes members from social sciences and humanities and is hosted in the HaSS Faculty; **Hollingsworth's** leadership in the Children and Young People research group and her leadership in the wider NU Women network; **Godden-Rasul's** Steering Committee membership of the HaSS Faculty-based Gender Research Group; and **Mullender's** board membership of the Newcastle University Humanities Research Institute. Colleagues in the Unit are also deeply embedded in the recently launched interdisciplinary Newcastle University Centres of Excellence (NUCoREs) (see Newcastle University Institutional Level Environment Template para 2.2.), including **Edwards's** role in the Data NUCoRE where she leads the stream focusing on regulatory questions. Similarly, colleagues in the Unit embed their research in and contribute to research outputs, grant applications and engagement activities in NUCoREs in the areas of Energy (**Pedersen**), Regulatory Science (**Smith** and **Turkmendag**), and Cities and Place (**Rodgers**).

Impact and Engagement Strategy: Rooted in the North East of England, our Unit delivers socially relevant research that benefits society, locally, nationally and globally. Our impact and engagement strategy focuses on:

- increasing the relevance of our research across all stakeholders in society, including vulnerable groups, and
- developing innovative legal responses and tools for our collaborators that make a difference.

To drive and embed our I&E strategy we restructured our research organisation in 2015 and created the role of Director of Impact (who serves as ex officio member of the Unit's Research Committee), an Impact Officer, and appointed Impact Assistants to support, develop, track, and evidence impact, including impact beyond the REF ICSs. In 2020, a Director of Engagement and Place was established to strengthen further our links with local networks in order to enhance creative dissemination and impact activities and to bring ever-closer synergies between our research and student development opportunities (e.g. through enhanced pro bono skills training for students).

In addition to benefitting from ESRC Impact Accelerator Account (IAA) and the Faculty Impact Funding scheme (see section 3), the Unit launched a School Impact & Engagement fund to support activities and to integrate impact and engagement in all research activities in 2016. Through these funds, the Unit has diversified and strengthened research partnerships (including

with Médecins Sans Frontières, the National Trust, Natural England, Friends of the Earth NI, Amnesty International, and the Citizens Advice Bureau). The Unit will continue to embed our research in society by engaging directly with the collaborators and beneficiaries of our research through secondments, placements, co-designed research, and knowledge exchange mechanisms (see section 4).

Our selected ICSs reflect our commitment to impact across all legal disciplines and jurisdictions (national, regional, devolved and internationally) aimed at a wide range of beneficiaries (including judges, governments, legal practitioners and non-governmental organisations), illustrating cross-disciplinary areas of research strength in the Unit. This is sustained through regular Unit and Faculty-run workshops and specific Impact support plans. The strength of these efforts is evidenced in the Unit's interdisciplinary and externally funded research on resilient dairy landscapes (**Rodgers**) (see section 3), which underpins an ICS for Newcastle University colleagues in Panel A UoA6.

To enhance the dissemination of our research efforts, the Unit has established formal links with the local North East arts collective Roots and Wings to produce animations and video outputs. The Unit has developed significant dissemination activity through numerous media contributions, including in written media (*Washington Post*, *New York Times*, *Irish Times*, BBC News, *The Financial Times*, *The Independent*, and *The New Statesman*) and online media, including *The Conversation*.

Co-production of knowledge is a key component of much of the Unit's research. Beyond REF2021, the Unit continues to actively develop areas and priorities for challenge-led research from local to global impact by:

- Diversifying the stakeholders we work with to respond to emerging societal challenges and deepening long-term partnerships with the legal professions and civil society organisations;
- Introducing external partners from a range of professional backgrounds onto advisory boards of the research groups within the School/maintaining academic membership on civil society governing boards and to work with them to respond to emerging social challenges;
- Facilitating and supporting secondments/placements to sustain knowledge-exchange partnerships with a diverse range of stakeholder groups.

Underpinning the Unit's research and impact strategy and structure is a collective commitment to values and practices that cultivate a supportive, inclusive, and just research environment, and which provides freedom and opportunity to pursue (and succeed in) diverse career pathways; which may take colleagues across the university or beyond in exciting and productive ways. In 2014, we were the first School in the HaSS Faculty to adopt an EDI policy and to appoint an EDI Director; in 2018 we established an EDI Committee; and in 2019 we secured our Athena Swan Bronze award. We continue to work towards implementing our Athena Swan action plan focusing especially on ensuring that 'hidden work' is given full recognition in the Unit's workload allocation and addressing the 'leaky pipeline' at key transition points (e.g. PGR-full-time appointment; Lecture-SL; SL-Reader/Professor) by scaffolding career progression through induction, mentoring, collaborative working, the PDR process, and promoting involvement in employee networks (e.g. NU Women (**Hollingsworth** as Chair 2017-2019), BAME and Rainbow networks).

Our commitment to EDI is widely reflected in our research including **Collier's** work on fatherhood and the law, and on well-being in the legal profession; **Farran's** AHRC GCRF funded research into gender equality and food security in South Pacific Marine protected areas; and **Edward's** involvement in and contribution to the Observatory for Responsible Research and Innovation in ICT (ORBIT) 100+ Brilliant Women in AI and Ethics conference in 2019. Moreover, our EDI initiatives have also prompted and showcased new research (**Goddén-Rasul** and the Inspirational Women of the Law exhibition detailed in section 2).

