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| <b>Institution: 10007140 Birmingham City University</b>   |
| <b>Unit of Assessment: 18 Law</b>   |
| <p><b>1. Unit context and structure, research and impact strategy</b></p> <p><b>Context &amp; Structure</b><br/> Birmingham City University (BCU) has a 175-year heritage rooted in preparing students for professional practice, including legal practice. The School of Law (“the Law School”) supports 40+ academics, 1500+ UG and PG taught students, and 14+ doctoral researchers, and sits within BCU’s Faculty for Business, Law and Social Sciences (BLSS). The Law School is characterised by its international outlook, collaborative and interdisciplinary ethos, and commitment to producing research that makes constructive impact.</p> <p>Research is mobilised through faculty and school structures. A Faculty Executive Team, which includes an Associate Dean responsible for BLSS’ research portfolio, and who chairs a faculty-wide research governance system, comprising committees on ethics, doctoral research and training, and operations, leads BLSS. Representatives from each school in the faculty and relevant professional services (ICT, RIEE, finance etc) populate committees. The Law School’s research portfolio is overseen by its Director of Research (DoR). The DoR is guided by the Head of School, and supported by a wider group of staff with targeted research leadership/support roles, most of which have been established post-2014 to accommodate the Law School’s growing research profile.</p> <p>Research in the Law School is organised around 3 research centres — <i>Centre for American Legal Studies (CALS)</i>, <i>Centre for Human Rights (CHR)</i>, and <i>Centre for Law, Science and Policy (CFLSP)</i> — established in 2010, 2014, and 2017, respectively. Centres reflect the Law School’s expertise in the legal and political infrastructures of the United States (US), international and domestic human rights, and interdisciplinary problem-solving. These topics and approaches dominate our outputs submission, alongside our emerging expertise in international business law. Centre Directors are senior researchers who, supported by Associate Centre Directors, determine strategy and operations within research centres. Populated by staff, students, and partners, centres are collaborative hubs of intellectual and community outreach that generate impact, as demonstrated by our impact case studies, <i>Influencing US Legal Practice and Reform (ICSA)</i> and <i>Promoting Human Dignity Worldwide (ICSB)</i>. The Director of Doctoral Research (DDR) has the same oversight of the Law School’s doctoral research community, including our co-leadership of the West Midlands Legal Doctoral Network, and supporting the DoR to undertake Site Directorship for the Midlands 4 Cities Doctoral Training Partnership (M4C, previously M3C) supported by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC). Doctoral researchers map to research centre expertise, with most holding studentship awards, including from M4C. In 2019, the Law School established its first Research Committee, which comprises the DoR (Chair), Centre Directors, DDR, and representatives from all levels of research experience in the Law School (including doctoral researchers) and supporting professional services. A broader group of colleagues champion specific research initiatives, including the Law School’s staff-student research collaborations portfolio, research seminar series, research newsletter, and bulletins focused on funding calls and pedagogical research updates.</p> <p>These structures have catalysed a seismic shift in research culture in and around the Law School. Compared to REF2014, its first such submission, the Law School has increased its staff return by 83% (11), PhD completions by 50% (6), and research income from £1K to £139K. This has supported BLSS to grow its staff return, research income, and doctoral awards emphatically. The REF2014 panel commented the Law School had “<i>impressive future ambitions...</i>” We have now delivered on these and are charting an even more ambitious path.</p> <p><b>Research and Impact Strategy</b><br/> The Law School set 5 Future Goals in REF2014. These have been actioned through the <i>Law School Research and Scholarship Strategy 2014-2021</i> and the <i>BLSS Research Strategy</i>, resulting in the following achievements:</p> |

**Goal 1: To increase the percentage of staff producing REF-rateable outputs from [...] 30% to 50% by 2020.**

The Law School has increased its staff return by 83%. We have achieved this through strategic recruitment and development strategies, including investment funding and the implementation of a Workload Allocation Model (WAM). The WAM guarantees all staff workload for scholarly pursuits and includes 4 additional research-specific workload categories, of which ~50%+ of Law School staff receive.

**Goal 2: To make the current research clusters [...] more inclusive and integrated.**

Through establishing the CHR and CFLSP alongside the CALS, integrating Centre Directors within the Law School's senior leadership team, and establishing a Research Committee, we have restructured to enhance inclusivity and integration. Our centres generate development opportunities, profile, impact and funding, and — going forward — provide models for us to scaffold our emerging expertise in international business law.

**Goal 3: To attract external research funds.**

Through harnessing research centre expertise, the Law School has increased its research income from £1K (in REF2014) to £139K, including awards from the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Community University Partnership Initiative, British Academy and Leverhulme Trust. We have marshalled these awards to make impact, with our funded projects to study US compassionate release procedures and to promote human rights in the Sudan respectively featuring in *ICSA* and *ICSB*.

**Goal 4: To increase the number of PGR researchers in the School.**

Through harnessing research centre expertise and attracting ~£850K in studentship awards, the Law School has increased its doctoral awards by 50%. By implementing both professional and personal development strategies and community leadership in the form of DDR, we have laid foundations for future growth, now supporting a community of around 30 doctoral researchers and supervisors.

**Goal 5: To increase the profile of research in the School of Law both nationally and internationally.**

Through the work-streams of our research centres and beyond, Law School staff are engaged in a broad range of collaborations (including as expert visitors/advisors, practitioners, leaders, and public servants), reaching a variety of audiences and sectors across local, national and international communities.

