

<b>Institution: Kingston University</b>
<b>Unit of Assessment: 27 – English Language and Literature</b>
<b>1. Unit context and structure, research and impact strategy</b>

### 1.1 Unit Context

The **English Language and Literature** Unit of Assessment consists of **19** staff members, including 7 Professors and 3 former early career researchers (**16.54FTE**). Informed by feedback from REF 2014, the University's decision to establish a Unit of Assessment in Music, Drama, Dance, Performing Arts, Film and Screen Studies (UoA33) has reduced the size of UoA27 from 22.61 FTE in 2014 but has also reshaped its disciplinary and interdisciplinary composition around core interests. Staff from English Literature, English Language and Linguistics, History, Creative Writing and Journalism draw on disciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches which centre firmly on textual forms and practices, literary histories and cultural materialities. Since 2014, the Unit has attained a greater degree of research focus by concentrating on literary-historical forms of criticism, diaspora and postcolonial studies, and life and women's writing, alongside creative and theoretical work focussed on race, gender and culture. This closer alignment of research interests has been productive in strengthening the Unit's research environment, which is characterised by positive consolidation of the PhD programme and notable successes in research funding. The Unit currently has 30 enrolled PhD students and has achieved **20 doctoral completions** (plus 2 by publication and 1 wholly overseas) and 6 Masters by Research in the current cycle. It has benefited from the University's membership of the TECHNE AHRC Doctoral Training Partnership (DTP), with 7 studentship awards in the period and a further 2 awarded in April 2020 for 2020/21. PhD completions compare favourably to REF 2014, as shown below:

	Completions	Per FTE
2014	14	0.62
2021	20	1.2

Researchers have been funded from a variety of sources to conduct their research, including a Leverhulme Research Fellowship to support research on remembrance and cultural monuments in post-Reformation England (Phillippy), with income from the same scheme supporting another project, in 2014, on British colonial writing from the seventeenth to the nineteenth century (Carey). Reflecting the maturity of core research, and as part of its strategy for career development and disciplinary sustainability, the Unit has also hosted three Leverhulme Early Career Fellows during the current period, awarded to scholars working in modern literature, culture and writing (Boyd Maunsell, Alfano, Angel). Total mainstream research income is **£347,275** which represents a 12.7 per cent increase on 2014 when calculated by FTE submitted. This was also supported by **£151,505** academic, administration and central services research income of which over 99% relates to AHRC doctoral training partnership funding (TECHNE).

	Total research income	Research income per FTE
2014	424,813	18,788
2021 mainstream	347,275	20,996
2021 including 'services'	498,781	30,156

During the current assessment period staff have published: 16 monographs, 6 books of poetry, 7 novels, over 20 articles in refereed journals, more than 40 book chapters, several edited collections and journal issues, as well as other publications including collections of essays and stories, editions, individual poems and short stories, and creative non-fiction. Our commitment to research excellence is reflected in publication venues including leading university and trade presses (Cambridge, Edinburgh, Minnesota and Manchester University presses; Bloomsbury, Routledge and Continuum) and peer-reviewed academic journals including *Textual Practice*, *New Literary*

*History, Criticism, Genre, Frontiers: A Journal of Women's Studies, Journal for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Biography, Philosophy Today, Postmodern Culture, Paragraph and Poetry.*

The social and cultural influence of research produced by the Unit is realised through partnership with local, national and international organisations including the United Nations, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, History and Policy and Beyond Borders Scotland (**Jensen**), the International College of Philosophy in Paris (**Wortham**), and English PEN and International PEN (**Fowler, Upstone**). Staff have also formed collaborative links with the Literary London Society (**Dines**), and the Trauma and Stabilisation Recovery Network (**Jensen**). Staff feature prominently in festival programmes, on local and national media, and at international research events, and are regularly involved in collaborations with other universities nationally and internationally.

## 1.2 Unit Structure

Staff in UoA27 are based in the School of Arts, Culture and Communication (ArCC), created in 2017 to bring together a range of humanities subjects including English literature and language, linguistics, history, philosophy, media, journalism and publishing, music, drama and dance. In 2018 ArCC became part of Kingston School of Art (KSA), joining well-established academic units in art and architecture, design, critical studies and creative industries. This initiative brought together teaching, research and postgraduate study across the entire spectrum of the arts and humanities, in order to promote interdisciplinary collaboration and foster mutually supportive environments for scholarship, learning, critical inquiry and creative practice. As a result, PGRs within the Unit benefit from closer links with those researching in philosophy, art and design, media and performing arts (the other main beneficiaries of AHRC-funded DTP studentships at Kingston, which in the current REF period have numbered over 70 across all disciplines). KSA is therefore able to offer a rich research environment for doctoral study, especially where literary history and criticism intersect with cultural and critical studies, art and design history, aesthetics, philosophy and forms of creative practice. Staff have also actively participated in training and development events for research students across the DTP, which includes 9 HEIs in London and the South East. Equally, as the University's arts and humanities subjects have drawn closer together during the current REF cycle, members of the Unit have collaborated with other staff in cognate disciplines at Kingston, though both internal and external initiatives and events. For example, the 2015 graduate conference (led by **Botting** with doctoral students) 'Critical Spaces: Disorienting the Topological' considered interdisciplinary approaches to spatiality resulting in 'Spaces of Crisis and Critique: heterotopias Beyond Foucault' (Bloomsbury) edited by PhD students Faramelli, Hancock and White. **Wortham's** collaborations with Kingston's Centre for Modern European Philosophy (CRMEP) have resulted in two conferences (the first as part of an open summer school) with follow-on publications: *What Remains: Of Derrida's Glas*, New York University, 2014/*Paragraph* Special Issue (with Catherine Malabou) and 'Thinking Universalities', DePaul University, 2015/*Philosophy Today* Special Issue (with Etienne Balibar).