We are particularly mindful of the implications of Covid-19 for the research of ECRs, colleagues with caring responsibilities, and those with pre-existing health vulnerabilities. To address these impacts and to support colleagues, the Unit has responded by putting in place a range of measures aimed at mitigating the uneven impact of the pandemic including informal and supportive 'plan your research' workshops; online drop-in sessions for colleagues to discuss challenges and disruptions with the Directors of Research with the view to develop specific support mechanisms; weekly mentor drop-ins with senior staff; best practice sessions; and additional PGR research seminars.

Future strategic objectives and priority areas:

Our future priorities include:

- the use of big data and privacy
- global environmental challenges and local impact
- energy and fair transitions
- the widespread use of online misinformation
- the use of novel medical technologies and
- the evolution of constitutional settlements across the UK and beyond.

The Unit will deploy resources, recruitment efforts and research time to the interdisciplinary study of the challenges facing our society. With impact and engagement key to our mission, we will develop and strengthen partnerships with stakeholders, undertake more knowledge exchange with collaborators and ensure our research remains open and accessible. The Unit is already directing itself towards and has responded to the Covid-19 pandemic as our research is shaping and advancing public debates as well as law and policy decisions, including in the areas of big data and privacy (**Edwards**, appointed to NHS COVID-19 App Data Ethics Advisory Board April 2020), the use of emergency powers by authorities (**Molloy**, Prospect Magazine April 2020), the implications of the outbreak for the Northern Ireland/Ireland border (**Murray** UK in a Changing Europe May 2020) and on the role of the equitable institution of *Donatio Mortis Causa* and wills in light of the outbreak (**Farran** policy briefing June 2020).

2. People

Strategy and Support - Staffing

The Unit is committed to creating a sustainable and ethical research environment premised upon job security, fair reward and progression, and academic freedom. To that end, all the Unit's 37 active researchers, including the Unit's ECRs, are employed on open-ended/permanent T&R contracts. The Unit's strategy is to attract and retain colleagues with potential for delivering the highest calibre of research that impacts and shapes domestic and global discourses, and to then foster career progression; in particular, we aim to support ECRs to develop momentum in their research careers. To ensure the Unit makes the right hiring decisions, prior to being interviewed by mixed-gender interview panels, the research of candidates is read by colleagues in the Unit and all selection panel members undergo diversity awareness and unconscious bias training. All candidates make a research presentation to colleagues in the Unit, securing collective input into the appointment process from colleagues across a range of disciplines, career-stages and backgrounds. Upon appointment, colleagues receive research inductions with the Directors of Research and Director of Impact.

In the present REF period, the University and Unit have made a substantial investment through 17 appointments in a combination aimed at supporting the Unit's research strategy and filling vacancies where colleagues have moved on to take up senior appointments at other institutions. It has been a priority to ensure appointments are also made to provide research leadership and mentoring, securing sustainability of our research efforts.

Chairs	Name	Year	Strategic Priority
	Clark	2019	To shape debates around the impacts of civil justice reforms and mediation on vulnerable groups as Professor of Civil Justice.
	Maharg (0.2 FTE)	2019	To lead on embedding research on legal education and technology into our learning and teaching provisions.
	Edwards	2019	To shape regulatory initiatives in internet and data law in capacity as Chair of Law, Innovation & Society.
	Smith	2016	To transform debates on post-conflict human rights responses as a leading expert on international human rights law with a global reach in the far East including through her appointment as UN Special Rapporteur for Cambodia.
	Tang	2015	To contribute to emerging understandings of conflict of laws internationally and specifically in the Peoples Republic of China in capacity as an internationally recognised scholar in private international law with a global reach.
	Griffiths	2014	To develop the Unit's research in intellectual property, brands and understandings of global corporations and supply chains.
Readers	Farrand	2019	To develop transdisciplinary and cutting-edge work on law and new technologies.
	Farran	2019	To shape responses to global environmental challenges including those faced by Pacific island communities in the context of environmental and human rights law.
Lecturers	Houghton	2017	To contribute to the Unit's strategic focus on global challenges.
	Mallory	2017	
	Ayihongbe	2017	To develop the Unit's medical ethics and technology and innovation research (in the specific areas of law and medical implants, HIV and epigenetics).
	Turkmendag	2016	
	Ryan	2014	

Postdoctoral Fellow	Lawrence	2016	To contribute to the development of the School's Law, Innovation & Society research theme.
Postdoctoral Research Associates	X3 FTE	2014-2020	To support colleagues in delivering innovative research outputs - two of these are attached to UKRI-funded projects.

To enhance the Unit's transdisciplinary work, appointments have been made of colleagues with non-law backgrounds (**Lawrence** and **Turkmen**).

Support for Research Career Progression and Development

The Unit is committed to supporting all colleagues' research career progression on an equitable and just basis and we are committed to the implementation of the Researcher Development Concordant. To that end we have a comprehensive system of research support which provides *time, funds, mentoring and development support, and collaborative opportunities*.