**Future Goals**

Building on the above, and in line with the *BLSS 2025 Strategy*, the Law School's future strategic aims are to:

1. Have at least 50% of its staff qualified to doctoral level and engaged in research activity commensurate with significant responsibility for research (SRR).
2. Grow its doctoral research community, including completion and funding awards.
3. Increase and diversify external research income awards.
4. Increase interdisciplinary and collaborative opportunities.
5. Evolve its research infrastructures to accommodate the needs of its research community and strategic priorities, including equality, diversity and inclusivity.

**2. People**

The Law School supports a collaborative community of staff, doctoral researchers and students.

**Staff Profile & Development Strategy**

*Tables A-D* report ~percentage splits across two groups: the whole school (40+) and staff with SRR (11), who make up over 25% of the school.

*Tables A and B* respectively show the percentages of staff identifying as male or female and as white or as an ethnic minority. Females form the majority of both groups, which is notable when

compared to the gender split across BLSS (~48% identify as female). Females also dominate the Law School's PhD-holders (~65%), staff studying for doctorates (~55%), and conferred titleholders (~60%). Our school ethnicity split generally aligns with that across BLSS (~30% identifying as ethnic minority); however to place EDI matters at the centre of the Law School's strategic priorities going forward, including in the context of research, a Director of EDI was appointed in 2020 to work alongside the School's Director of Professional and Educational Development and Athena Swan Lead.

**Table A Gender**

| Gender | School % | SRR % |
|--------|----------|-------|
| Male   | 38       | 27    |
| Female | 62       | 73    |

**Table B Ethnicity**

| Ethnicity         | School % | SRR % |
|-------------------|----------|-------|
| White             | 72       | 82    |
| Ethnic minorities | 26       | 18    |

*Table C* shows the ~percentages of staff holding a doctorate and presently undertaking doctoral study. *Table D* shows the ~percentages of staff at each stage of academic progression. Both strongly suggest the Law School is on course to, for the first time, have the majority of its staff hold doctorates, and to increase conferment and the size of its SRR group.

**Table C Doctorates**

| Doctorates               | School % | SRR % |
|--------------------------|----------|-------|
| Holds a Doctorate        | 40       | 100   |
| Studying for a doctorate | 21       | 0     |

**Table D Academic Progression**

| Position              | School % | SRR % |
|-----------------------|----------|-------|
| Research Assistant    | 2        | 0     |
| Research Fellow       | 2        | 0     |
| Lecturer              | 47       | 45    |
| Senior Lecturer       | 30       | 10    |
| Associate Professor   | 7        | 0     |
| Reader (conferred)    | 7        | 27    |
| Professor (conferred) | 5        | 18    |

The Law School has implemented various strategies to develop the research capacities of its staff base.

### **Recruitment**

The Law School has engaged in strategic recruitment practices. It has harnessed its doctoral research community as a talent pipeline, welcoming, for example, Dr Amna Nazir and Dr Alice Storey as Lecturers in 2018, who both completed their M3C-funded PhDs in the CHR with Professor Jon Yorke. Both experts in international human rights and the United Nations' Universal Periodic Review (UPR), Nazir and Storey have been instrumental in operationalising *The UPR Project at BCU* ("*UPR Project*") within the CHR, which brings together staff, students and partners to submit research-informed stakeholder reports to the UPR. The *UPR Project* features in *ICSA* and *ICSB*. The Law School has strengthened its interdisciplinary ethos through recruitment too, for example welcoming, alongside Islamic and legal scholar Dr Nazir, socio-legal studies expert, Dr Friso Jansen, and political scientist and Diplomat, Dr Ilaria Di Gioia (also a Law School PhD graduate). The Law School has also furthered its ambitions to grow research in international business law, welcoming, for example, experts in labour law (Professor Luke Mason), insolvency (Dr Emilie Ghio), consumer law (Dr Nwanneka Ezechukwu), and international trade (Dr I-Ju Chen).

### **Research Workload Allocations (WAM) and Objectives**

The BCU WAM automatically provides all staff with an allocation (10%) for scholarly activity. It then recognises *additional* workload allowances to support staff as: (1) doctoral/further study students (+10%); (2) post-docs/emerging researchers (+10%); or (3) staff with significant

responsibility for research (SRR) (+15% - 40%). The BCU Personal Research Review (PRR) process, coordinated by the DoR in the Law School, determines WAM allocations. The PRR invites staff to detail their existing and planned research portfolio, and allocations are made following peer review and moderation. Individuals then work with their line managers to set objectives commensurate with their allocation, which are managed via the BCU Individual Performance Review process. To foster transparency and parity, the Law School has a Research and Scholarship Expectations Protocol, which outlines indicative graduated expectations across all levels of allocations.

The Law School has grown research capacities through implementing this process. In REF2014, the Law School reported 30% of its staff as research-active. Now, *all* staff are guaranteed workload for scholarly activities and ~50%+ receive an additional allocation to support their research, with over 25% receiving allocations commensurate with SRR.

### **Doctorates & Sabbaticals**

The BLSS Staff Development Committee (SDC) oversees support for doctorates and sabbaticals. In the Law School, ~21% of staff are enrolled on doctoral courses. The BCU WAM expressly supports doctoral study and all staff can apply to SDC for funding support, which covers 100% of tuition fees. SDC approved over £75K for Law School staff in the assessment period. SDC has also approved, following open competition, sabbaticals for Dr Sarah Cooper, Dr Ozlem Ulgen, Professor Yorke and Dr Di Gioia, supporting them to develop publications and undertake visiting positions, including at the Arizona Justice Project (Dr Cooper), Lauterpacht Centre for International Law at Cambridge University (Dr Ulgen), and Centre for Criminology at Oxford University (Professor Yorke).