The Unit's two research groups, **Writing Cultures**, and **Race/Gender Matters**, provide a lively, shared environment for research exchange between staff and students, through public events, seminars and informal meetings; peer support for staff in the development of research outputs; funding applications and events planning, especially for ECRs; and collaboration across the university (such as with other units 30, 32, 33) and with external partners, leading to greater public engagement and impact.

### i. Writing Cultures (led by **Jensen** and **Upstone**)

Writing Cultures fosters creative, critical and interdisciplinary engagements with multiple forms of writing across diverse cultural contexts. Its activity grows out of the previously established Kingston Writing School, with a key aim continuing to be increased public engagement through free workshops, performances, and community book clubs. A regular programme of events puts Kingston staff and students in dialogue with writers and academics from across the UK and internationally. Writing Cultures is home not only to practice-based research and publication in creative writing, but also creative non-fiction and publicly-minded scholarship in literary studies.

Within Writing Cultures, **Fowler** is a poet whose approach to highly engaged, collaborative and curated forms of writing aims at a variety of artistic, social and cultural impacts. **Kureishi** (CBE) is an internationally acclaimed playwright, screenwriter, filmmaker and novelist, whose works explore the complexities of multicultural experience in English society. **Bailey** has published eighteen works of fiction and non-fiction, having twice been shortlisted for the Booker Prize. **Miller's** novels and short stories explore themes in contemporary American and British cultures, with an emphasis on constructions of racial identity. **Baron** has published six novels including, recently, a well-received novel for children; his research has engaged, among other topics, civil rights violations suffered by Turkish writers. Shortlisted for the Virginia prize for fiction in 2018, **Jensen** works at the intersection of life writing, trauma and human rights. Her expressive writing project has developed train-the-trainer workshops in post-conflict areas in Syria, Lebanon and Iraq; her approach aims to alleviate trauma through the use of life writing and narrative-based therapies. A critic of diaspora studies, **Upstone** also undertakes research on questions regarding the public function of writing as a force for social, cultural and political change. She has led numerous local and metropolitan writing events at the Museum of Futures, the Rose Theatre and for English PEN. **Lambrou** complements her research in literary and non-literary stylistics and media discourses in fictional and factual texts with a focus on personal and trauma narratives. **Scott's** research in the pragmatics of referring expressions considers how they may be used both to communicate meaning and to create stylistic effects across media forms, aligning with the emphasis within Writing Cultures on materiality and creativity. **Baverstock's** work promotes and records the benefits of shared reading among diverse communities; her Big Read project has pioneered the expansion of literary engagement in various institutions while her Reading Force initiative unites military families by means of shared reading and writing about literature.

## ii. Race/Gender Matters (led by **Dines**)

Evolving from a more broadly-based interdisciplinary grouping (Cultural Histories at Kingston), Race/Gender Matters (R/GM) was formed in 2016 to bring into sharper focus the Unit's research on theoretical, critical and creative engagements with the materiality of race, gender, identity and language. It has hosted several public events featuring interdisciplinary talks and performances by a variety of practitioners and academics. R/GM emerged from a shared recognition that a substantial body of research in the Unit coalesces around issues of materialism, from social and historical understandings to the contemporary reintroduction of matter into critical theory. R/GM is positioned to traverse specialisms and disciplines; members regularly engage with staff and students from other departments in ArCC, from philosophy to media and music. PGR students constitute a lively component of the group and take an important role in its activities. Monthly research seminars provide a forum for researchers and doctoral students to present work in progress, and to forge new collaborations across disciplines and departments. Due to a long history of involvement by staff within the Unit, the Literary London Society (LLS) is a key external partner of R/GM. Former staff member Carey, whose work focusses on slavery and colonial writing, was President of the Society at the beginning of the current REF period, while **Dines** was Vice-President (2014-17) and President (2017-20), organising annual conferences in 2014 ('Ages of London') and in 2018 ('Conflict and Resolution'), and editing the *Literary London Journal* issue 16.1 (2020). Phillippy and **Botting** have both given the LLS Annual Lecture (2016, 2017) and other staff have undertaken LLS committee service and organised reading groups. Members are currently developing a Leverhulme Project Grant toward enhancing the collaboration through a project on the digital mapping of literary Londons.

Of the staff returned to REF 2021 within R/GM, **Palmer's** research crosses philosophy, speculative writing and critical theory, with interests including the avant-garde, queer performance, critical theory, corporeality, synaesthesia, intersectional feminism and new materialism. **Botting** is an expert on Gothic literature from the eighteenth century to the present, especially in relation to monstrosity, alterity, metaphor and materiality. **Birchwood's** research in early modern British representations and receptions of Islam and the Muslim 'other' has led to work examining the interplay of orientalism and European femininity in the writings of Aphra Behn. **Dines** researches