Time: Each colleague benefits from protected research time designated in the Unit's internal workload allocation system. The Unit also has a generous research sabbatical scheme under which the Unit 'tops up' Newcastle University's standard one semester long sabbatical leave policy so that colleagues are entitled to apply for six months of sabbatical every three years. The scheme provides colleagues with the opportunity to focus exclusively on research activities for a prolonged period, facilitating the development of novel, original research and impact activities, and space to develop projects that attract external research income. The Unit's Directors of Research and Head of School undertake annual reviews of research sabbatical leave arrangements and work-load models to ensure that all colleagues are afforded the opportunity of taking research sabbatical leave (identical arrangements are in place for colleagues on T&S contracts). In the academic year that colleagues are on research leave, they are also typically relieved of administrative and management duties for the full year.

Funds: Each colleague enjoys a personal research support fund of £750, which they can spend as of right on any research-related activities with top up funds readily available through a light-touch application process. This support fund is also extended to RAs employed on fixed-term contracts as part of specific research projects to allow the maintenance and development of research activities and personal research networks. These funds are in addition to the internal impact funding opportunities (see section 3) and Unit/faculty/university research funding (see next paragraph).

Mentoring and development support: The Unit operates an annual research development and bespoke mentoring portfolio through personal research and support plans and research development meetings, complimenting the University-based PDR system. The support-focused personal research and support plan, which is overseen by the Directors of Research, allows colleagues to reflect on and discuss with their research mentor and Directors of Research their research activities relating to publications, impact, and grant applications. Where a need is identified for additional support, the Directors of Research can dispense funds from the research budget, provide guidance and information about Unit and University research support schemes and research funds, including the Unit's Rapid Response Research Fund, the Unit's Impact Fund, the HaSS Faculty Research Fund, the HaSS Faculty's bid-preparation fund or the University's academic conference fund. The Unit's Impact Director, together with the Research and Engagement Support Officer and the Directors of Research, identify opportunities through the collation and distribution to individual colleagues of calls for evidence and submissions from government and non-governmental consultations. Beyond these specific support mechanisms, colleagues are also invited to reflect on potential grant application opportunities through the Unit's Personal Research and Support Plan process.

The Unit has also introduced bespoke early- and mid-career research mentoring programmes in 2019, which supplement the individual mentoring scheme that extends to all staff. ECR and mid-career mentors host annual meetings, organising specific ECR and mid-career-oriented capacity-building events, including sessions on development of research, diverse career paths plans and agendas for publication, funding applications, and impact. To provide additional dedicated research time, in particular to ECR colleagues and PGR students, the Unit hosts and funds regular writing retreats away from the University at which several days are dedicated to drafting outputs and/or grant applications and resulting in tangible outputs including articles and thesis chapters.

The Unit actively supports colleagues to select and take part in training events by including such training in the Unit's work-load allocation system. This support extends to colleagues on T&S contracts who wish to gain postgraduate research qualifications or undertake research with the view to gain, for example, PhD qualifications by publication (**Winter** and **Stephens**). Such training includes specific research training (e.g. in legal history research methodology, PI training), and career-development (e.g. bespoke leadership programmes). This commitment extends also to professional services colleagues, and the Unit's Research and Engagement Support Officer has completed dedicated professional services development programme, enhancing the quality of research support provisions in the Unit.

Colleagues are encouraged and supported by Newcastle University's Media Office in using online platforms, podcasts and traditional news platforms, as well as innovative and non-traditional means to distribute legal research to maximise reach and to engage with non-academic stakeholders and beneficiaries. This includes custom-made research briefings for stakeholders (e.g. judges and policy-makers), and public-events such as the sector-leading portrait exhibition and the biennial events of the Inspirational Women of the Law (IWL) project hosted by the Unit (2015, 2017 and 2019), and cutting-edge dissemination events through e.g. poetry readings and community participatory performance events in connection with the Unit's work on common law. Colleagues in the Unit have likewise enhanced dissemination activities by taking part in the NU Academies, including the Policy Academy, where ECR colleagues have benefitted from dissemination training (**Brennan** and **Lawrence**) (see Newcastle University Institutional Level Environment Template para 2.2.5.).

The Unit supports and celebrates colleagues' research at every stage of a project. We hold work in progress workshops where colleagues receive early feedback on developing projects (whether for publications or grant applications). For developed projects at pre-submission stage, a formalised feedback system is in place with the 'on call' research reading panel for outputs and the peer-review panel for grant applications (both panels are made up of ECR, mid-career and senior colleagues); and the Directors of Impact and EDI also provide feedback on impact and EDI in draft grant applications. Finally, we regularly host informal 'Celebrating Research' events at which one senior and one ECR colleague make a brief presentation of a recent research success of any kind, including major publications, grant successes, secondments or impact and engagement achievements.