### **Investment Funding**

Over £50K has been invested via development budgets to support staff to participate in research activities worldwide. This investment has delivered important outcomes. For example, it has resulted in the Law School's first Law and Society Association-approved International Research Collaboration — *New Challenges and Commercial Law in the Wake of the Covid-19 Pandemic* — which aims to inform policy and develop academic networks and scholarship. Dr Ghio and Ricardo Perlingeiro, a Visiting Professor in the CALS, spearhead this project. Funding has also delivered impact. For instance, Dr Ulgen's participation in the meetings and committees of the UN Group of Governmental Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems in Geneva, and Dr Cooper's residency at Arizona State University, respectively supported impacts described in *ICSB* and *ICSA*. Investment has also pump-primed future priority projects, for example, the CHR's planned collaboration with The University of the Gambia and Gambian Human Right Commission, which emerged from meetings between Professor Yorke and Lamin Daffeh and the Gambian Minister of Justice and Solicitor General in Geneva.

Law School projects have been supported through 12 BLSS Small Development Grants (SDGs) with a combined value of £10K+. SDGs have funded consumables and/or student researchers to support research-focused pilot studies, interdisciplinary collaborations, teaching resources and events.

For instance, students supported Dr Richardson Oakes and Dr Nkem Adeleye's now published study - *California's Civil Grand Juries and Prison Conditions 2007-17* (2020); Dr Storey's study of access to antiretroviral medication in states with the highest prevalence of HIV as part of *The UPR Project's* Namibia Report; and Dr Cooper's pilot study of US compassionate release procedures, which underpinned a successful funding application to the Leverhulme Trust and British Academy. They also worked with Dr Cooper, Jill Molloy and psychologist, Dr Paraic Scanlon, to co-design mock juror studies that statistically analyse juror decision-making, with results including *Juror Assessment of Certainty about Firearms Identification Evidence* (2017) — and multiple presentations to the European Association of Psychology and Law. Students have also participated in Dr Jansen's collaboration with the Faculty of Health, Education and Life Sciences (HELS), which develops the professional practice skills of law and allied healthcare profession students through simulated tribunals. Students also produced materials for 'Research Matters', a

collaboration between Library Services, Laura Smillie, Lauren Haddock, and Dr Cooper to build an online resource that develops law students' information literacy skills. They also supported Dr Scarlett McArdle to co-host '*Spaces and Places of the Journey to the UK: Assessing the Legal Framework for People Fleeing Conflict*' with Lincoln Law School; and Dr Jansen and Laura Smillie to deliver '*Building Community & Well-being*', a workshop for the West Midlands Legal Doctoral Network.

BCU strategic investment initiatives have also mobilised research in the Law School. In 2017, the Law School received a £3.9K STEAM Project Development Award for '*On the Record*', a collaboration between the Law School, School of Nursing and Midwifery, and School of Art and Design, which was ranked No. 1 in the open competition. The award funded the team to co-produce a simulated Nursing and Midwifery Council Fitness to Practice Hearing, which highlights the impact of poor record keeping by nurses. The project won '*Best Team Performance*' at the BLSS Dean's Awards, and its files are now being prepared as a resource for training providers. In 2018, the Law School was awarded £10K+ as part of BCU's Strategic Research Investment Initiative, which marshalled funds to support engagement with non-academic stakeholders. This enabled Dr Cooper and Dr Scanlon to present their juror decision-making research to lawyers at the Arizona Public Defenders Association, and Dr Cooper to share her US compassionate release study at events with New York's Correctional Association, Legal Aid Society, and State Bar's Criminal Justice Section. The Law School has also been awarded Erasmus Mobility Awards to facilitate research expertise exchange, and BCU Education Development Service (EDS) Awards to support projects focused on improving student progression (Jill Molloy and Pamela Thomas); enhancing the experience and achievement of BAME students (Safina Din and Dr Ezechukwu); and developing student focused textbooks (Dr Cooper and Dr McArdle).

#### **Student Research Assistant Collaborations**

Beyond SDGs, the Law School has pioneered a portfolio of staff-student research collaborations that foster staff and student development through research assistantships. Led by Dr Storey and Laura Smillie, since 2018, the Law School has provided 125+ assistantships across 50+ projects involving tens of staff, and has established a journal – *Forward Thinking* - to report and celebrate success.

Our largest scheme, the *Voluntary Research Assistantship Scheme* (VRAS) allocates projects on a grade-based merit system. Projects have ranged from building literature reviews and data-sets to argument mapping and editing. The VRAS has been particularly successful in supporting *The UPR Project*, with VRAs undertaking research for numerous reports, including for Myanmar and Namibia. The *BLSS Scholar Scheme* offers an additional, funded research assistantship to VRAS students holding the highest average grade in their year. Scholar projects have included citation tracking, co-creating textbook materials, and research for commissioned reports. For example, a BLSS Scholar supported Professor Mason's report, '*Vers une « constitution sociale » européenne ? La constitutionnalisation du droit du travail et le droit de l'Union européenne*', which was commissioned by the academic panel of the French Constitutional Council on the European Social Constitution, and published in the Council's official journal. This work led to further publications and formed the basis of a policy collaboration between Professor Mason and the Social Affairs Committee member of the European Parliament, Brando Benifei.

The *Future Legal Scholars Scheme* involves students in projects laying groundwork for external outreach. This scheme has been instrumental in supporting the Law School to achieve impacts described in *ICSA*. For instance, students catalogued information to support a cross-centre *amicus brief* submission to the US Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in *Floyd v Flison* (2020), a Nevada capital case. They also reviewed UPR records to support *The UPR Project's* stakeholder report to the US 2020 UPR that attracted citations from the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, and tracked legislation for Dr Cooper's report - *Exploring Legislative Activity and Compassionate Release in Arizona* - which informed her model medical parole procedure that is now a Arizona Senate Bill.