post-World War II suburban cultures in America and Britain, examining conjunctions of physical and narrative spaces that destabilise or queer suburban values. **Scarsi's** main area of interest is Anglo-Italian relations in the Renaissance, examined through theories of the gendered body in English translations of Ariosto and Boiardo; recent archival work has uncovered an unknown manuscript poem by Bernardo Tasso, which she is preparing for publication in collaboration with the Centro Studi Tassini in Bergamo. **Johnson's** research on the long eighteenth-century focuses on leisure, gender, consumer and medical history through the study of England's emergent spas and seaside resorts. Clarke (Emeritus Professor) focuses on eighteenth century literature with a specific interest in women's writing and gender; recent publications include a monograph on Oliver Goldsmith and Grub Street, and a memoir. **Agnew's** research takes a postcolonial view of Indian and Irish narratives, focusing on the material interplay of gender and environment in travel narratives by nineteenth-century British women in colonial India and Ireland. **Upstone** publishes on contemporary fiction, race and identity. **Wortham** researches twentieth and twenty-first century textual histories informing the interplay between philosophy, literature, and political and psychoanalytic thought. During the period, he has produced monographs on contemporary philosophical, political and ethical conceptions of suffering, hope and resistance. **Cathcart** is a scholar, journalist and co-founder of the Hacked Off campaign which informed the Leveson Inquiry. His research explores corruption and misrepresentation, from the anti-Semitism in reporting of the Battle of Waterloo to the racial biases undergirding print reporting on Islam as well as the Steven Lawrence case.

### 1.3 Research Strategy

The Unit's research and impact strategy builds on plans outlined in the REF 2014 submission to: strengthen research platforms; continue investment in staffing and partnerships; develop a vibrant and sustainable PGR community; build pathways to impact through collaborative and interdisciplinary research; increase opportunities for fundable research.

The key strategic priorities for the Unit going forward are therefore to: 1) consolidate the two research platforms to enhance the research environment; 2) develop programmes of research that may lead to major research projects and larger funding bids; 3) foster collaborative research within external networks and partners with a view to increasing impact and knowledge exchange; 4) further enhance the postgraduate research experience and PGR outcomes; 5) foster opportunity for staff in line with the academic careers framework; 6) encourage an open and inclusive approach to research.

Unit strategy is informed by the University's Strategic Plan (KU22) which aims to foster knowledge and learning that benefits society; aligning research, knowledge exchange, professional practice and teaching within a framework of impact. Faculty research is led by the Associate Dean for Research, Business & Innovation, who has oversight of the 4 Units of Assessment in KSA (27, 30, 32, 33). The Faculty embarked on a review of its research environment in 2020-21, underway at time of submission, involving extensive engagement with external stakeholders as well as faculty researchers, particularly in order to support the creation of pathways to impact, strengthening partnerships and enhancing the training and mentoring of staff in the generation and capture of impact, including skills training in the use of impact tracking software and training and development in open research.

Relocation of the newly created School (ArCC) to another Faculty (KSA), with its strengths in a range of creative practices and critical methods, has boosted collaborative activity with academics who offer new research perspectives and approaches that invigorate work in the Unit. The Unit provides a platform for a regular series of events including lectures, workshops and work-in-progress seminars that offer opportunities for colleagues to share their research and engage with that of other staff and PGR students. The consolidation under one roof of all postgraduate research in the arts and humanities, including all studentships funded by the AHRC, significantly enhances the research environment. A clear and distinct focus on the Writing Cultures and Race/Gender Matters groupings aids mentoring, guides academic career development and supports



achievement in research. This has been supported during the period by the University's introduction of a new academic careers framework, and internal funding for staff development and targeted teaching relief for research. Writing Cultures' concern with the transformative potential of writing and creative practice in terms of external engagement and impact has led its researchers to work with community partners, NGOs, businesses and industry. R/GMs' interrogation of racial, gendered, and material identities is deeply involved with the cultural politics of 'place', a premise that it continues to explore through collaboration with the Literary London Society, which reach a wide audience through its web-based and live events, lectures and reading group. R/GM also provides a platform for cross-Unit collaboration, for instance with colleagues submitted in UoA33 (**Perazzo Domm, Mader McGuinness**). The vitality of the Unit is reflected in the growth of the Unit's PhD programme. Key aims are to continue the trend of increased levels of external funding for doctoral students; and to involve all staff in PhD supervision in order to promote sustainability across the spectrum of research interests in the Unit. In training PhD students, the Unit will prioritise opportunities to explore career options beyond the academy through placements that allow them to contribute to programme development, research and communications at arts and cultural institutions. Internships for PGRs encourage a generation of 'versatile humanists' with a variety of career options. Kingston's membership of the TECHNE DTP supports this, including Collaborative Doctoral Awards which offer staff new opportunities to work with external organisations to provide jointly supervised PhD provision. In the most recent round of applications, **Upstone** and **Agnew** developed a CDA with the Natural History Museum; likewise, **Jensen** worked with the Trauma Stabilisation and Recovery Network to develop a CDA studentship. In this context, Unit staff have also designed and led TECHNE training and exchange days, which offer opportunities to discuss potential research collaborations with external partners.

The Unit's approach to **interdisciplinarity** is embedded in its two main groupings, which bring together literary studies, including literary history and theory, with creative practice while also engaging with approaches found in linguistics, philosophy and the social sciences. Race and gender theory in their contemporary interdisciplinary forms strongly inform research in the Unit, and research insights frequently occur on condition of working across disciplinary traditions and perspectives.

The Unit encourages an **Open Access** research environment, aligned with the University's 'Green' Open Access policy. Additional funding is also made available for Gold Open Access article processing charges. Research support staff and Library, and school research directors are active in encouraging and training staff in Open Access policy. Facilitating open research is part of the Unit's strategy of public engagement, such as the use of Backdoor Broadcasting to create publicly accessible, archived podcasts of research events (including Kingston Shakespeare Seminars and R/GM events).