Collaborative opportunities: To attract world-leading researchers to the Unit and in order to facilitate colleagues to engage closely with leading scholars, we launched in 2019 the Newcastle Law School Visiting Professor Scheme. In 2020, the Unit hosted Professor Jennifer Chandler of Ottawa University as its inaugural Visiting Professor whose research into law and neurotechnology maps on to the Unit's overarching research theme of *Law, Innovation and Society*. The Unit also hosts a wide range of development seminars, conferences, symposia and annual lectures. In 2017, the Unit hosted the SLSA annual conference and in 2021 the Unit will host the annual Bileta Conference. The Unit also hosts a series of regional research networks, including the Northern UK Human Rights Network (founded jointly by **Katselli**), the North East Empirical Legal Research Group (chaired by **Tyrrell**), which serves as a hub for empirical legal research in the North East, facilitating sharing of research ideas and best practices, including with PGR students, as well as the North East Regional Obligations Group (founded jointly by **Beuermann**).

The strength of these provisions is borne out in the outstanding record of promotions. In this REF period the Unit has successfully supported 10 internal promotions: **Pedersen** to a Personal Chair; **Murray** to Readership; and **Aldohni**, **Beuermann**, **Crosby**, **de Mars**, **Gil-Bazo**, **Johnstone**, **Mallory** and **Turkmendag** to Senior Lecturers. The Unit's commitment to mentoring and fostering career-development in ECRs has allowed us to successfully transfer one colleague hired on a T&S contract to a T&R contract (**Tyrrell**).

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

In addition to the EDI structures outlined in section 1, the Unit has committed to gender balance in research leadership (female and male co-DoR, gender-balance on the Unit's Research Committee including a female ECR representative), amongst invited speakers, and in the employment of REF EQA readers. To support colleagues with caring responsibilities, the Unit timetables meetings and research activities during core office hours. We also endeavour to provide free childcare facilities at events and conferences we host and the Unit operates a financial support scheme for carers returning to work (applied to all colleagues irrespective of gender), encouraging returning colleagues to spend the funds on research activities (e.g. one colleague was able employ a project RA). The Unit provides ten optional paid 'keeping in touch' (KIT) days and flexible working hours are provided for all colleagues, including professional support colleagues, and we include periods of leave and absence in the qualifying period for research sabbatical so not to disadvantage colleagues with caring responsibilities or personal extenuating circumstances. Early career researchers have additional workload allowances to undertake developmental activities, including training courses. The Unit also supports colleagues (through workload allocation) to take on EDI leadership positions at University level e.g. from 2016-19 **Hollingsworth** was chair of NU Women (800+ plus members), and **Godden Rasul**, established weekly University-wide writing groups supporting annually 40 women to produce 50 plus outputs p/a. In 2019, **Hollingsworth** was awarded the Vice-Chancellor's EDI champion award which was also in recognition of the Unit's IWL events.

Postgraduate Research Students

Since REF2014, the Unit has welcomed 37 PGR students and seen 28 students through to completion and award. Our diverse PGR community are recruited from 20+ different countries through the same considered approach we take to recruit our staff and as such we have a 60/40 female/male split. Since REF2014, the Unit has consistently sought to recruit outstanding candidates from varied backgrounds with annually funded studentships at UKRI levels from the Unit's own budget and, to expressly encourage interdisciplinary research, a scholarship jointly funded with the Institute for Health and Society in the University's Faculty of Medical Sciences. The Unit is an active participant and secures regular scholarships through the ESRC-funded Northern Ireland and North East Doctoral Training Partnership (NINE DTP) and the AHRC-funded Northern Bridge Consortium (two in the present REF period). The Unit actively encourages graduates from its own taught programmes to pursue a research degree. The majority of students on the LLM (by Research) and over 20 per cent of our PhD students are former graduates. Committed to sustainable leadership, our Unit policy is for PGR supervisory teams to include an ECR as second supervisor, in addition to an experienced researcher as principal academic supervisor. This ensures both that ECRs gain the necessary experience to qualify as principal supervisors *and* that innovative approaches to research supervision are introduced alongside established practices.

PGR students are fully involved in the Unit's environment and research activities, including 'work in progress' workshops, writing retreats, conferences and seminars. PGR students are encouraged to attend conferences and to present their work at research events, to develop key skills and build research networks. Students benefit from personal research accounts (£500 PA) to support research-related activities and lead in organising a successful research seminar series funded by the Unit. To fully prepare PGRs for full-time academic careers, students who wish to become involved in teaching take the University's Introduction to Learning and Teaching in Higher Education (leading to Associate Fellow status of the FHEA) as a pre-requisite to their eligibility and are offered a general induction by the Unit's Director of Excellence in Learning and Teaching

and a module-specific induction by the coordinator for the relevant module. The latter then reviews a teaching session and discusses feedback with the PGR student. In addition, all students (including those who are not currently teaching) are offered the opportunity to shadow, and formally reflect on, the teaching of academic staff.

In accordance with our impact and engagement strategy, the Unit's Director of Impact delivers regular impact sessions to PGR students, whereby good practices for dissemination and pathways for impact are considered in the context of each PhD project. Examples of this includes the third-party intervention submitted by one of the Unit's PGR students (**D'Antonio**) to the European Court of Human Rights. To help the transition from being a PGR student to a post-doctoral researcher, the Unit actively encourages PGR students to publish part of their work as part of the PhD project (e.g. **Mackie** *Harvard Environmental Law Review* 2018; **Querton**, *Netherlands Quarterly of Human Rights* 2019) or jointly with their supervisors (e.g. **Liaw**, *New Genetics and Society* 2019, Sawyer, *Public Law* 2020). Some students also engage in dissemination through media outlets during and after their PhD studies (e.g. **Nahlawi's** appearances on Channel 4, BBC Breakfast and Radio 4 2016/2017).