**Research Seminar Series**

Led by Dr Ghio, the Law School's *Research Seminar Series* scaffolds opportunities for research dissemination, peer review, networking, and skills development. Between October 2017 and July 2020, the series hosted 55+ seminars, including a *Publishing Strategies* sub-series, and seminars led by external scholars and practitioners, interdisciplinary research teams, and our doctoral researchers and student research assistants.

**Leadership and Mentoring**

Through offering a series of leadership roles, the Law School supports staff to gain experience in research management and governance to support their progression. In addition to directorate roles and committee memberships, leadership opportunities are available in relation to the Law School's *Research Seminar Series*, staff-student research collaborations, research newsletters and bulletins. Research centres also appoint Associate Directors and project leads. Notably, colleagues pursuing doctorates or who are recently post-doc dominate these roles. Mentoring occurs through both line management and opportunities to collaborate with experienced researchers. The DoR and Centre Directors all serve on the Law School's senior management team and as line managers. The centres also provide a series of collaboration opportunities. For example, staff can co-create reports for *The UPR Project* in the CHR; attend *Shut-up-and-Write* sessions coordinated via the CFLSP's collaboration with STEAMHouse; and participate in CALS' *Global Constitutional Dialogue Series*, which has included lectures, seminars and roundtables. CALS also offers publication and editorial opportunities through its in-house law journal, the *British Journal of American Legal Studies*, and its *Controversies in American Constitutional Law Series*.

**Doctoral Research Community Profile & Development Strategy**

In REF2014, we reported 4 PhD awards and aimed to "increase...PGR researchers." Historically within the DoR's oversight, we recognised that — at the right time — this goal would require dedicated strategic and operational oversight. Consequently, we first introduced a supporting role - PGR Lead - in 2017, before establishing the DDR in 2020.

We have delivered on our goal to increase PGR researchers and laid foundations for continued growth. In the assessment period, we delivered 6 award completions (including 1 by published works), a 50% increase on REF2014. By the census date, however, our doctoral community already comprised around 30 doctoral researchers and supervisors. Females form the majority of our award completions (83%), and doctoral researchers (~57%) and supervisors (~59%) recorded on the census date. Our diversity is expanding, with ~36% of our doctoral researchers on the census date being an ethnic minority, compared to 17% of our award completions.

In addition to establishing leadership, we have achieved the above through a series of development strategies.

**Strategic Recruitment**

We have implemented strategic recruitment practices, starting with robust vetting processes for applicants. The Law School's general application sequence involves a written application and references, shortlisting, and an interview with 2-4 academics, where applicants must present on their proposal and a time management task. The M4C recruitment process involves the same, plus vetting by BCU Site Directors and a M4C-wide Subject Area Panel and Selection Panel. To maximise the student and supervisor experience, potential supervisors are closely involved in recruitment processes, and supervision teams are composed with mentoring in mind, with less experienced supervisors always placed with those more experienced. All supervisors receive workload support in the BCU WAM.

In addition, we have harnessed the expertise of our centres to innovate projects and target funding. All awards and live projects (on the census date) map to our centres, with dominant themes being the United Nations and international human rights; intergovernmental relations between the federal government and US states; and legal responses to scientific uncertainty. These projects have supported centres to expand their work-stream capacities. The CALS and CHR primarily supported the majority of award holders (83%) and now support most live projects (~79%). The

CFLSP is emerging as a supervisory force, primarily supporting 17% of our awards and ~21% of live projects. We have also attracted ~£850K in studentships. All of our completions were funded, 50% by BCU studentships or staff development support, and 50% by M3C. Live projects are supported by various funding streams, including BCU studentships and staff development funds, M4C, government funds, and self-funding. We have also used our staff-student research collaborations as a talent pipeline, recruiting numerous of our award holders and live project researchers from our UG and PG programmes, with many completing research assistantships prior to commencing their doctoral studies.

### **Structured Induction**

Law School doctoral researchers join the 500+ strong BCU doctoral research community, and – with their supervisors — can access a series of induction events coordinated by BCU's Doctoral Research College. All doctoral researchers register on the PgCert (Research Practice), a centrally coordinated course supported by faculty and school representatives, which introduces researchers to research design, methods, analysis, and professional research practices. Successful completion is required to progress.

### **Progression Monitoring**

Doctoral researchers' progression is supported through regular supervision, and a BLSS-wide progression monitoring system. This typically includes (relative to mode of study) a review at months 6, 12, 24, and 30. Prior to each review, the doctoral researcher and supervisory team prepare a progress report through which supervisors can recommend to the reviewing panel (typically comprising 3 PhD supervisors from across BLSS) that the researcher proceed; proceed at risk; or does not proceed. A proceed at risk outcome triggers an interim review to provide further support. The monitoring system is developmental for both doctoral researchers and supervisors. The former have the opportunity to reflect on their progress and to discuss and present their research. The latter can diversify their knowledge of doctoral practices across BLSS and engage with senior supervisors, who typically serve as panel chairs.

### **Research Investment Funding & Specialist Resources**

BLSS has invested ~£17.5K in Law School doctoral researchers, enabling them to participate in high quality development opportunities worldwide. This has included supporting Dr Amelia Shooter and Rose Tempowski to further their research on US legal institutions and scientific evidence as *Emerging Scholars in Residence* at the US Law Library of Congress. Tempowski also received a £2K BCU Go Global Scholarship. Researchers have also been supported to present their research, including at the University of West Virginia (Matthew Davis - US firearms regulation); Birmingham Centre for Media and Cultural Research (Minh Thy Van Pham - fan-fiction and copyright); Society of Legal Scholars (Valentina Dotto - environmental protection); and Socio-Legal Studies Association (Oleksandra Vytiaganets - public health regulation).