#### 1.4 Impact strategy

The Unit made a strong submission in research impact in the previous REF, with 100% 4\* rating in this category. It has since built upon the strategy identified in the 2014 impact statement of focussing on targeted areas to deliver specific benefits of research: impacts on the creative economy benefitting external partners and communities; community enhancement and public engagement; policy engagement. Impact and public engagement, which brings research and knowledge exchange together in support of REF and KEF, is supported by the University's impact and business development teams.

- *Creative economy and its benefits to external partners and communities*

Through partnership with creative and cultural institutions, publishers and community groups, researchers in the unit employ a variety of public and community engagement strategies leading to the growth and diversification of audiences as well as increased participation in literary events and reading schemes. As well as delivering benefits through quality engagement with external organisations and community groups, **Baverstock's** research and practice on projects such as the Big Read and Reading Force deliver publisher benefits, providing support and insight against the

## Unit-level environment template (REF5b)

backdrop of changing landscapes in publishing and reading practices. In terms of partnership-working, **Jensen's** impact (ICSUoA27Jensen1) reaches and supports social enterprise and private sector bodies as a pathway to community engagement and policy change. **Fowler's** 'Enemies Project' (ICSUoA27Fowler2) explores new models of socially-engaged creative production in collaboration with a variety of arts organisations. The research impact on local partners and communities of members of the Unit is also reflected in the production of events it helps make possible at venues such as the Rose Theatre (**Upstone**), Tate Modern (**Palmer**) and the 'London Theatre of the East' exhibition (2019/20), to which **Birchwood** contributed as academic advisor to the Arab British Centre and Dr Johnson's House.

- *Community enhancement and public engagement*

The Unit actively seeks opportunities to engage with cultural institutions and communities. It makes use of its Greater London location to establish collaborations with national bodies as well as local partners. Building on the broader role of the creative economy, the Unit's second major approach to impact involves the cultural enhancement of the local community in Greater London, and Kingston more specifically. This is in line with the University's strong commitment to civic engagement. Under **Fowler's** direction the largely internal events structure of the former Kingston Writing School has been reimagined as part of **Writing Cultures** with a mandate specifically directed towards public-facing activity, advertising free events locally around the Kingston area and on an independent website, and expanding its venues to outside the University including local theatres, boat clubs, and museums, in order to attract public interest. Alongside talks, it also runs a community writing group which combines book group activities with opportunities for creative response. R/GMs' collaboration with the Literary London Society, meanwhile, plans to extend the London Fictions website and the Literary London Reading group to present a public lecture series to increase awareness of London's rich literary heritage.

A distinctive feature of the Unit's impact in the period has been the development of novel participatory strategies for engagement with literature through performance. **Fowler's** experimental approach to public poetry is a case in point, while **Palmer's** queer clowning unsettles assumptions about gender and racial identities; her workshops on new materialism at Tate Modern reached both academics and researchers including PGR students, and members of the public. The shared reading schemes (The Big Read; Reading Force) developed by **Baverstock** are, equally, recognised as innovatory in focussing on some of the performative conditions of reading, not least collectively, to enhance literary engagement and communities of reading.

- *Policy engagement*

From powerfully engaged journalism on pressing political issues (**Cathcart**) to concerted working with NGOs nationally and internationally on key aspects of social justice (**Jensen**), the Unit strives for impact through key interactions with policy and advocacy. Reflecting the orientation of both Writing Cultures and R/GMs, researchers understand the forms of writing and creativity with which they are involved as having strong impact potential in relation to policy engagement around a variety of socio-political imperatives, as indicated below. Activity contributing to this aspect of the Unit's impact frequently builds directly on the impact reported in REF 2014.

Following the influence on UK government policy of the Hacked Off campaign, of which he was co-founder, and taking forward work presented in one of the Unit's 2014 impact case studies, **Cathcart** has continued to investigate and publish his findings on the consequences of the Leveson process for press regulation in order to restore public trust in the mainstream press. His interventions in public debate surrounding the accountability of the press have established him as a leading advocate of truth in reporting and a principal detractor of press corruption. **Cathcart's** exposure of racial and ethnic bias in the reporting of the Stephen Lawrence murder, his public opposition to the suspension of Leveson 2, and his submission to the Cairncross Review continue to influence government policy and spur public debate. Building on impact achieved through the Military Writing Network, presented as an impact case study in REF 2014, **Jensen's** contribution to the development of literature and human rights as a disciplinary sub-field has led to key impacts in

the delivery of training projects developed collaboratively with stakeholders in Iraq, Lebanon and the UK, supported by the production of a handbook and digital materials in both English and Arabic. As well as exploring the therapeutic effects, post-trauma, of expressive writing, **Jensen** has trained hundreds of rights advocates and overseen deployment of the applied research to thousands of conflict and gender-based survivors of trauma, engendering a shift in policy and training protocols for the United Nations Development Project in Iraq (notably regarding the collection and storage of witness testimony) as well as local charities in the Middle East and UK government and private sector bodies, helping them attain organisational goals around social cohesion and cultural recovery. Based on his research and expertise in the institutional and archival histories of continental philosophy, from 2014 onwards **Wortham** collaborated with and advised successive presidents of the Collège international de philosophie in Paris, during a time when longstanding funding from the French state was in question and the reorganisation of university and cultural organisations in Paris into new clusters threatened the institution's sustainability. The proposal was for the Collège to reposition by building stronger partnerships both with international universities in the US and UK and with French cultural organisations within its own cluster, such as the Archives Nationales and The Bibliothèque Nationale de France. The Collège subsequently cemented relations with the latter organisations through a five-year Archives Project proposed by **Wortham**, for which events have been held at a number of locations including the Archives Nationales (2016) and Dorich House, Kingston (2017). Outputs include an edited collection and ongoing digitisation of the Collège's own audio archives.