Managing completion and transition to independent academics

The Unit has improved completion rates by strengthening progression monitoring, but also by increasing the availability of support for PGR students. Recognising that personal circumstances are often an important factor affecting progression, in addition to the other channels of support and advice (i.e. supervisors, PGR director, PGR secretary, Faculty Graduate School, University Student Wellbeing Service), the Unit has introduced the role of the PGR Pastoral Adviser and student take-up of this service shows there is a need for such a role. Where relevant, PGR students are encouraged to make use of the University's parental leave policies to support them with family commitments while completing their degrees. As PGR students transition to the writing up stages, where necessary, the Unit provides ad hoc additional supervision support by an experienced additional supervisor above the normal supervisory arrangements and additional financial support from its bespoke write-up fund.

In 2019, the Unit created a bespoke PGR career advisory group (PGR director, the Unit's Early Career Mentor and Directors of Research), providing assistance to PGRs with developing CVs, job applications, funding applications and publication plans. Every two years, the Unit hosts the North East Postgraduate Law Forum, a graduate conference organised and run by PGR students. The School's PGR students also provide leadership of the student-led and peer-reviewed *North East Law Review* and act as mentors for UG students on the editorial board. Several students have taken up internships during their PhD studies (e.g. **D'Antonio**, Council of Europe 2019; **Saeva**, European Commission and European Parliament 2018) while some have set up businesses with the assistance of the University's careers service (**Lawal** 2018).

Evidencing the strong skills and career progression made by our PhD students, several of the Unit's scholarship holders have gone on to become full-time lecturers at leading UK institutions (e.g. **Caine**, Exeter; **Whayman** and **Mickiewicz**, Newcastle and **Sayer**, University of Law) and internationally (e.g. **Mackie**, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard; **Yassen**, Erbil University, Iraq; **Subai**, Niger Delta University, Nigeria; **Tapaneeyakorn**, Naresuan University, Thailand). Several graduates have also secured positions outside of academia: in governmental bodies (e.g. **Aglionby**, Natural England; **Al-Qatanani**, Central Bank of Jordan), NGOs (e.g. **Nahlawi**, Rethink Rebuild Society), and in spin-off companies based on PhD research (**Lawal**).

3. Income, infrastructure and facilities

The Unit's research environment is enhanced by its situation in a self-contained School building on the main campus where all the academic and support staff offices are located and where most of its teaching is delivered. This enables high attendance at research events and creates opportunities for sharing and generating ideas and exploring research synergies. The building benefits from a stand-alone in-house law library with dedicated and specially trained law librarians, allowing colleagues direct and easy in-house access to subject-specialist resources and expertise.

Postgraduate students have 24-hour access to designated desk and office facilities intended exclusively for postgraduate research students. Within the building, the Unit has also developed a dedicated 'Research Hub' as a physical space aimed at accommodating researchers working on collaborative and interdisciplinary projects, visiting scholars, and project PDRAs.

Whilst the building operates as the main focal point of the Unit's research environment, all colleagues have remote access to all relevant legal and research databases and online resources. The Unit also operates in-house research assistance schemes, allowing colleagues to engage research assistants throughout the year for specific research projects. These schemes include one part-time highly experienced research assistant, who has been with Unit for more than 15 years (and who has undergone training in qualitative and quantitative research methods and holds a PhD), and two schemes which employ undergraduate and postgraduate students to undertake research as directed by colleagues, helping students developing research skills for their future careers. In particular these schemes allow colleagues returning from parental and carer's leave or those with demanding leadership roles to kickstart research projects and maintain research momentum.

Since REF2014, we have increased our research income by 400%. Our increasingly interdisciplinary work has enabled us to broaden our funding portfolio and diversify the range of UKRI grants bid, broadened our PI and Co-I base and embedded legal research expertise into large interdisciplinary bids. Exemplars of the funded work includes:

- The interdisciplinary 3-year project into the past, present and future of urban commons in England, focussed to promoting the commons as publicly accountable, open, green, spaces vital for culture, health, wellbeing and biodiversity in the metropolitan context ('Wastes and Strays' AHRC (2019 £887k)) led by **Rodgers** (PI) with colleagues from Newcastle, Exeter, Sheffield and Portsmouth Universities;
- The ESRC funded (2018 £200k) Performing Identities project, exploring the impact of Brexit on Northern Ireland led by **Murray** (PI) with colleagues from Durham and Birmingham;
- The AHRC funded Global Challenges network grant (2019 £45k) led by **Farran**, interrogating the role of customary law in marine resource governance in the plural legal systems of the South Pacific islands of Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and Fiji, focusing on women's experiences and narratives of customary law;
- The AHRC funded Children's Rights Judgment Network (2015-2017, £35k) with **Hollingsworth** as Co-I;
- The EPSRC funded project (2020 £1.2 million) into the potential use of deep surface geothermal heat for energy use led by Newcastle University, with **Pedersen** as Co-I with Durham and Glasgow;
- The EPSRC (2015 £4 million) funded Next Stage Digital Economy and PETRAS National Centre of Excellence for IoT Systems Cybersecurity with **Edwards** as Co-I;
- The interdisciplinary Resilient Dairy Landscapes project with **Rodgers** as Co-I (2019-2021) as part of the £14.5 million cross-government Global Food Security's 'Resilience of the UK Food System Programme' with support from BBSRC, ESRC, NERC and Scottish Government. The project is examining the payment for ecosystem services at landscape scale using 'blended' private/public funding models.