M3C/M4C doctoral researchers can also access consortium funds. Drs Storey and Nazir, for example, received (through individual and team applications) ~£17K from M3C. These funds supported them to present at conferences in New Orleans, Vancouver, and Toronto, and to participate in the UN UPR pre-sessions in Geneva, including those described in *ICSB*. Funds also supported them to co-convene conferences, including *Human Rights Challenges in the 21st Century: An Interdisciplinary Postgraduate Research Conference* hosted at BCU. Dr Nazir was also involved in the *Inaugural TIMES Symposium* (which she now chairs), and *Human Rights in the 21st Century: Developing Rights in the Developing World*, an interdisciplinary conference also supported by The Rights Lab at Nottingham.

Specialist resources are also available for Law School doctoral researchers, with dedicated workspaces available across all university campuses, including hot-desks in Law School offices. The Law School has also invested in a specialist texts library exclusively for its doctoral research community.

### **Professional & Personal Development Opportunities**

Further to the PgCert (Research Practice), BCU's Educational Development Service offers a SEDA Teaching Practice qualification, which can lead to HEA Associate Fellow status, and BLSS coordinates an Early Career Researcher Development Programme, with workshops ranging from research design and presentation to seed funding and finance. Doctoral researchers can also serve as cohort representatives on committees. The Law School provides paid teaching opportunities, with all our award holders undertaking UG teaching whilst studying. Law School supervisors regularly support those they supervise to publish (pre and post-doc) too, with examples including Dr Anne Richardson-Oakes co-authoring with Dr Di Gioia and Valentina Dotto; Professor Yorke with Dr Nazir and Dr Storey; and Dr Cooper with Dr Daniel Gough, Dr Shooter, and, alongside Jill Molloy and Professor Maxine Lintern, Rose Tempowski.

Supervisors can also access specific development opportunities. The Doctoral Research College coordinates training on regulations, progression monitoring, internal examining, and chairing *viva voces*. BCU also runs a SEDA accredited Communities of Practice for supervisors, which involves participants in a series of interdisciplinary group conversations focused on different aspects of supervision, with a view to producing an action plan to develop their supervision practice.

The Law School fosters personal and social development across its doctoral research community. The DDR provides doctoral researchers and supervisors with an additional layer of pastoral support beyond, respectively, supervisory teams and line managers. They also coordinate a series of community-building events, including *Shut-up-and-Write* sessions, Away Days, coffee mornings, and social mixers. The Law School is also a founding member of the West Midlands Legal Doctoral Network. The network, a collaboration between law schools at Aston, Coventry, Birmingham, Wolverhampton and BCU, fosters regional networking through shared events. BCU became co-lead of the WMLDN in 2020 and soon after held the network's first online conference - *Doctoral Research & COVID-19: Challenges and Opportunities*.

### 3. Income, infrastructure and facilities

In REF2014, we committed to make our research infrastructures "*more inclusive and integrated*" and to increase external funds through targeting "*funding sources that correspond with our best-rated research.*" Through establishing the CHR and CFLSP alongside the CALS, integrating Centre Directors within the Law School's senior leadership team, and establishing a local Research Committee we have restructured to achieve this. Hubs of intellectual and social outreach, our centres generate development opportunities, profile, impact, and funding, growing our research income from £1K to £139K.

#### **Centre for American Legal Studies**

Established in 2010, the CALS, led by Dr Richardson Oakes (Director) and Dr Di Gioia (Associate Director), is dedicated to the study of US law and legal matters. The Law School has a long-standing interest in US legal systems, delivering UG modules in US law and coordinating a US internship programme since the 1990s. Just finding its feet in REF2014, the centre is now a growing hive of activity involving multiple research-streams, recognised publications, international partnerships, and a developing income stream.

Originally focused on matters of criminal justice, the centre now supports additional research-streams in intergovernmental relations and political process, judicial process and global constitutionalism, and human rights in the Americas. Each stream is populated by teaching, practice, and research projects involving staff, doctoral researchers, students, and external partners. *ICSA* reports impacts across these work-streams. The centre's next work-stream priority is to expand the scope of its interests in the Americas. Since 2015, the centre has built relationships with numerous Brazilian universities, including Estacio, NUPEJ, Federal Fluminense and Santa Cecilia, producing a series of joint publications, projects, events, and exchange visits, and welcoming Brazilian scholar and Judge, Ricardo Perlingeiro, as a Visiting Professor. In 2021, the centre will commence its first doctoral project on the Organisation of American States, and submit a stakeholder report to Brazil's UPR as part of *The UPR Project*.



Centre publications are broadening in scope and attracting increased attention. In 2011, the centre launched its *Controversies in American Constitutional Law Series* with Routledge, which produces collections engaging with US constitutional law and practice. The series has published 6 volumes post-2014, covering innocence, equal protection, gun control, tax law, public policy, and the US Supreme Court, attracting citations from scholars, lawyers, and courts. In 2012, the centre launched the *British Journal of American Legal Studies* (BJALS), a peer review journal publishing articles of interest to the Anglo-American legal community. Led by Editor-in-Chief, Dr Richardson Oakes, and supported by a wider editorial team comprising Law School staff and BCU and US-based law student editors, BJALS is now in its 20th volume (16 published post-2014). BJALS has attracted thousands of downloads and views on SSRN and 100+ citations in scholarly and legal practice sources (motions, briefs, decisions etc).