## 2. People

### 2.1 Staffing Strategy

In line with the University's Academic Careers Development Framework, staff are supported to develop skills and experience as researchers through training, appraisal and mentoring opportunities. Experienced staff are encouraged to act as mentors and in advisory roles for grant development and project oversight. The research platforms offer the context for targeted support to increase the quality of research output through peer review.

In response to feedback from REF 2014, the staff composition of the Unit has evolved to more closely reflect a defined set of disciplinary and interdisciplinary interests shaping the current research environment. Research on early modern writing and cultural identity by **Scarsi** and **Birchwood** complements work in Victorian and postcolonial studies by **Agnew** and **Upstone**, whose interests in race and gender intersect with contemporary studies of sexuality and theory by **Jensen**, **Dines** and **Palmer**. The latter's work is complemented by critical and theoretical research on key topics in culture and the humanities (**Botting** and **Wortham**), while **Scott** and **Lambrou**'s interests in pragmatics, stylistics and narration support work in language and poetics. **Fowler**'s writing adds a strong poetry element to the Unit's research, and, along with **Baron** and **Miller**'s interests in developing the reach of form and genre in fiction, enhances focus on formal experimentation shared by creative writing colleagues. There is a productive balance between senior and professorial staff providing research leadership and colleagues progressing from early career to mature standing, which is crucial to the vitality and sustainability of a Unit characterised by its strong commitment and recognised track record in doctoral research. In this census period, the Unit's former ECRs have benefited from research training and development either to take up roles in the TECHNE AHRC doctoral training partnership Peer Review College (**Johnson**); or to assume significant responsibilities for research leadership (**Palmer** leading on planning events and seminars for the R/GM research group; **Fowler** directing impact activities) or to take teaching posts elsewhere (Alfano, New College of the Humanities, Boyd Maunsell, Roehampton).

### 2.2 Staff development

Having made longstanding contributions to the academic and research culture of the subject area at Kingston, three members of the Unit (**Upstone**, **Baverstock** and **Jensen**) have achieved promotion to professorships during the assessment period. This reflects a development strategy that has fostered careers over the long term. Each of the two research platforms co-ordinates mentoring by senior staff members of researchers at an earlier career stage, helping them to conceptualise effective programmes of creative and critical research and advising them both on the

## Unit-level environment template (REF5b)

publication of outputs and opportunities for collaboration and funding. Mentoring takes place through interim and formal annual appraisals and informally through opportunities to share research among colleagues and receive feedback on work in progress. The Unit provides targeted research support for research-active staff; incentives to support research leadership, collaboration and the development of research impact; and a staff-supported sabbatical scheme which crossed the disciplinary boundaries of the Unit. University investment in staff research has provided over £67,323 in individual grants (including QR-GCRF) awarded through a competitive bidding process, to support activities including research travel and fieldwork, conference organization and collaborative partnership development. Awards include £44,588 (2 QR-GCRF awards) for **Jensen**'s work on the Expressive Writing Project (facilitating the development of ICSUoA27Jensen1); a £10,000 international conference development award for R/GM, and 3 awards of up to £1000 each to Carey (former staff), **Baverstock** and Buse (former staff) for international travel (Santander Universities Fund). An additional Faculty-level Research Staff Development Fund meets requests for travel to conferences and other research-related activities. Unit staff are encouraged to present their latest research through designated work-in-progress seminar series run by the two research groupings, as well as during Festivals of Research hosted by the Faculty and Graduate Research School and at Faculty level research and PGR events.

An annual researcher development programme is offered at institutional, faculty and school levels, designed to implement research strategy. Training is also delivered by the Graduate Research School through a structured programme aligned to the academic careers framework; and through the biannual Festival of Research, benefitting PGR, ECR and new joiners and supporting career development at all levels. The faculty, schools and departments hold regular research awaydays and seminars aimed at development of researchers. This is supplemented through bespoke activity such as targeting funding calls and impact development. The 2020 Festival of Research programme, delivered online due to Covid-19, was driven by key areas of both current and future strategy, with internal and external speakers exploring issues of interdisciplinarity, gender, and equality, diversity and inclusivity.

### 2.3 Training and supervision of PGR students

At present, 30 postgraduate students are pursuing PhD degrees in the Unit, and PhD completions have improved both in terms of real number (20 compared to 14 in REF 2014) and by staff FTE, given the reduction in Unit size and relocation of some staff with supervisory responsibility to other UoAs. The health of our PhD registrations is testament to redoubled efforts to recruit and obtain funding for postgraduate students. By enhancing the clarity of the research environment, the Unit is better positioned to benefit from the cast of writers and researchers it offers in order to attract applications for doctoral study; the reorganisation of research has enabled each platform to define more precisely its proposition to PGR students. PhD completions have also been aided by the development of stronger discipline-specific training for students, enhanced monitoring procedures and support, and greater training and development for staff undertaking PhD supervision, which all staff have undertaken. Extensive research ethics training within the University also supports the quality of PGR provision.