To secure a sustainable research environment, we have also diversified our research income from other funders and leading research charities, including:

- The Wellcome Trust funded network grant (2016 £29k) exploring the regulation of novel beings led by **Lawrence and Morley**;
- A series of BA/Leverhulme small awards into bespoke research projects, including a project examining the regulation of epigenetics (**Turkmendag** 2019 £10k) and funding to cover archival research for the project into interwar juries in the English courts (**Crosby** 2020 £5k) and archival research into female jurors in the English Assize Courts in 1920-1925 (**Crosby** 2018 £4k).

- The European Council on Refugees and Exiles funded research project into the right to asylum by **Gil-Bazo** (2018 €18k).

Colleagues in the Unit are also recipients of highly prestigious fellowships, including:

- The AHRC/ESRC-FCO funded knowledge exchange fellowship, with **Farran** taking up a two year long 0.6FTE appointment at the FCO's South Pacific desk (2020 £246k);
- The Leverhulme Research Fellowship (2017 £47k) delivering a socio-legal study of wellbeing, law and society (**Collier**).

The increase in external grant income reflects a step change in the Unit's culture and research resourcing and evidences the success of its policies for the support and mentoring of research active colleagues. As noted in section 2, this includes an internal grant peer-review panel that reviews all draft applications on top of the review undertaken by the University's Grants and Contract team and the HaSS Faculty funding office. The peer-review processes include input and feedback from Unit and Impact Team in HaSS on impact strategies and pathways and dissemination activities of each application. The Unit's dedicated Research and Engagement Support Officer, appointed in 2016, supports colleagues with bid-preparation, manages costings, eligibility requirements and provides post-award management support.

The Unit hosts regular funding workshops and Faculty 'getting those grants' and impact workshops and continues to make full use of the support infrastructure provided by Newcastle University and the HaSS Faculty. This includes Research Funding Development Managers (UK, EU and International support offices) who share intelligence, raise awareness about upcoming and specific calls, and help colleagues to develop their funding applications. Importantly, the Unit actively embeds the expertise and experience harnessed from colleagues serving on external funding panels in the internal peer-review mechanisms for grant applications (this includes **Smith**, UKRI International Development; **Tang**, BA Global Challenges Research Fund; **Gil-Bazo**, ESRC GCRF; **Collier** ESRC; **Murray**, **Rodgers**, and **Turkmendag**, AHRC; **Pedersen**, NERC, **Clark**, Hong Kong Research Council).

We have also adopted a policy ensuring financial reward mechanisms in connection with fully economic costed (FEC) grant applications with the view to incentivise grant applications. Under this scheme, successful applicants receive a significant portion of the FEC income into their Research Support Accounts which can be spent on further research activity. The scheme is applied on a scalar basis, depending on the size of the award, with some of the surplus FEC income from larger grants going to support PGR research activities. The Unit also benefits from an increased range of financial support mechanisms aimed at pump-priming research, including impact and engagement activities, which leads to a grant application. At the Unit level, these include an Impact Fund (aimed at funding impact activities not limited to REF ICSs), a Unit High Risk Research fund (aimed at supporting research which might otherwise not attract external funding), and a separate and devolved Research budget managed by the Directors of Research.

The Unit benefits extensively from financial research support mechanisms from the HaSS Faculty, including the HaSS Faculty bid-prep fund (up to £10k for pump-priming), the HaSS Faculty Research Fund (HaSS FRF) (up to £4k) (used to pump priming research outputs) as well as support from the three HaSS Faculty research institutes (the Institute for Social Science, the Humanities Research Institute and the Institute for Creative Arts Practices). In the present REF period, colleagues have received £21k in bid-prep support and £11k in research support for bespoke projects. Specific examples include support from the HaSS Faculty Impact Fund (FIF) for its work into youth justice (**Hollingsworth** £10k), and to employ Impact Assistants to track and gather impact evidence (£6k), from the HaSS FRF for its archival research into the role of female jurors (**Crosby** £4k), and from the Humanities Research Institute for its work on novel beings (**Morley** £5k).

The Unit has also benefitted from the University's ESRC Impact Accelerator Account (IAA), having secured nine ESRC IAA awards in this REF period (totalling £43k), including for its work on forced migration (**Gil-Bazo** £8k) and its work on Brexit and Northern Ireland (**Murray** £10k).

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

The Unit has a long history of commitment to social justice in the North East and beyond. Central to this commitment is our desire to respond to societal needs in a way that delivers contributions to society and enriches our research environment.