The centre has grown its outreach. Since 2017, it has worked with the US Law Library of Congress to facilitate research residences/internships at the library for staff and students, 4 post-2017. In 2019, it launched its *Global Constitutional Dialogue Series*, coordinating two events with Birmingham Law Society. The first being the *Judge Joseph A. Greenaway Lectures on Law and Justice Series* (JJGS), which it established to celebrate 25 years of American legal studies at BCU. Judge Greenaway, commissioned by President Obama, delivered the inaugural lecture alongside Mr Justice Julian Knowles, Mark George QC, and the US Embassy. In 2021, the second JJGS will co-inside with our recent US Embassy and British Association for American Studies (BAAS) grant award to co-ordinate — ‘*Proposing a Bill of Rights for the 21st Century*’ — a simulated US Constitutional Convention organised as a competition for high school students. The second 2019 event — a collaboration with the CHR — was a two-day series titled *Judicial Challenges for the 21st Century*, which involved a delegation of Brazilian judges and the Honourable Michael Kirby, Co-Chair of the International Human Rights Institute, with proceedings published in BJALS. Also in 2019, the centre commenced a research exchange with the Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law at Arizona State University (ASU), which sees ASU law students (3 post-2019) join the Law School’s centres as Visiting Scholars. Visiting Scholars have undertaken research for *The UPR Project* and the CFLSP’s corpus linguistics collaboration with the School of English. The CALS (alongside the CHR) also continues its long-standing partnership with UK charity, Amicus, to train volunteers to intern in US death penalty offices and undertake casework.

In REF2014, the CALS reported no research income, but now has a developing portfolio. In 2017, the centre received a Leverhulme Trust and British Academy grant to collaborate with the Arizona Justice Project and Arizona State University’s Post-conviction Clinic to study US compassionate release procedures, research that has catalysed law reform efforts in Arizona, as reported in *ICSA*. In 2018, the CALS — with Reading University’s Monroe Centre — received funding from the Political Studies Association to co-ordinate *American Politics, History and Law: A Cross-Disciplinary Dialogue* a workshop that produced a BJALS special edition. BJALS subscriptions also generate income and local businesses have sponsored centre events. The centre has already attracted awards from the US Embassy, BAAS and British Library for future projects.

### **Centre for Human Rights**

The CHR, established in 2014 to reflect the Law School’s growing profile in the field of human rights, promotes human rights protection, access to justice, and the rule of law worldwide. Directed by Professor Yorke and organised around four work-streams overseen by Associate Directors, the CHR is a growing nerve-centre for work that informs regional human rights protections mechanisms, and helps to safeguard ground-level human rights, as showcased in *ICSA* and *ICSB*.

Chipo Mwale, Director of the Law School’s LLM (International Human Rights), oversees the centre’s Education work-stream, which frames members’ work to foster understanding of human rights through published research and experiential learning. The UK’s Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) trains civil servants, Chevening Scholars, and the FCDO Youth Inspiration Group through harnessing the centre’s expertise in Model United Nations (MUNs) simulations. BCU students studying *United Nations: Law and Practice (LLB)* and *Human Rights in the Wider World (LLM)* are also assessed via MUNs. Led by Lamin Daffeh, the centre has initiated

plans to extend its work to The Gambia through collaborating with The Gambian National Human Rights Commission and University of The Gambia School of Law.

Dr Storey oversees the centre's Clinic and Consultancy work-streams. Clinic involves research and drafting services for human rights litigation. This has included working with government departments (e.g., FCDO) and professional associations (e.g., E&W Bar Human Rights Committee and International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute) to prepare amicus briefs in US capital cases, 4 post-2014, including to the US Supreme Court. Clinic also involves working with civil society organisations (CSOs). For example, in 2014, members advised the Sudanese Human Rights Institute (SHRI) on matters of international human rights law and Islamic law in the case of Meriam Ibrahim, a pregnant woman sentenced to death for sexual immorality and 100 lashes for apostasy in Sudan. Their advice helped prevent both punishments, and the CHR subsequently hosted a panel event — *Meriam Ibrahim: The Case that Gripped the World* — bringing together experts, including Meriam's lawyers and the Minister of State for the UK FCDO to discuss the case. Consultancy involves advising and reporting on human rights policy. The CHR has, for example, advised the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission and the European Commission on human rights policies relating to abolishing capital punishment. It has also submitted expert reports to the UN Human Rights Committee (re: the Right to Life) and Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief (re: eliminating intolerance and discrimination based on religion or belief and achieving Sustainable Development Goal 16). In 2018, the centre launched *The UPR Project*, which sees Law School research expertise marshalled to make policy recommendations to UN member states through submitting stakeholder reports to the UPR. Reports have been submitted concerning human rights in the US, Myanmar, and Namibia, with the former two attracting citations from the Human Rights Council's Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review. With a pipeline of reports now in preparation, including for the UK, Papua New Guinea, Sudan, Pakistan, Syria, eSwatini and Brazil, the CHR is on course to grow this work. Activity across both these work-streams features in *ICSA* and *ICSB*.

The centre's partnerships stream, coordinated by Dr Nazir, focuses on forging synergistic networks to generate and exchange human rights best practices. For example, the *UPR Project* has generated best practice recommendations through collaborating with local stakeholders, for example the Pace Criminal Justice Institute in the US, Research Society of International Law in Pakistan, and Universidade Estácio de Sá in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The centre's partnership with SHRI, which features in *ICSB*, has been awarded £244K+ through the FCDO's Human Rights and Democracy Programme. This funding has supported projects to safeguard human rights and promote religious freedom and access to justice in the Sudan through coordinating multi-faith dialogues, stakeholder training, and legislative reform strategies. This work has grown human rights capacities across stakeholders, and supported the SHRI and African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies to have apostasy charges dropped against Sudanese adults and children. The CHR-SHRI partnership is now preparing a joint submission to Sudan's next UPR.