Since 2014, the Unit has become increasingly competitive in terms of doctoral funding awarded by the TECHNE AHRC DTP, and the scheme currently provides PGR support for eight students in the Unit. **Upstone** leads on external partner relations for TECHNE, while **Lambrou**, **Dines**, **Botting** and **Agnew** regularly serve on the Panel Review committees. In addition to the DTP, the Unit will take part in an AHRC funded CDP consortium, REACH (Revisiting and Enhancing Approaches to Collections and Heritage), with **Upstone** as lead contact. External partners in these two consortia include The Victoria and Albert Museum, BFI, National Trust, Historic Royal Palaces and the National Portrait Gallery.

The Unit has a full programme of formal training for PGR students coordinated at the School level, which meets bi-weekly throughout the academic year. Attendance is mandatory for first-year PGRs and recommended for all research students. The programme focuses on practical skills and research methods, and involves sessions led by Unit staff members focusing on their own approaches to research. The training seminars offer opportunities for students to present their



work, both formally and informally. In addition, each research platform provides avenues for students' academic and professional development, with postgraduates involved at every level from participation in seminars and conferences, delivery of work in progress to planning and organisation of events. Postgraduate students are supported through research assistantships that provide valuable early professional experience, including archival and editorial work, coordinating seminars and organising conferences and maintaining Unit websites and social media.

The vitality and sustainability of the Unit's research environment is evidenced by the success of its doctoral students. Anthony Faramelli (2014) has worked as a lecturer in the Visual Cultures Department at Goldsmiths, University of London, and has published a monograph on *Resistance, Revolution and Fascism* with Bloomsbury (2018) and an edited collection, *Spaces of Crisis and Critique* (Bloomsbury, 2018), with David Hancock and Robert G. White, former and current PhD students at Kingston. Joanne Limburg (2017) is a Lecturer in Creative Writing at De Montford University. Her *Small Pieces: A Book of Lamentations* (Atlantic Press, 2017) was shortlisted for the Jewish Quarterly-Wingate Prize. She is also the author of a collection of poems, *The Autistic Alice* (Bloodaxe Books, 2017). Peter Ely (2018) has a contract with Bloomsbury for a joint-edited collection with **Upstone**, *From Blair to Brexit: Community in Contemporary British Fiction* (forthcoming, 2022). Daniel Read (2019) has published two peer-reviewed journal articles in the *Iris Murdoch Review* (2017, 2020). Amy Greenhough (2020) is an associate lecturer at Falmouth University and has an essay in Teverson's *Cultural History of Fairy Tales*, Volume 6, (Bloomsbury: forthcoming, 2021). Dana Alex (current AHRC-funded) has published an essay on Patrick McGrath in *Patrick McGrath and his Worlds: Madness and the Transnational Gothic*, eds. Foley and Duncan (Routledge, 2020). In terms of current PhD students, Joe Pierson won The Peggy Chapman-Andrews Award for a First Novel in the annual Bridport Prize International Creative Writing Competition (2020); Eve Grubin has published poems in *Poetry Review* and *PN Review*.

## 2.4 Equality, diversity and inclusion

Equality, diversity and inclusion is a key priority at both institutional and Unit level. The Unit supports the University's Code of Practice in seeking to broaden and promote diversity among staff and students. At Kingston, over 60% of students come from BAME backgrounds, and Kingston is one of only a very small handful of HEIs in the UK to have established the BME awarding gap as a KPI. The University also holds the Race Equality Charter bronze award and an Athena Swan bronze award. Its Beyond Barriers mentoring scheme is used to ensure that all staff and students have the best opportunities in their study or work, and that the institution delivers its equality objectives. Unit researchers have engaged with the Scheme as mentors and mentees and are also members of the KU-wide Network of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Champions. All staff undertake unconscious bias training, including in relation to peer review of research.

The Unit itself is composed of 9 (47%) female and 10 (53%) male researchers. 79% of staff identify as white (21% not provided or prefer not to say); 16% have a declared disability; the age range is the unit is relatively evenly spread over the 31-65 age range. Whilst on a par with the national sector (Advance HE data), addressing the diversity of Black, Asian and minority ethnic staff is clearly a priority for the future.

Institutional efforts to meet the needs of this diverse student body are reflected in the Unit's initiatives that promote equality and inclusion in our research, staffing strategies, PhD recruitment and training. Both R/GM and Writing Cultures have at their core a commitment to theorising the mechanisms of racial, ethnic and gender inequalities, and the Unit's practice is underpinned by these efforts, with symposia and conferences including academics, writers and performers from diverse communities. The 2018/19 application cycle for KU Studentships explicitly encouraged applications by BAME candidates. Approximately 25% of the applicants the Unit interviewed for this were BAME students, one of whom was awarded full funding to pursue a thesis in Creative Writing. At both PGR and staff levels, the Unit participates in the Beyond Barriers mentoring programme for female and BAME staff and PGR students.

With a teaching colleague dedicated to developing Race Equality Charter Membership as well as chairing the National Education Opportunities Network BME Learners' working group (Lipsedge),

## Unit-level environment template (REF5b)

**Upstone** led a training event for ArCC in 2016 on unconscious bias and closing the BME awarding gap; **Agnew** is currently articulating her research in Victorian colonial studies with innovations in teaching by developing a project aimed at decolonising the curriculum. This knowledge and experience within the subject area continues to enhance our awareness of and sensitivity to building a Unit that reflects the diversity of the institution in which it is located. All staff in the Unit take training in unconscious bias, and Unit Coordinators are required to take training in unconscious bias and equality in staffing practices.