External Partnerships and Beneficiaries

Deeply committed to the University's Engagement and Place strategy, the Unit actively embeds its research in the activities of national and international collaborators through secondments, placements, co-produced research, and the delivery of training and internships. We do this through a range of mechanisms. By

- Securing external funding to allow colleagues to take up positions with key research beneficiaries,
- Leveraging wider HaSS Faculty and University support to embed colleagues in relevant organisations and,
- Actively supporting and encouraging secondments and appointments of colleagues to positions in industry and government on fractional contracts.

This approach enabled **Smith** to be UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Cambodia (2015-2021), shaping the responses by international organisations to the human rights abuses in Cambodia. Securing fractional secondments with key beneficiaries of our research includes **de Mars** who took up a 0.2FTE contract with the House of Commons Library from 2017-2019, where she undertook research and drafted Commons Library policy briefings.

The Unit is also the first in the HaSS Faculty to utilise the new Innovation and Knowledge Exchange Sabbatical (IKES) scheme launched in 2019, under which **Brennan** took up paid placement with Friends of the Earth Northern Ireland (FoENI). The IKES deepens existing relations with FoENI over a six months appointment. It allows FoENI to benefit from Brennan's outstanding research into environmental governance in Northern Ireland and will embed important stakeholder experiences into the Unit's research, generating important impact in the process. The Unit's collaborations with FoENI have been developed and directly nurtured over the years as a result of the launch of the EJNI in 2019, also led by **Brennan** (see section 1). The strength of this collaboration is witnessed in **Brennan** and **Pedersen's** contribution to the drafting of the Northern Ireland Climate Bill which was tabled before the Northern Ireland Assembly in late 2020.

Furthering two-way knowledge exchange, the Unit established an Advisory Board (2016) constituted of external partners and stakeholders. The Advisory Board, which continues the Unit's commitment to gender justice with a 13 female/8 male membership, serves in part to ensure that the Unit's activities, including research activities, remain relevant and beneficial to a broad range of stakeholders. The Unit also actively contributes expertise and knowledge to the governing of external organisations by encouraging, through work-load recognition, colleagues to take on external engagement activities and to serve on external advisory boards of organisations that allow colleagues to shape societal developments relevant to colleagues' research. This takes place locally, nationally and internationally and includes:

Type	Organisation	Person	Date	Role
International Organisations and institutions	UN	Smith	2015-2021	Special Rapporteur for Cambodia
	European Asylum Agency (EASO)	Gil-Bazo	2016-present	External Expert
	UN GP20 Advisory Group on internal displacement	Katselli	2018-present	External Expert
Government Departments and Agencies	NHS COVID-19 App Data Ethics Advisory Board	Edwards	2020 (April-June)	Advisor

and Non Governmental Public Bodies	International Competition Network	Galloway	2019-present	Non-Governmental Advisor	
	Youth Justice Board Academic Advisory Network	Hollingsworth	2019-present	Steering Group Member	
Charities and Interest Groups	Rape Crisis in Tyneside and Northumberland	Godden-Rasul	2016-present	Trustee	
	Just for Kids Law	Hollingsworth	2016-2019	Trustee	
	Youth Justice Legal Centre	Hollingsworth	2015-present	Advisory Board Member	
	Children's Rights Alliance for England and Wales Strategic Policy and Litigation group	Hollingsworth	2018-present	Advisory Member	
	Accreditation and Validation Panel of Relationships Scotland	Clark	2014-present	Chair	
	Open Rights Group	Edwards	2018-present	Member of Advisory Board	
	Legal Profession's Wellbeing Taskforce	Collier	2017-present	Member	
Legal Profession and Professional Bodies	Advisory Board of the Spanish Mental Health Institute of the Legal Professions	Collier	2018-present	Member	
	Alan Turing Institute	Edwards	2020-2021	Fellow	
Academic Partners and Institutions	Institute of Brands & Innovation at UCL	Griffiths	2017-present	Member of Advisory Board	
	Information Law and Policy Centre, Institute for Advanced Legal Studies	Edwards	2015-present	Member of Advisory Board	

Colleagues in the Unit also collaborate with and undertake co-designed/produced research commissioned directly by research beneficiaries. Examples include **Collier's** work on anxiety and well-being among junior lawyers commissioned by Anxiety UK (2019), the ground-breaking work by **de Mars** and **Murray** on the Common Travel Area commissioned jointly by the Joint Committee of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission and the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission (2019-2020), and **de Cecco's** work on state aid commissioned by the EU Commission (2016).

The Unit actively disseminates its research through open avenues aimed at reaching diverse beneficiaries and the wider public directly. Examples include:

- Bespoke policy briefings presenting research in efficient briefing formats shared directly with policy-makers and stakeholders (totalling 16 since 2019). The impact of these is evidenced in our ICS (**Murray** and **de Mars** ICS and **Hollingsworth** ICS).
- Novel, sector-leading portrait exhibition and the biennial events of the Inspirational Women of the Law project (2017 and 2019). This interdisciplinary project, a collaboration between

colleagues and students in the Unit as well as students in the University's Fine Art department, promoted visibility of diverse role models through highlighting achievements of inspirational leading female lawyers through portraits. The exhibition forges links and networking opportunities between local schools, women's organisations, and the legal profession and delivers research outputs (**Godden-Rasul**, Legal Studies 2019).