### **Centre for Law, Science, and Policy**

Established in 2017, the CFLSP provides a framework to increase interdisciplinary capacities. Led by Drs Cooper and Jansen, the centre is organised around its collaborations with faculties, students, and external partners.

Faculty collaborations harness expertise across BCU. BLSS projects include partnering with the Department of Psychology to investigate legal issues through psychological research methods, including juror decision-making and public perceptions of EU harmonisation. These projects have attracted SDGs, and produced publications and conference presentations. Collaborations with the Faculty for Art, Design and Media (ADM) include co-Site Directorship of M4C, and two projects with the School of English. The most recent project — *TRAC:COVID – Trust and Communication: A Coronavirus Online Visual Dashboard* — is a £95K+ project to develop a visual dashboard to track online conversations surrounding COVID-19 — supported by the AHRC strand of the UKRI *Ideas to Address COVID-19 Scheme*. The CFLSP's Director will sit on the project's interdisciplinary Steering Committee. The other project is *The First Ten Years of the UK Supreme Court: Understanding the Language of Equality*, which uses corpus linguistics to interrogate UK

Supreme Court decision-making. This project has been pump-primed by the CALS' collaboration with ASU, with a Visiting Scholar building a 300+ case law dataset to be linguistically interrogated. The CFLSP has also joined forces with departments across HELS to create simulated tribunals for healthcare and law students that equip both cohorts with cross-disciplinary competencies in context. This work includes the Law School's STEAM Grant Project — *On the Record* — which also involved expertise in filming and production from ADM.

The centre engages with students across various study levels and disciplinary experience. Since 2017, it has supported the Nuffield Foundation's Future Researcher's Scheme, providing Post-16 students with opportunities to co-create on projects involving STEM and the law, learn about HE, and progress towards Gold CREST Awards or the Big Bang Competition. BCU students engage with the centre through the School's portfolio of staff-student collaborations, with projects including mapping anti-vaccination arguments, researching the development of scientific knowledge for amicus briefs, designing mock juror studies, and searching news media for stories reporting on legal regulation and science. The centre also supports — alongside the CALS and CHR — a growing number of doctoral researchers, including projects evaluating public health regulation and legal responses to vaccine science, neuroscience, agency science, and medical diagnoses.

External partners come from a range of disciplines. In addition to the Nuffield Foundation, the centre partners with STEAMHouse — a business innovation space — to provide spaces for centre-based group-work. Funded by a scholarship, it has joined forces with Professor Lissa Griffin at the Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University, to co-design and deliver '*Law[ying] and Science*.' This course introduces US law students to the relationship between law and science through a series of case studies, which aim to cultivate students' lawyering skills for effective use of science in legal practice. In 2017, the centre welcomed Visiting Professor, Hugh Koch, a clinical psychologist and pioneer in civil litigation. Professor Koch engages in teaching and research across the Law School and Psychology Department, and provides clinic placements for students so they can observe how expert testimony is developed. In 2018, alongside charities Youth Sport Trust and City Year UK, the centre received a grant from the Community-University Partnerships Initiative, funded by the Power to Change Trust Research Institute & AHRC, to host a cross-disciplinary workshop focused on research methodologies for assessing the value of the charities' youth social action work.

#### **Research Committee**

In late 2019, the Law School established its first Research Committee to distribute decision-making across its widening research community. Populated by the DoR (Chair), Centre Directors, DDR, and representatives from all levels of research experience (including doctoral researchers) in the Law School and professional services assigned to support the school, the committee meets regularly to report on and discuss research operations and strategies.

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

In REF2014, we committed to "*increase the profile of [our] research ...nationally and internationally.*" As part of and beyond the work-streams of our centres, Law School staff engage in a broad range of collaborations, reaching diverse audiences and sectors worldwide.

Law School staff share their expertise with scholars and students worldwide as Visiting Fellows, Scholars and Professors. In Europe, for example, Professor Mason holds positions at the Max Planck Institute for International and Comparative Private Law, Centre for Comparative Labour and Social Security Law operated by Bordeaux University and French National Scientific Research Centre, Sorbonne Law School, and Institute Catholic de Paris. Dr Ulgen has given expert lectures at the Asser Institute Winter Academy on Artificial Intelligence and Keith Gompertz is a Visiting Professor at the University of Applied Sciences Schmalkalden. In the Americas, Dr Richardson Oakes is a Visiting Professor at Federal Fluminense University, and Dr Cooper has been a Visiting Scholar at the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University, Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University, the Arizona Justice Project, and Law Library of the United States Congress.

We collaborate beyond academia. We engage with professional practice as trained solicitors, arbitrators, mediators and conveyancers, and work with ThinkTanks, charities, political regions and industry. For instance, Professor Mason spent time at the *Max Planck Institute* cataloguing connections between national constitutions and labour and employment law, which resulted in an extended contribution to the Oxford University Press publication, *The Max Planck Encyclopedia of Comparative Constitutional Law*. He has also been part of several large scale, funded art projects, working with internationally renowned artists who have developed works informed by his outputs. Most notably, he worked with artists to produce the film and London gallery show 'A Modest Proposal', focusing on the nature of equity finance, and '7Walks', an international performance project, in which public figures and artists engage in public political philosophy in historical settings. Professor Yorke and Drs Storey, Cooper, and Di Gioia support frontline death penalty charity — *Amicus* — to deliver training for volunteers. The former three, plus Dr Nazir, have also engaged with a scholar network coordinated by the *Death Penalty Project*. Professor Yorke and Dr Nazir have worked with the UK FCDO to help deliver its *Strategy on the Abolition of the Death Penalty*, and Professor Yorke is a member of the FCDO's Pro Bono Lawyer's Panel, and has provided consultancy to the European External Action Service regarding the EU's capital punishment policy. Also in Europe, Dr Ghio has been a researcher and advisory board member on *Judicial Co-operation Supporting Economic Recovery in Europe*, an EU Commission Project valued at €300k+. Her work has informed insolvency regulation in Europe, being cited in the course of the European Commission's preparatory work on the now *Directive of Preventive Restructuring 2019*. In the UN, Dr Ulgen has been an Academic Legal Expert at the drafting committees and meetings of the UN Group of Governmental Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems.