### 3. Income, infrastructure and facilities

The Unit benefits from a supportive and well-resourced environment for research including Faculty-facing Research, Business and Impact Development Managers from within the University Research, Business and Innovation Office (RBI). They assist staff in identifying opportunities for external funding, developing grant applications, identifying external partners, designing pathways to impact, as well as evidencing and evaluating impact. RBI coordinates a structured process of internal peer review of applications. Internal support ranges from research group and departmental mentoring, peer review and faculty-level training, such as grant-writing workshops which enable staff to devote concentrated effort toward completing funding applications. There is specialist RBI support at Faculty level in preparing research funding application budgets, and a Finance post award team dedicated to Research/Enterprise. At School level, a Director of Research provides dedicated support to the Unit, coordinates research strategy, and works with the Faculty's Associate Dean of RBI and Research Development Manager to track and assist in developing current and planned research bids. There has been a competitive sabbatical scheme within the Unit, concentrated at the beginning of the cycle, based on the production of quality outputs and research projects that may attract external funding. Smaller-scale targeted teaching relief is available to support research activity such as developing funding applications and collaborating with partners toward the development of research projects and impact.

The total of mainstream external income per FTE has increased by **12.7%** and stands at **£347,275**, with grants from a variety of sources including UK government bodies and charities awarded to support research leave, personal research and project-based initiatives. During this reporting period, former staff member Phillippy was awarded a Leverhulme Research Fellowship for monograph research. Two staff members (Phillippy and **Wortham**) sponsored Leverhulme Early Career Fellowships, and **Jensen** was awarded grants from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the AHRC Global Challenges Fund and Beyond Borders Scotland. We have also benefitted strongly from AHRC graduate studentships through the 'TECHNE' DTP ('services' research income).

Research Group	'Services' research income	Mainstream research income	Headline value of new mainstream awards
Writing Cultures	£75,747	£47,968	£39,947
Race/Gender Matters	£74,842	£299,308	£134,466

Researchers have the advantage of Kingston's proximity to the dynamic cultural climate of London, and make use of London's libraries and archives, including the British Library, the National Archives, Senate House and other University of London libraries and archives. All staff are provided with laptops or desktop computers, and IT support is responsive and readily available. Students have ample access to computers, printers and IT support through the Learning Centre and IT Service Desk. Interlibrary Loan services are swift and reliable. The main University library was rehoused in 2020 in the University's new Townhouse Building, creating significantly enhanced study space, augmented with publicly accessible events, exhibition and performance space. The Unit also provides stewardship of four of the University's major archival collections (Iris Murdoch, Orange Prize, Stephen Sondheim and Sheridan Morley) which provide a rich repository for doctoral and postdoctoral researchers as well as visiting scholars. One of the Unit's objectives is the protection and enhancement of these collections and their increased integration into research, an approach which has led to the publication of an important edited collection of Iris Murdoch's

letters by former staff member Rowe and Emeritus Professor Horner. The Murdoch archive is a resource that attracts international audiences of researchers and enthusiasts, and has supported several PhD students whose theses make use of its holdings. The archive has recently been gifted £10,000 for its preservation by John Bayley's widow. It took a vital part in events for the Iris Murdoch centenary in 2019, in collaboration with the Iris Murdoch research centre at Chichester and archives at Oxford University. Since 2014, the archive has seen an annual average of over 200 researchers viewing nearly 1000 items. The virtual archive of the papers of the Leveson inquiry curated by **Cathcart** has enjoyed similarly strong impact since opening in 2019: DiscoverLeveson.com has received just under 10m hits and 1.5m page views.

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

##### 4.1 Collaborations

While the Unit supports high-quality individual scholarship in each of its key areas of interest, it has also promoted research initiatives and collaborative opportunities and projects with other higher education institutions and non-academic partners.

##### *i. Writing Cultures*

Staff have developed collaborative relationships with external partners in greater London and the Southeast, including The Museum of Futures, Sampson Low Publishing, Rich Mix, Rose Theatre Kingston, International PEN and the Stanley Picker Gallery. It has held public events in a number of venues including Dorich House Museum, the Jerwood Gallery and the Rose Theatre (International PEN event). **Baverstock's** shared reading projects, The Big Read and Reading Force, have partners in public libraries and universities across the Southeast, recently expanding their reach nationally and internationally. **Jensen's** work on trauma has involved collaboration with colleagues from Sussex University, the Open University and the University of Minnesota, as well as a range of other bodies and organisations nationally and internationally. Her expressive writing project has collaborated with Lebanese NGOs, the United Nations, Inmaa Iraq and the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office **Fowler's** 'Enemies Project' has as its very medium widespread collaboration with a variety of arts organisations, and its vision of socially-engaged creative production has led to a host of productive relationships, ranging from English PEN to the Wellcome Trust.

##### *ii. Race/Gender Matters*

**Dines** has served as Advisory Board Member for the Senate House Exhibition and events series, 'Queer between the Covers', and the AHRC funded project 'Queer beyond London', and is a member of the AHRC funded research network, 'Home, Crisis and the Imagination'. He has taken leadership roles with the Literary London Society, which has entered into close collaboration with R/GM. **Lambrou** has chaired the Poetics and Linguistics Association. In collaboration with the COST research action 'How Matter Comes to Matter', **Palmer** has undertaken research activities with partners in Sydney, Warsaw and Utrecht, and conducted workshops at Tate Modern. **Scarsi** is collaborating with the Centro Studi Tassiani around a manuscript by Bernardo Tassi that she discovered during archival research in Bergamo. **Scarsi** is also part of a research collaboration on early modern poetry with staff at Paris 13, Nanterre and Strasbourg. **Wortham** has collaborated extensively with the Collège international de philosophie in Paris.