Contributions and Collaborations within the Academy

The excellence and transformative strength of the Unit's research is often recognised by external agencies and societies such as **Tyrrell's** monograph, published in 2018, was awarded joint runner-up for the 2019 Peter Birks SLS Prize for outstanding scholarship. The strength of the Unit's work on data and privacy has been recognised through **Edwards** receiving the 2019 annual Privacy Papers for Policymakers rewarded by the US-based Future of Privacy Forum as well as the prize for the best non-computer science paper at the 2020 annual Association for Computer Manufacturing conference. Further evidence of the excellence and wide application of the unit's research can be seen in the extent to which the work of colleagues has been widely translated into non-English languages, including **Smith's** discipline-shaping work on international human rights (translated into Russian, Japanese, Chinese, Burmese, Georgian and Khmer), **Hollingsworth's** work on children's rights (translated into Spanish), **Ward's** interdisciplinary work on Orhan Pamuk translated into Turkish.

More than a third of research-active colleagues across all levels of experience in the Unit serve on editorial boards of leading law and interdisciplinary journals across disciplines and legal fields. This includes **Godden-Rasul** on *Feminist Legal Studies*, **Collier** on *Social and Legal Studies* and *International Journal of Masculinity Studies*, **Mullender** on the *Oxford Journal of Legal Studies*, **Tang** on *Journal of International Private Law*, the *Chinese Journal of Comparative Law* and Editor of *Conflictsoflaw.net*, **Ward** on *Law and Humanities* and *Law and Literature*, **Edwards** on *Internet Policy Review* and **Rodgers** (as Editor in Chief) and **Pedersen** on the *Environmental Law Review*.

The Unit actively encourages colleagues to take up visiting positions at other institutions to benefit from knowledge exchange and networking activities at world-leading international institutions. Since REF2014, over a 1/3 of the Unit's researchers have held visiting positions at internationally excellent institutions. To support these exchanges, the Unit has, since REF2014, developed strategic partnerships with Universities across the world, including McGill, UC Davis, Auckland, UNSW, the University of Hong Kong, the National University of Singapore, the China University of Political Science and Law (CUPL) as well as partners in the EU, including KU Leuven, Pompeu Fabra, Copenhagen, Groningen, Stockholm, Oslo and Trento and Verona.

These international partnerships and mobility arrangements enrich the Unit's research environment by cross pollination of ideas, sharing of best practices, the building of networks and often result in concrete research outputs including publications. Examples include:

- **Tang** (Duke University 2017, CUPL, China 2018, Max Planck Institute of Comparative and International Private Law 2018)
- **Collier** (ANU 2017)
- **Gil-Bazo** (Emory 2016 and Oxford 2017)
- **Rodgers** (Auckland 2017)
- **Katselli** (Trento 2018)
- **Turkمندag** (Yale 2018 and Oxford 2019)
- **Mickiewicz and Mullender** (Verona 2019 and 2020).

The benefits from these exchanges also extend to PGR students and examples include **Mackie** (having been a visiting PhD Scholar at Harvard Law School 2018, University of Lapland 2018, Tromsø University 2019, and University of Greenland 2019).

Students as Partners and beneficiaries: Research-led Learning

The Unit's research is deeply embedded in our student activities, including in our pro-bono activities. The Unit's research on youth justice (**Hollingsworth, Johnstone**) and gender violence

(**Johnstone**) forms the basis for and feeds into the activities undertaken by the Unit's award-winning Street Law Scheme (NUSU Award for Youth Volunteering 2017; Outstanding Contribution to the Community in the Pride of Newcastle Awards 2017; Best Pro Bono Scheme, Northern Law Awards 2018), which provides legal advice materials aimed at local youth groups through its Student Ambassadors. The Unit's research on social justice also forms the basis for other student pro-bono work e.g. the Community Social Justice partnership with North East Law Centre which introduces law students first-hand to **Kinghan's** research on the different tools used by social justice lawyers to create social change, as well as her work on the challenges facing the legal aid sector; and with Legacare, a local social enterprise and registered charity, which provides legal advice and representation to people with terminal illnesses who cannot otherwise afford it; and the Unit's research on gender violence (**Johnstone**) feeds into the development of another pro-bono scheme, the National Centre for Domestic Violence McKenzie Friend project.

To embed our commitment to *Law, Innovation and Society* in our learning and teaching activities, the Unit appointed a Professor of Practice in 2020 (**Maharg** 0.2FTE February 2020) whose research into legal education and innovative technology has shaped understandings of modern legal education. The Unit also publishes the *North East Law Review*, to showcase undergraduate student research and provide editorial experience for postgraduate students. The strength of our commitment to integrating research into our teaching is evidenced in the prizes awarded to colleagues in the Unit, including the 2018 Chris Gale Memorial Prize awarded by the Association of Law Teachers Conference to the Unit's research on legal education (**Jowitt** and **Tyrrell**), which draws on teaching interventions and in-class research undertaken in the Unit.