We address diverse audiences. For example, Dr Richardson Oakes participated in *Enemies of the People! Who Rules in a Democracy?* as part of debates festival, *The Battle of Ideas*. Dr Alan Ma has delivered a series of lectures to the Hong Kong Law Society, and Dr Nazir has addressed the UK FCDO, the Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies Forum (TIMES), Al Mahdi Institute and Association of Palliative Care Social Works on human rights issues. Professor Mason has delivered keynotes to the Association of Law Teachers (ALT) and the Royal College of Arts, and presentations to French Parliamentarians and Courts about the legal status of workers in the gig economy and platform capitalism, a field that is the focus of numerous international funded projects, in which he is a key participant.

Our contribution has been recognised through awards. Professor Mason won the 2014 Oxford University Press Law Teacher of the Year Award for his use of popular culture to make challenging concepts accessible. Drs Ghio, Nazir, and Chen have won awards from, respectively, Trinity College Dublin, University of Birmingham Graduate School, and the Taiwan Science Symposium, and, in 2018, M4C gave Drs Nazir and Storey Cultural Engagement Awards. Many Law School staff have been nominated for and/or won internal recognition awards too, with Professor Yorke and Dr Jansen winning Researcher of the Year Awards, and Law School projects funded by EDS (*Connect Mentors*) and STEAM (*On the Record*) winning Best Team Performance Awards.

Law School staff are proactive participants in their intellectual communities. This includes as members of generalist societies — such as ALT, Society of Legal Scholars, Law and Society Association, Higher Education Authority, and Socio-Legal Studies Association — and as members of specialist associations and networks. These latter memberships include Academics for the Abolition of the Death Penalty (Professor Yorke), American Politics Association (Drs Richardson Oakes and Di Gioia), British Association of Islamic Studies (Dr Nazir), Chinese (Taiwan) Society of International Law (Dr Chen), International Association of Consumer Law (Dr Ezechukwu), International Network on Platform Capitalism and Work (Professor Mason), Midlands Anti-slavery Research Collaboration (Chipo Mwale), and the Cross-Border Corporate Insolvency and Commercial Law Research Group (Dr Ghio). Many staff are similarly engaged with professional practice as members of Law Societies, Inns of Court, Bar Associations, Chartered Institutes, and the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA).

In addition to producing *BJALS*, we engage in peer review and editing worldwide. Dr Richardson-Oakes holds editorial positions at the Judicial Science Research and Extension Program Centre at Federal Fluminense University and the International Journal of Interdisciplinary Social Sciences. Dr Nazir is Deputy Editor-in Chief of the Manchester Journal of Transnational Islamic Law and Practice, and holds a 3-year editorship at Harvard Law School's Islamic Law Program, including a role with the Harvard Journal of Islamic Law. Dr Nazir has also been a peer reviewer for the Nordic Journal of Human Rights. Dr Ghio has peer reviewed for the New Zealand Yearbook of International Law and is an Editor for the INSOL Europe Academic Forum proceedings. Dr Cooper has served as a peer reviewer for the International Journal of Criminal Law and Evidence, British Academy, US National Science Foundation, and AHRC.

Law School staff are leaders across sectors. For example, Professor Mason is Chair of the ALT and serves on Birmingham Law Society's Board of Directors and the SRA's SQE Reference Group. Dr Ulgen serves as Chair of the Accountability Expert Focus Group for the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Ethics Certification Programme for Autonomous and Intelligent Systems. Dr Nazir is Chair of TIMES. Dr Ghio is a Board Member of the Younger Academics Network of Insolvency Law, Dr Ezechukwu serves as Secretary to the Commercial Law Research Network Nigeria, and Dr Ma serves on committees coordinated by local branches of the Institute of Marine, Engineering, Science and Technology and British Computer Society.

We also serve our immediate communities. Dr Di Gioia devotes her free time to public service in her capacity as Honorary Vice-Consul for Italy in Birmingham, serving Birmingham's Italian residents. Lamin Daffeh is the Founder of *The Alliance for International Development, Education and Research*, a UK-based international consortium of specialists, providing consultancy services with a range of partners in West Africa. He is also the founder of *The Fresh Start Foundation*, a charity supporting vulnerable children to access education in his native Gambia. Director of the BCU Law Clinic, Samantha Gargaro, is a Trustee of the *Midland Legal Support Trust and Support Through Court*, charities that support the provision of legal services to those in need. In keeping with BCU's professional practice heritage, the BCU Law Clinic collaborates with local partners, including the Central England Law Centre, Personal Support Unit and SOS!SEN, to provide *pro bono* legal services in Birmingham.

Through pursuing its future strategic aims to grow the capacities of its staff-base and doctoral research community; increase its research income and collaborations; and evolve its structures based on the needs and priorities of its community, the Law School commits to enhancing its future contribution.