##### 4.2 Contributions to the research base, economy and society

The Unit's contributions to the range of disciplines in which staff participate are in three main areas: national and international reach and recognition, expanding the borders of academic discourse, and cultural engagement and public debate.

##### *Reach and recognition*

Staff regularly present their work at international conferences and have been invited guest speakers or panel organisers at institutions based in countries including France, Denmark,

## Unit-level environment template (REF5b)

Canada, the USA, Norway, Australia, Sweden, The Netherlands, Belgium and Ireland. Within the UK, staff have been invited to speak at international academic events including AHRC-funded network and research project events (**Upstone, Dines**) and major festivals of the arts and humanities (**Jensen, Baron, Miller, Fowler**). Among creative writing staff, **Bailey** is an award-winning author of 13 novels, 2 biographies and a memoir; **Kureishi** is an internationally acclaimed author of 6 novels, 5 collections of short stories and essays and 15 plays and screenplays; **Baron's** children's books have been awarded Oxfordshire Schools Book Award, as well as 7 other literary prizes, and have been named books of the month by *The Guardian*, Waterstone's and *The Times*.

By assuming leadership roles in international scholarly organisations, and through the influence of their published outputs on national and international academic audiences, staff in the Unit have established Kingston's reputation as a vital centre of scholarly exchange. **Fowler** is an executive editor of the *European Review of Poetry, Books and Culture*. **Upstone** is Section Editor of the journal *Postcolonial Text* and on the editorial board of *Literary London*. **Dines** is the President of the Literary London Society and Member of Executive Committee, British Association of American Studies. **Botting** serves on the editorial boards of *Gothic Studies*, *Horror Studies*, *Miranda*, and *Aeternum*. **Wortham** serves on editorial and advisory boards for *Textual Practice*, *New Formations*, *Journal for Cultural Research* and *Derrida Today*. **Agnew** is on the Advisory board of *Victorian Popular Fictions*. **Palmer** is on the Editorial board of *Matter: A New Materialist Journal*. **Baverstock** is on the Board of Management of The Literary Consultancy. **Dines** is the Editor of the *Literary London Journal*. In addition, staff review widely for refereed journals and for academic presses including Cambridge, Oxford, Edinburgh, Manchester, Michigan, Minnesota, Wayne State, Purdue, Fordham and Ohio State University presses.

### *Expanding the borders of academic discourse*

The Unit is engaged in sustained public engagement, external collaboration and outward-facing research which aims to stretch the boundaries of academic discourse, challenge disciplinary distinctions, and generate new forms of knowledge. A number of works produced in this cycle have reframed their fields of study. **Upstone's** *Postmodern Literature and Race* is the first collection in the field devoted to considering the racial politics of postmodern writing; **Dines'** work on queer cultures of 1950s literature as part of the *Decades* series of books draws attention to previously obscured issues of gender and sexuality in mid-twentieth century writing, while **Jensen's** work on life writing and trauma has not only produced notable public impact, but has also demonstrated how writing cultures exceed the boundaries of academic discourse and have far-reaching socio-political implications.

Scholars have also expanded academic discourse through their work with public audiences, offering opportunities for new disciplinary conjunctions and sharing of previously distinct perspectives. **Palmer's** work uses public performance to shape research, bringing together new materialist and posthuman discourses explored through a combination of performance poetry, clowning and written works. **Fowler's** curatorial approach to the presentation and production of writing draws attention to the relationship between formal poetry and performance in ways that challenge current trends in spoken word poetry.

### *Cultural engagement and public debate*

The outputs of some Unit members have offered public commentary on issues of concern both within and beyond the University. **Botting** presented public lectures on the Gothic at venues including Sheffield Art Gallery and the British Library. **Johnson** appeared as an expert on the Georgian seaside on Channel 4's *Great British Buildings*. **Dines** was interviewed on BBC Radio Gloucester about American suburbia and was invited to speak at the Cheltenham Literary Festival. **Palmer** presented her queer clowning work at the Queerest of the Queer festival at London's Coronet Theatre and **Upstone** spoke on friendship at the Concept Album Talks. **Baron** contributed to the BBC Radio London Jo Goode show, and featured in the literary panel event Literary Death Match and presented at the English PEN Modern Literature Festival 2016. **Cathcart's** journalism



on regulation of the press extends the reach of his activities with the Leveson Inquiry into subsequent policy decisions and public debates. By exploring topics of popular interest from the perspective of philosophical history, **Wortham** participated alongside neuroscientists, cultural and literary historians and creative writers in public engagement events on the theme of sleep, one held by the Forum for Philosophy at the LSE (with a subsequent podcast), and another a UCL-organised event held at the Free Word Centre in London. **Fowler's** work has been commissioned for the BBC Radio 3 show *The Verb*, and has featured in more than 30 international events including the Stockholm International Poetry Festival, Poetry Ireland, the Bucharest Literary Festival, Mumbai Times Literary Festival, Airwaves Festival Iceland, Krokodil Festival Belgrade, Highlight Arts Iraq, and the Iskele Poetry Festival Cyprus. (**Botting**) was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award from International Association for the Fantastic in the Arts (2018); another (**Kureishi**) holds the CBE for services to literature and the Chevalier des l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres.