

Institution: University of Leicester

Unit of Assessment: 18

## 1. Unit context and structure, research and impact strategy

### Overview: A transformed research culture

Leicester Law School had 59 academic staff as of 31 July 2020, of whom 50 held teaching and research contracts (48.6 FTE). Its research ethos is pluralistic, with the overarching objective of supporting world-leading research across diverse areas of legal scholarship. Accordingly, the School encourages a range of methodologies, covering theoretical approaches, socio-legal research, policy-oriented work and doctrinal research. During the current REF period, the School added to previous areas of excellence in empirical socio-legal research and in European and international law, by developing new concentrations of research activity, especially in civil dispute resolution, private law, and law and theory.

The development of research in the School during the REF period was aided by the creation of a merged College of Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities (CSSAH) in 2016. This led to greater emphasis on interdisciplinarity within the University, which benefitted legal research in particular. For example, the period saw successful cross-disciplinary research projects concerning relationship education in schools (**Cumper**) and post-Brexit governance (**Cygan**).

Through the REF period, the School successfully implemented an ambitious research strategy. Its REF 2014 submission set out the strategic objectives of promoting legal research with potential for policy impact, developing empirical socio-legal research, and strengthening European and international law research. Those objectives were taken forward through the approval of a formal research strategy in 2016, to increase and diversify external research income, and develop new research infrastructure, including research support measures and a system of research clusters.

The successful implementation of the School's research strategy transformed its research culture and outcomes. Highlights have included:

- Tripling the annual average of external research funding, relative to REF 2014
- Securing 2 external research funding awards in excess of £750k
- The award of seven prestigious research fellowships
- The production of research with substantial policy impact in a range of legal fields
- Extensive engagement with law and policy-makers, at national and international levels
- More than doubling the number of research monographs, from six submitted in REF 2014 to 14 in REF 2021
- Increasing the number of PhD degrees awarded to campus-based PGRs, from 25 in REF 2014 to 43 in REF 2021.

### Research achievements

A key achievement in this REF period was a step-change in the acquisition of external research funding. That was linked to changes in School support, including the activity of a research funding lead, to advise on applications, to arrange peer review and to organise an annual grants workshop for the School. The School's Director of Research contributed to raised expectations through regular research bulletins which focused on funding opportunities. Key outcomes included the following:

- Total external research income increased from £404k in the REF 2014 census period, to

£1.68M in the REF 2021 census period.

- The annual average of external research income increased from £81k a year in the REF 2014 period to £240k a year, relative to the REF 2014 period (an increase of 197%).
- Looking forward, we project that *post*-31 July 2020, income from ten existing (*pre*-31 July 2020) awards will be £1.8M, an increase on the *total* income reported for the 2014-2020 REF period.

External funding successes include two individual awards of especially high value, both for ground-breaking projects: £1.06M to **Watkins** for research on measuring and improving children's legal capability (ERC, 2019), and £775k to **Cole**, for empirical research into commercial arbitration practices (ESRC, 2018). In addition, there were substantial ESRC awards for research on prisons (**Gooch**, £318k), Brexit and Parliament (**Cygan**, £272k) and children's understanding of law in their everyday lives (**Watkins**, £198k). In the census period, 25 academic staff (equivalent to 50% of those with teaching and research contracts) obtained research awards in excess of £5k.

Seven prestigious research fellowships were awarded to School academic staff during the period. These awards were made by the AHRC to **Ulph** (museum collections) and **Ziegler** (knowledge exchange with the Foreign Office), by the British Academy to **Ryan** (migration law) and **Ziegler** (law of war), by the Leverhulme Trust to **Jaffey** (theory of private law) and **Wills** (animal rights) and by the Nuffield Foundation to **Cortes** (consumer redress).

To enhance the policy impact of research, a senior colleague was appointed to advise on pathways to impact and authors of potential case-studies were given a workload allocation. That support, combined with institutional funding, enabled the national-level policy impacts at the heart of the four case-studies in the School's REF submission. **Ahmed**'s work on civil procedure led him to draft the professional negligence pre-action protocol for the Civil Justice Council, and to his appointment as a member of the Civil Procedure Rule Committee (ICS1). **Burton**'s research on domestic violence courts led to her appointment to a Ministry of Justice expert panel assessing the risks of harm in child arrangement proceedings, whose work shaped provisions within the Domestic Abuse Bill 2020 (ICS2). **Ryan** wrote briefing papers for the Immigration Law Practitioners' Association on the protection of EU residence rights and was centrally involved in a successful lobbying campaign to obtain recognition for Irish citizens in immigration legislation in 2020 (ICS3). **Ulph**'s research on the complexity of ownership of museum collections led to her development of official guidelines for local authority museums, and to the Law Commission's inclusion of museum collections in its 2017 programme of work (ICS4).

Beyond these cases, a further group of colleagues have had high-level engagement with law- and policy-makers in their fields of expertise. **Cortes** authored a policy paper for the European Parliament on the amendment of the European Small Claims Procedure Regulation, co-authored an official report on the implementation of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Directive in Spain, and was a member of the Civil Justice Council advisory committee which produced an influential report on online dispute resolution. **Cygan** worked with 'UK in Changing Europe' to provide briefings to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Department for Exiting the European Union, and to edit a report and organise a high-level seminar on 'Parliament and Brexit'; in addition, he was appointed to a POST parliamentary academic fellowship, which involved authoring research briefings for MPs and advising parliamentary counsel on legislation. **Ziegler** gave a presentation at the Court of Justice of the European Union on the relationship between EU Law and international law, gave evidence to a Committee of the Parliamentary

Assembly of the Council of Europe on the impact of EU law upon Council of Europe conventions, and acted as consultant to the Council of Europe's directorate of legal affairs on the same topic.

The breadth of excellence in the School's research outputs in the period was reflected in an increase in the number of monographs produced in the School, with 14 submitted in the current period, compared to six in 2014. New initiatives to support staff in delivering research excellence, include a School research fund. An illustrative example is the funding for **Cammiss** to observe the trial of the 'Stansted 15' anti-deportation campaigners, which led to an article in the journal *Sociology*. A voluntary scheme of research pairs was also put in place in 2018 to enable colleagues obtain advice about their research ideas and publications on an ongoing basis. As of mid-2020, this scheme was utilised by ten lecturers and three associate professors, with annual staff feedback showing that it was valued both by early career academics and by more established staff. Key publications that benefitted included **Allan's** article on trusts law and abuse of the corporate form, **Bone's** monograph on drug control and human rights, and Craven's article on complex contracting in the public sector.

A further transformation has seen the enhancement of support for open access principles in the School, building on the University's open access policy (Institutional Environment Statement (IES), section 2.6), and relying upon the institutional research repository Figshare. From 2014 to 2018, the School had a working paper series on SSRN which provided a further platform for the dissemination of outputs and work in progress. This working paper series attracted downloads of 37,093 papers during the period of its operation. Project reports by **Kyd** and **Cammiss** on road safety, and by **Cole** on commercial arbitration, are hosted on the School website, and **Watkins'** ERC grant on children's legal understanding includes funding for publications to be made gold open access.

### **Research groupings and areas of excellence**

A key strategic initiative early in the REF period was the establishment of a system of research clusters (2015), to provide a framework for interaction among academics and PGRs. Ten clusters now cover the major areas of research activity within the School: company/commercial law, criminal law/ justice, civil dispute resolution, European law, human rights law, international law, law and theory, medico-legal research, private law, and socio-legal research. Clusters arrange internal 'work in progress' sessions, often in a workshop format, and presentations to clusters enhance the quality of outputs (examples in section 3, below).

The School's most substantial research grouping continues to be the Centre for European Law and Internationalisation (CELI, directed by **Ziegler**). CELI organises large-scale conferences and seminars, runs an annual public engagement lecture series, and develops funded research projects in EU and international law. It has an annual funding allocation from the School research fund for its activities, which has typically been of £5,000. From 2016 to 2020, CELI benefitted from a University-funded Graduate Research Assistant (GRA), at a cost of £76k, to support grant applications and the organisation of academic and dissemination events. Thirty academics in the Law School, and a further five in Schools of Media and Communication, and History, Politics and International Relations at the University, are affiliated to CELI.

The School's strategic objective of broadening its strengths in European and international law led to extensive activity in those areas. CELI's achievements in relation to European law in the period included a major conference on 'The UK and Human Rights: A Strained Relationship?' in

2014, which resulted in an edited collection under the same title (**Ziegler, Wicks and Hodson**, Hart, 2015). CELI members obtained EU funding awards for projects on the application of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights at the national level (£39k, **Vargiu and Ziegler**), and on the general principles of EU law (£43k, **Ziegler**). These led to a database on case-law concerning the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights which is accessible through the EU Fundamental Rights Agency's website.

Throughout the REF period, CELI provided an intellectual space for dynamic scholarship on European law. The social aspects of the EU law featured prominently, including in monographs by **Caracciolo di Torella** on caring policies and by **Rodgers** on vulnerability in labour law, with a review of the latter stating that it "advances our understanding of the field, exposing ... shortcomings of existing theories and laws along the way". Reflecting the School's research strengths in relation to civil dispute resolution, **Cortes** authored a ground-breaking monograph on consumer redress in Europe. **Golyner** hosted a workshop on 'The Future of EU Social Security Law', the papers from which were published as a special issue of the *European Social Security Journal*. With the support of the British Academy, **Ryan** organised an international workshop on migrant workers and labour law which is the subject of a forthcoming edited collection.

Several projects in the international law cluster obtained external recognition in the period. **Desmond's** open-access edited collection *Shining New Light on the UN Migrant Workers Convention*, published in 2017, is the only non-UN document featured on the website of the UN Committee on Migrant Workers. **Deplano's** *The Strategic Use of International Law by the United Nations Security Council* was classed among the most influential books of 2017 in the *European Journal of International Law* and contributed to her invitation to the prestigious Stanford International Junior Faculty Forum in 2019. **Hodson and Lavers'** edited collection *Feminist Judgments in International Law* received the American Society of International Law's 2020 Certificate of Merit for a Preeminent Contribution to Creative Scholarship.

CELI and the international law cluster together supported many innovative research projects in international law in the period. With funding from the Society of Legal Scholars, **Deplano** organised two conferences: one on methodologies in international law, which led her to edit a collection entitled *Pluralising International Legal Scholarship* and to co-edit a collection on *Research Methods in International Law* (forthcoming); the other on the legacy of the League of Nations, papers from which appeared as a special edition of the *International Community Law Review*. **Desmond** obtained *Modern Law Review* funding for a conference on the global compact for migration, held at the University, the papers from which will appear in a special issue of the *International Journal of Law in Context*. **Omorogbe** obtained funding from the *Modern Law Review* for a conference on the crisis of international criminal law in Africa, held concurrently at the Universities of Leicester and Johannesburg, papers from which were published in the *Netherlands International Law Review*.

The School's strengths in empirical socio-legal research include a particular concentration of expertise relating to criminal law and justice. **Bone** was co-investigator on an ESRC-funded research project investigating the opinions of drug users concerning drug policy (£55k share, [www.drugpolicyvoices.co.uk](http://www.drugpolicyvoices.co.uk)). The Sentencing Council commissioned Carline, **Burton** and **Kyd** to evaluate the sentencing guidelines for sexual offences and robbery. **Kyd** and **Cammiss** conducted research for the Road Safety Trust on the investigation and prosecution of road traffic offences concerning dangerous driving.

Empirical socio-legal research within the School developed in innovative new directions over the period. **Cole** led a major comparative project for the European Parliament on commercial arbitration in the EU and beyond, and then obtained £775k in ESRC funding for an interdisciplinary study of arbitration practices in Europe. Findings from this project have been set out in publications for the *Journal of Dispute Resolution* and an edited collection on *Emerging Trends and Practices in International Arbitration*, and through a blog [<https://commercialarbitrationineurope.wordpress.com/project-blog>]. Research led by **Watkins** on children's legal understanding and capability, aimed at transforming the evidence base for policy on public legal education, attracted £1.3M in awards from the Legal Education Foundation, ESRC and European Research Council. Through this work, Watkins developed and implemented a pioneering game-based approach to empirical legal research, in collaboration with a colleague in the University's School of Informatics.

The School's clusters on law and theory and on private law enabled the development of excellent, novel work in those areas. In the law and theory cluster, **Berteau** received support for his work on legal obligations from the Marie-Curie Intra-European Scholarship (224k euro), and from the *Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft* (250k euro), and published a monograph on that subject. There were significant monographs on legal rights by cluster members, including by **Marshall** on personal identity, by **Riley** on dignity, by **Rodgers** on vulnerability, and by **Wills** on global justice and socio-economic rights. A related area of dynamic research concerns the theory of private law, where key achievements have included Turton's monograph on causation in negligence, **Masiyakurima's** monograph on copyright in unpublished works, and **Jaffey's** Leverhulme major research fellowship for his work on private law theory.

#### Future research and impact strategy

Looking forward, the School's priority in research strategy is to sustain its recent transformations in research outcomes - covering external funding, policy impact and high-quality outputs - while maintaining an ethos of pluralism and enabling pioneering and innovative legal scholarship. We aim to continue the vitality of research in European and international law, empirical socio-legal research, legal research with a policy dimension and law and theory. A further priority is to sustain our research through investment in early career researchers, including by developing the School's research support mechanisms, such as the research pairs scheme.

Our system of research clusters will remain at the heart of our research practices. The importance of our research clusters has been highlighted by the recent COVID-19 pandemic, with cluster meetings and events flourishing in a new online format. The use of online meetings/events alongside face-to-face meetings will continue to be supported post-pandemic. The School will keep the number of clusters and their focus under review to ensure that they reflect School's research strengths and emergent priorities. By way of illustration, the research area of social inclusion and the law, which is of growing importance within the School, will be supported by a new research cluster from 2021.

The legal and policy issues arising from the COVID-19 pandemic will be an important future research theme. We have already developed considerable expertise, across a range of legal areas. **Riley** has written on the implications for conceptions of a right to health, and **Slade** is researching the licensing framework for patented vaccines, with a view to their equitable allocation. Other academics in the School have researched the effects of the pandemic upon the world of work (**Babayev, Brayson, Rodgers**), gender roles (**Caracciolo** and **Lavers**), legal

practice (**Cole, Elliott**) and migration and mobility (**Desmond, Ryan**).

## 2. People

### Overview

The School's strategy relating to academics and PGRs reflects its research ethos of pluralism and the objective of developing cutting-edge, world-leading research. Equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) considerations have become central to the School's policies and practice over the period, leading to a successful application for an Athena Swan bronze award and the establishment in academic year 2019-2020 of an EDI committee covering all protected characteristics. The School has an active and internationally diverse PGR community and made a total of 55 PhD awards in the period (43 of which are counted by HESA and so included in this REF return).

### Staffing and staff development

The School recruits and nurtures outstanding staff undertaking novel topics of legal research or new approaches within established field. During the REF period, the School's commitment to research excellence led to 30 appointments to teaching and research contracts. Of these, four were at professor level, nine at associate professor level, and 17 at lecturer level. Fifteen of these appointments were female academics, and 15 male academics, with broadly equal gender representation at each grade (professor - two female, two male; associate professor - four female, five male; lecturer - nine female, eight male). The School made four appointments of BAME scholars over the period (two associate professor, two lecturers).

These appointees have made a substantial contribution to the vitality of research in the School. Novel empirical approaches to legal study have been developed by **Bone** and **Cole** in the areas of drug control and commercial arbitration respectively. In the area of European and international law, **Deplano's** work has explored alternative and innovative methodologies in international law, **Desmond** and **Ryan** have developed the discipline of migration law, and **Kumar's** research has addressed ideas of decolonisation in international law. In the area of law and theory, **Allan** and **Jaffey** have developed the theory of private law, **Brayson** has brought contemporary perspectives to feminist research on law, and **Riley** has developed the understanding of the interaction between law and dignity.

As regards promotion, a key development was the establishment by the School of a Career Progression and Development Committee (2015), to support applicants. This committee significantly influenced outcomes in EDI terms. Of 17 research staff who were promoted internally in the period, eleven (65%) were female (three to professor, eight to associate professor) and six were male (two to professor, four to associate professor). By comparison, in the previous REF period (2007-2013), 7 of 15 promotions (47%) were of female staff. Three further promotions of female colleagues to associate professor, were approved within the REF period, and came into effect in August 2020. Two of the four male colleagues promoted to associate professor were BAME staff; by comparison, no BAME academic had been promoted in the previous REF period.

Promotion decisions during the period rewarded research excellence. **Cortes'** promotion to professor reflected his expertise and engagement with policy-makers in relation to consumer disputes and alternative forms of dispute resolution, while **Watkins'** promotion to professor recognised her innovative empirical research into children's understanding of the law. At associate professor level, **Ahmed's** promotion recognised his contribution to policy on civil

procedure, **Caracciolo di Torella's** was based on her expertise on the development of family-friendly rights at the EU and UK levels, **Lavers'** promotion reflected her contribution to the development of feminist perspectives on international law, and **Rodgers'** recent promotion recognised her innovative research bringing a vulnerability approach to labour law.

Staff development is supported through an annual performance development discussion with a School professor, which examines individual research plans. In addition, there is a voluntary system of research pairs, which enables advice on individual research development. The Law School benefitted from the University's institutional commitment to career development (IES, 3.2), with 16 of its academics (10 female, 6 male) having taken leadership training offered in 2016-2019. These included the current Head of School (**Kyd**), the first woman to hold that position in the School's 55-year history.

The School supports and implements the *Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers*. ECRs on probationary contracts, have a workload allowance of 20% and benefit from formal mentoring by a professor in the School. Two female colleagues promoted to associate professor in the mid-2020 promotion round (with effect from August 2020), benefitted from this mentoring within the REF period. The appointment of a Law academic in 2019 as chair of the CSSAH ECR committee (**Desmond**) led to greater recognition within the School of the needs and concerns of early career researchers.

## Equality, diversity and inclusion

### Strategy

In recent years, the School has advanced the University's institutional goal of effective action to promote equality and diversity through initiatives across all its working practices, including those relating to research (IES, 3.1). A wider range of staff are engaged in research on topics related to EDI, including decolonial perspectives and decolonisation (**Brayson, Kumar**), work-life balance (**Caracciolo di Torella**), freedom of religion (**Cumper**), migrants' rights (**Desmond, Ryan**), feminist approaches to law (**Brayson, Hodson, Lavers**) and LGBTQ+ questions (**Hodson, Maine**).

The process leading to a successful Athena Swan bronze award in 2019-2020 was central to the embedding of equality, diversity and inclusion policies and practices within the School. In particular, the feedback from an initial unsuccessful application (2017) prompted deeper analysis of, and reflection upon, gender and other EDI questions. Central to that process was a series of ten well-attended working lunches in the academic year 2018-2019, open to all staff. These saw discussion of EDI-related issues - dignity at work, wellbeing, unconscious bias and women in leadership – and of more general topics - including promotion, workload, study leave and REF preparations.

One consequence of the Athena Swan reflection was the formalisation of the School's support arrangements for those taking maternity leave, and for subsequent returns to work. The process also led the School to reforms of potential benefit to other staff with protected characteristics that might face obstacles to career development. The School appointed a Deputy Head whose role includes responsibility for all aspects of EDI. It opened all administrative roles and other career development opportunities to all grades of academic staff and adopted a practice of transparently calling for expressions of interest prior to the allocation of such roles and opportunities. The School adopted a policy of appropriate representation by gender and grade,

and of BAME colleagues, on all School committees.

The Athena Swan application led to the establishment in 2019-2020 of a School committee to promote equality, diversity and inclusion. The EDI committee includes the Deputy Head and has diverse representation by gender, race/ ethnicity, disability and LGBTQ+, in line with the equivalent University-level Equality Action Groups (IES, 3.1). Members of the group have been assigned responsibility for the development of initiatives and policy in respect of each of those four subjects. EDI considerations feed into the School's leadership team through the Deputy Head, and all School committees include a representative of the EDI committee.

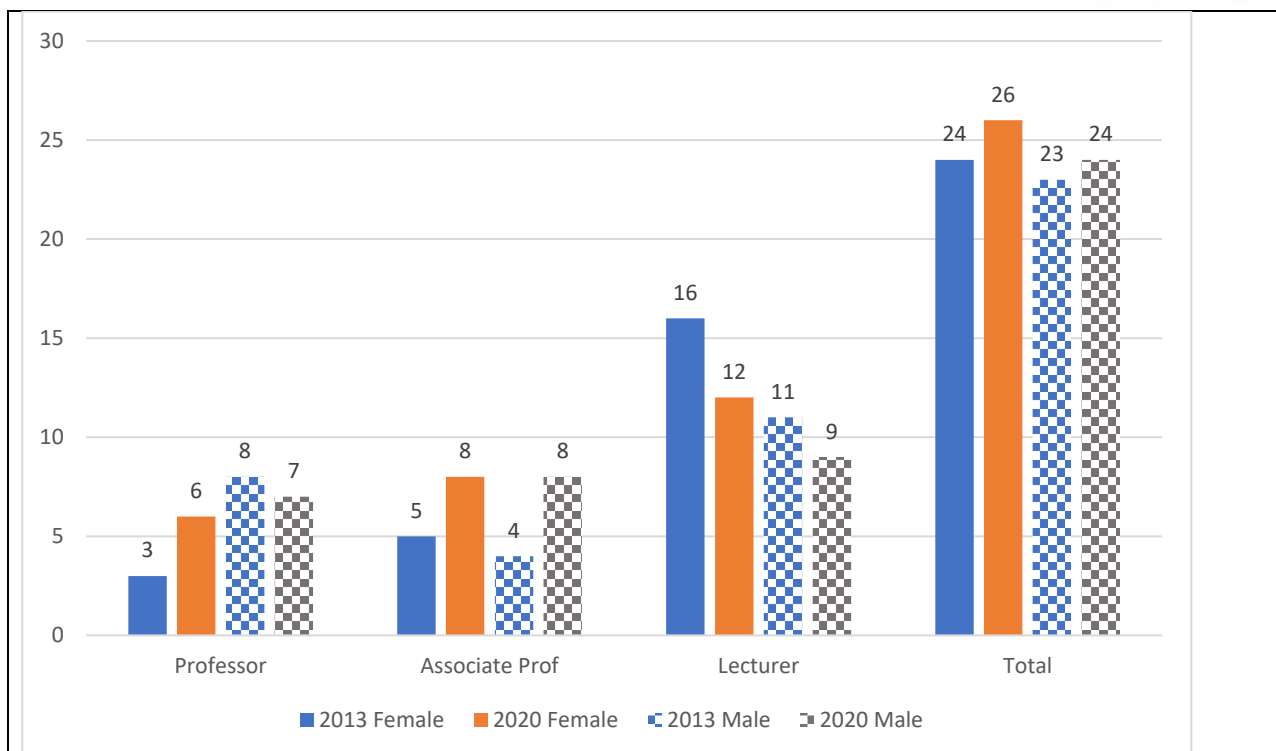
The School's commitment to EDI has been reflected in innovations concerning appointment and promotion. For all academic appointments, shortlisting panels are gender-balanced, and are made up only of staff who have completed equality and diversity, unconscious bias, and recruitment and selection training. The School policy is that, when an appointment at professor grade is advertised, a search committee will approach potential candidates with the aim of achieving gender balance among applicants, and this innovative strategy was praised in Athena Swan feedback (2020). As regards promotion, the Deputy Head organises annual workshops for all academic staff and provides one-to-one advice to colleagues considering individual applications. These proactive School initiatives have contributed directly to a substantial number of female colleagues being promoted internally in the current period (this section, above).

We share the aim of the University's Vice-Chancellor, set out in 2020, to address the lack of BAME staff in higher education (IES, 3.1). Six of our research staff are BAME (12%), the same number as in 2013. A positive development since the last REF is that four BAME academics were at associate professor grade, as compared to just one in 2013. However, only two BAME academics in the School are originally from Britain, which is at odds with the fact that 55% of our PGRs identify as BAME (2019/20), while Leicester is among the cities in the United Kingdom with the highest ethnic minority share of population. Through the Deputy Head and its EDI committee, the School is actively engaging with University efforts to PhD study and academic careers to members of British BAME communities, including specifically in Law.

### **Staffing data**

The School has an even gender balance, partly as a result of the initiatives summarised above. Figure 1 summarises the position as of 31 July 2013 and 31 July 2020. It shows that 52% of academics in the School (26 of 50) were female in mid-2020. The key change over the period was the achievement of greater gender balance at all grades, so that 6 of 13 professors (46%), 8 of 16 associate professors (50%) and 12 of 21 lecturers (57%) were female as of 31 July 2020. A mid-2020 promotion round improved the position still further: as of 1 August 2020, 10 of 18 associate professors (56%) and 9 of 18 lecturers were female (50%).





**Figure 1: Academic grades by gender, 2013 and 2020**

Academic staff in the School are highly diverse in terms of nationality. Taking country of origin as the reference point, as of 31 July 2020, 26 of 50 (52%) were from the United Kingdom, 14 were from EU27 states (28%), and 10 from the rest of the world (20%), including African, Asian and North American countries. This is a slightly increased international share of staff relative to 31 July 2013, when 27 of 47 (57%) were from the UK, 12 from the EU27 (26%) and 8 from the rest of the world (17%). The breadth of knowledge which this international diversity brings to the School is of particular benefit to research in European and international law, to work on law and theory, and to legal research with a comparative dimension. By way of illustration, in the field of international law, **Bakircioglu's** research engages with Islamic traditions, and **Omorogbe** has published on international criminal law in Africa, while in the field of international commercial law, **Hsaio** and **Yeung** have published extensively on developments in East Asia.

### REF preparations

The School's commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion, and for transparency and consensus, were reflected in the approach taken in developing its submission to REF 2021. Throughout the process there were briefings on preparations to School meetings. In mid-2019, a School-level advisory committee was established with 11 members, with an explicit EDI role, reflected in a majority of female academics (seven), and the inclusion of BAME colleagues (two) and lecturers (four). This committee met on eight occasions in 2019 and 2020 and provided input on all aspects of REF preparations and the School's draft submission.

In line with the University's REF Code of Practice, there has been the maximum practicable transparency in relation to individuals' contribution to the submission. As regards outputs, all staff were made aware of the individual circumstances process, and that process led to the University obtaining a reduction in the number of outputs to be submitted. External and internal reviews of outputs, and provisional selection decisions, were shared in good time with the academics concerned. All academic staff were consulted on the REF environment statement, with the opportunity to suggest changes relating to their research and related activities. The four

impact case-studies were selected by the University in consultation with the School, after extensive feedback to authors, and a review process which included external, discipline-specific assessment.

### **PGR programme**

A broad-based PGR programme is at the heart of our successful research environment, ensuring the vitality of the School through fresh research ideas and questions, often with an international dimension. As of 31 July 2020, the School had 54 PGRs, 25 full-time and 29 part-time (11 campus-based, 18 by distance learning). 30 (56%) were female, and 24 nationalities were represented among current PGRs. There was broad involvement in supervision, with 39 of 50 academic staff supervising at least one PGR.

Between 1 August 2013 and 31 July 2020, 42 campus-based PhDs were awarded; an average of six a year. A further 13 PhD awards were made to international distance-learners, for a total of 55, and an average of 7.9 a year. This was an increase on the 25 campus-based PhDs awarded from 2008/09 to 2012/13 (an average of five per annum). Of the 42 campus-based PhDs, more were awarded to women (24) than men (18), and some 18 nationalities were represented.

We aim to recruit the best researchers by providing funding, or by supporting its acquisition. During the period, total University expenditure on PGR funding for Law was £399k. That funding enabled the School to recruit eight PGRs over the period, on four-year contracts, combining part-time teaching/ research assistance (0.2 FTE), and an EU/ home fee waiver. The School had three PGRs who held four-year AHRC M3C/ M4C doctoral training programme scholarships in the period (IES, 3.3).

The most recent Postgraduate Research Experience Survey (2020) showed that our PGRs had a high level of confidence in the arrangements relating to their studies. Some 94% of the respondents agreed that their supervisors had the skills and subject knowledge to support their research; that they had regular contact with supervisors; and that supervisors provided appropriate feedback. The same proportion stated that they knew who to approach if they had concerns about any aspect of the programme.

All PGRs, including those researching by distance, attend the School's training programme at the probation stage (one year for full-time candidates, two years for part-time). Until 2019/20, this PGR training was held for one week in each of October and January, with the first week introducing the PhD in Law, and the second covering different theoretical perspectives and methodologies in legal research. This training has been very well received, with PGRs commenting (January 2020) that they were "brilliant", "very informative" and "very helpful" in terms of their studies. This training is supplemented by semester-length modules on research design and methodology provided by CSSAH. From 2020/21, the School's training will move to weekly sessions online, both in response to Covid-19, and to better cater for distance learning PGRs.

PGRs organise an annual conference, supported financially by the School. The conference was held as an open event in 2019 and 2020, involving PGR presenters and attendees from other universities in the UK, Ireland and elsewhere. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the June 2020 conference was held online, with 40 presentations across 12 streams. These conferences have included sessions aimed at career support of PGRs, covering publication, grant capture and effective networking.

Campus-based PGRs also play an active role in research clusters (see section 3, below). PGRs were central to the organisation by the dispute resolution cluster of a conference on Alternative Dispute Resolution in 2017.

Our PGRs have obtained external recognition of the excellence of their academic research. Abdelkarim obtained a visiting fellowship at the University of Melbourne to support her research on resistance and human rights. Ball, Joyce and Mills (all GTAs) won the prize for the best co-authored paper at the 2019 Association of Law Teachers conference, for research into law PGRs' perceptions of PhD tutors which was later published in the *Law Teacher*; they then obtained funding of £1000 from the Association of Law Teachers to produce a best practice guide as a further academic publication. Fyock and Lightfoot obtained *Modern Law Review* scholarships valued at £10,000 each (2020), for their research on the legal status of research animals, and international investment law and development, respectively.

PGRs have access to funding for research-related expenses from the School research fund, the CSSAH PGR fund and the University's doctoral college. This funding has enabled PGRs to deliver papers at major annual conferences, including those of the Society of Legal Scholars, the Socio-Legal Studies Association and the Association of Law Teachers. CSSAH and doctoral college funding has been used to support specialised training, international research visits, and PhD-related field-trips.

The School makes a substantial contribution to the development of legal scholars, both in the United Kingdom and elsewhere. Career development training within the PhD programme covers academic publications, preparation for a viva, and academic job interviews. A specific academic role covers training and career support, through one-on-one advice, feedback on job applications, and interview preparation. The dissemination of PhD research is ensured by making dissertations open access through the University's Leicester Research Archive.

Twenty-eight campus-based graduates or current PGRs in the REF period obtained academic positions in the UK or elsewhere. Three of those hold academic positions at the University of Leicester: **Rodgers**, whose research on labour law and vulnerability contributed to her recently promotion to associate lecturer (this section, above); **Wills**, who has researched socio-economic rights and animal rights, and recently obtained a Leverhulme fellowship (section 1); and **Zelazna**, who has developed a research profile on EU constitutional and trade law. Fourteen other PhD graduates or current PGRs obtained academic positions elsewhere in the United Kingdom, including at leading law schools in Cardiff, Durham, KCL, Newcastle, Nottingham, Oxford, QMUL, Southampton and Warwick. Eleven others hold academic positions in Costa Rica, Cyprus, Germany, Kuwait, Oman, Taiwan, Turkey and Zambia.

### 3. Income, infrastructure and facilities

In implementation of the strategic objectives set out in section 1, research infrastructure was significantly enhanced in the School during the census period which, combined with research support and funding at the institutional level (IES, 4.1), fostered transformations in external research income and the extent of policy impact.

#### **External research income**

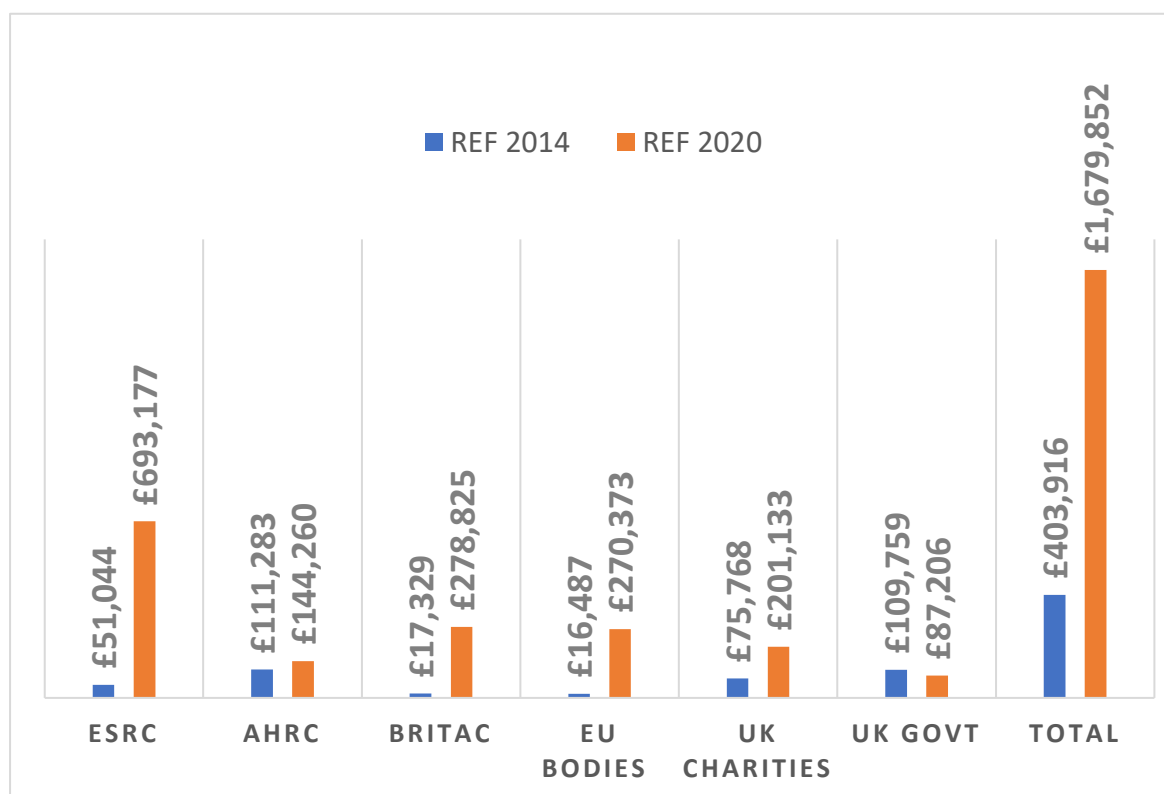
As a result of our research strategy, the REF period saw a step-change in the level and range of

external research income obtained by academics in the School. Table 1 provides information concerning the level of external research income. Overall, £1.68M in income was obtained in the census period, more than four times the total reported in REF 2014.

**Table 1: Total research income, all sources**

Research income	REF 2014	REF 2021	Change
Total	£403,916	£1,679,852	+ 316%
Average per year	£80,783	£239,979	+ 197%
FTE returned	39.53	48.6	+23%
Average per FTE	£10,218	£34,565	+ 238%
Average per FTE/ year	£2,044	£4,938	+ 142%

This transformation accompanied an increase in income from diverse sources (see Figure 2). By comparison with REF 2014, there were marked increases in funding obtained from the ESRC, the British Academy, EU government bodies and UK charities, and a smaller increase in funding obtained from the AHRC.



**Figure 2: Research income by source, 2014 and 2020**

The improvement in research income is set to continue after 31 July 2020, as the figures quoted only partly reflect substantial awards *within* the REF period which will generate income beyond that date. Those awards include the two high-value examples highlighted in section 1: £775k from the ESRC award for **Cole's** empirical research into commercial arbitration (2018-2024), and a European Research Consolidator award of £1.06M for **Watkins'** research on children's legal capability (2019-2024). They also include an AHRC fellowship for **Ziegler** (2020-2022) and Leverhulme Trust fellowships for **Jaffey** (2020-2022) and **Wills** (2020-2021). We project that

*post*-31 July 2020 income from *pre*-31 July 2020 awards to current academic staff will be £1.8M. This would be an increase on the total income for the 2013-2020 REF period and provides a strong starting-point from which to grow our research income after July 2020.

### School research support

Support for research within the School has three key elements: research funds for individuals, research groupings, and one-to-one advice. School research infrastructure during the REF period saw crucial innovations in respect of all three.

The School provided an annual research fund allowance of £750 a year to each academic for conference participation and networking visits. In 2018, the share of overhead contribution income which is provided to the School was designated as a School Research Fund. In parallel, a School-level policy concerning the Fund was formulated, to emphasise its complementarity to external and institutional funding, and to permit flexible support for all of research publications, research funding development, and activity with long-term impact potential. In 2018/19, £20k was allocated in 25 individual awards to support academic workshops and a PGR conference at the School, travel to other countries, and engagement with public bodies and legal campaigners. The School Research Fund provided targeted support to new researchers: of the 2018/19 awards, eight were to early career academics, six to other lecturers, and two to GTAs. Among the ECRs to benefit were **Wade** for an academic visit to Leiden to research an article on human rights and surrogacy, and **Zelazna**, for an academic visit to Max Planck Institute, Heidelberg, to research an article on the general principles of EU law.

The School also provides an allocation of £5000 a year to CELI, and £500 to each of the ten research clusters. CELI and the research clusters provide an intellectual space within which to develop work in progress. Outputs included in the REF submission which were first presented in these fora include two articles by **Allan** on the misuse of the corporate form (private law cluster), **Babayev's** article on the post-Brexit status of EU citizens (EU law cluster), **Cammiss'** article on the Stansted 15 trial (criminal justice cluster), **Hodson** and **Lavers'** edited book on feminist judgments (CELI) and **Yeung's** co-authored monograph on *Institutions and Economic Growth in Asia* (2018, company/ commercial law cluster).

Clusters had a particular role in assisting PGRs in developing their research. The findings of a research project on law PGRs' perceptions of PhD tutors by Ball, Joyce and Mills (GTAs) were initially presented to the School's socio-legal cluster, and then at the 2019 conference of the Association of Law Teachers, where it was awarded a prize (see section 2, above). Arslan (GTA) presented joint research with **Ahmed** on the concept of judicial early neutral evaluation to the dispute resolution cluster, which then formed the basis for an editorial they published jointly in the 2020 *Civil Justice Quarterly*.

One-to-one support is provided through annual performance development reviews for all colleagues, and through mentoring for early career academics on probation. Colleagues also benefit from individual advice, and comments on draft applications, from the research funding lead. The School has its own ethics officer, who advises academics and PGRs on socio-legal and human rights-oriented projects involving interviews and/ or potential self-incrimination by subjects. An illustrative example was **Bone's** successful ESRC bid for an investigation of the opinions of drug users. A key innovation in the current period was a voluntary research pair scheme to permit advice on all aspects of an individuals' research (covered in section 1, above).

These forms of support are additional to the substantial contribution made by University policy on study leave, which permits such leave for one semester in seven. The School complements study leave through reduced administrative and leadership responsibilities in the summer period before or after it. Law staff were granted 63 semesters of study leave by the University between academic years 2013/14 and 2019/20. The allocation of study leave is subject to School and University approval of a research plan which is ambitious and achievable. The raised expectations for study leave link to our transformed research culture (see section 1). Periods of study leave facilitated the completion of high-quality monographs, including works by **Berteau** on legal obligation, by **Bone** on human rights and drug control, by **Cortes** on consumer disputes, by **Masiyakurima** on copyright law, by **Rodgers** on vulnerability, by Turton on causation in negligence, by **Wicks** on bodily autonomy, by **Wills** to challenges to world order, by **Witt** on competition law, and by **Yeung** on institutions and economic growth in Asia.

### Institutional support for research

The transformation in the School's research performance benefitted from extensive research support provided through the CSSAH. Law academics obtained awards from the CSSAH research development fund, which covers research costs such as grant writing, pilot studies, overseas travel, field trips, buy-outs of teaching or marking, and research assistance. They also benefitted from specific schemes for grant capture, impact development, external engagement and international collaboration (IES, 4.1). In total, 47 awards, for a total of £155k, were made to Law academics over the period (see Table 2).

**Table 2: CSSAH research support awards to Law (2013-2020)**

Type of Fund	Awards	Value (£)
General fund	24	£74,756
Impact	20	£53,800
Engagement	5	£4,618
Grant capture	3	£4,546
International research	3	£17,329
Total	55	£155,049

The Socio-legal research cluster particularly benefitted from CSSAH support. **Watkins'** ERC consolidator grant for research into socio-legal approaches to children's legal capacity followed almost £3,000 of CSSAH research funding to support grant writing. Research by Carline (now at Liverpool) on local policies to limit violence against women was supported by two College impact funding awards totalling £7,751. In relation to legal policy impact, CSSAH funds were essential to travel linked to the development of the impact potential of research by **Ahmed** on civil procedure (ICS1), **Cortes** on online resolution of consumer disputes, **Ryan** on post-Brexit immigration law (ICS3), and **Ulph** on museum collections (ICS4).

Cross-disciplinary research support structures put in place at the University level further enhanced legal research. University peer-review structures for large grant applications contributed to the increased value of awards, including **Cole's** ESRC award (2018) of £775k for empirical research into commercial arbitration, two related ESRC awards (2018, 2019) totalling £139k obtained by **Cygan** for interdisciplinary research (with two academics in Politics at Leicester) on Brexit and parliament, and **Watkins'** ERC award of £1.06M (2019). Peer review of applications within the University also assisted in the acquisition of fellowships by **Cortes**

(Nuffield Foundation), **Jaffey** (Leverhulme), **Ryan** (British Academy), **Ulph** (AHRC), **Wills** (Leverhulme) and **Ziegler** (AHRC and British Academy).

The University's establishment of the Leicester Institute for Advanced Studies (LIAS) in 2017 (IES, 2.2) as a product of its strategic commitment to develop world-class interdisciplinary research, has been of particular significance for the School's researchers. LIAS funding for a 'tiger team' and for the Leicester Prisons Research Network led directly to Gooch's ESRC award of £318k in 2018 for a project entitled 'The rehabilitation prison'. **Cumper** was co-lead of a 'tiger team' on relationship and sex education in schools involving academics from the University's schools of Education, Law and Psychology. **Ryan** is co-lead of a University network on migration, mobility and citizenship (2019-2022), which includes academics and PGRs from Medical Sciences, and the Schools of Arts, Business, Geography and History. This network has developed research projects on migration cities and on migration, mobility and health, including pilot research by Joyce (a GTA in Law) in respect of COVID-19-related border and travel restrictions.

Law academics benefitted from an ESRC impact accelerator account administered within the University in 2019-2020 (4 awards, total value £11,072). Those awards supported a public engagement event by **Bone** and **Wade** entitled 'Prescribing Cannabis: Breaking Down Myths in Medicine', **Cygan's** parliamentary fellowship with the House of Commons library service on Brexit and constitutional reform, and **Deplano's** organisation of an interdisciplinary conference entitled 'When Blockchain meets Arbitration' (also supported by CELL and the Society of Legal Scholars).

#### **Facilities and infrastructure**

The University provides research support for costings and external funding through its Research and Enterprise Division. It provides training on research funding opportunities and applications, including an annual workshop for Law academics. The School also benefits from extensive provision by the University Library, and its dedicated Law Librarian and Research Consultant. In 2019-20, the Library budget was £4.06M, which includes all law books and periodicals (in print and electronic formats) and legal research databases (including Lexis and Westlaw). The Library supports the development of PGR research skills by providing workshops and advice on searching for legal information and legal referencing. The Library's doctoral college reading room is a dedicated study space for PGRs with 24/7 opening hours.

The School's research policies are overseen and implemented by its Director of Research, who is a senior member of the School, with a workload allocation corresponding to 40% of their time. The DoR sits on the College Research Committee and the School Business Group and chairs the School Research Committee which decides on School research policies and support strategy. The School Committee has 15 members of academic staff, including all those with roles in relation to research matters, together with an ECR representative and a PGR representative.

As regards physical space, the School has exclusive use of the Jan Grodecki room as a meeting space, which is used for cluster events and small workshops. Larger research events are elsewhere on the University's central campus, or at College Court, a University-owned conference facility one mile away.

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

The diversity of legal research in the School, with its orientations to socio-legal research, policy impact and innovation, enabled it to make a growing contribution to the research base, to public policy, and to the community, over the period.

### Research collaborations

Over the REF period, colleagues engaged in many research collaborations with other legal scholars, often internationally, or with an interdisciplinary ethos, which often involved holding events at the University that led to research publications. Many such collaborations reflected the School's strategic orientation to research on European and international law and were typically facilitated by CELI. Between 2014 and 2017, it hosted a series of events on the position of the European Convention on Human Rights in the United Kingdom. These included a conference of academics and practitioners at the University, funded by the *Modern Law Review*, entitled 'The UK and European Human Rights: A Strained Relationship?' and two conferences in London with the Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law, concerning the European Court of Human Rights and the United Kingdom, and the implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights, respectively (**Bates, Ziegler**).

Together with CELI, academics in the School organised a series of externally funded collaborative projects on European or international law. **Deplano's** project on methodologies in international law included participants from eleven countries, while that on the legacy of the League of Nations included participants from six countries. **Deplano** also organised a conference on blockchain and decentralised justice with participants from Argentina, Canada, Malta, Portugal, Spain, the United States and the United Kingdom, and Kleros, an organisation specializing in decentralized online justice. **Desmond's** conference and journal special issue on the global compact for migration included participants from Ireland, Lebanon, Switzerland and the United Kingdom, drawn from universities, international organisations and NGOs.

**Omorogbe's** project on the crisis of international criminal law in Africa was run jointly with colleagues at the University of Johannesburg, and involved participants from the International Criminal Court, the International Committee of the Red Cross, and universities in Greece, Nigeria, South Africa, Sudan and the United Kingdom. **Ryan's** comparative project on migrant workers and labour law included participants from eight countries. **Ziegler's** research project on the construction of legal orders in Europe led to a CELI conference, and an edited collection, involving academics and practitioners from 11 European countries.

In line with the University's strategic aim to promote interdisciplinary research (IES, 2.2), many academics were involved in collaborative research groupings within the University of Leicester. The Leicester Institute of Advanced Studies (LIAS), an interdisciplinary centre of excellence, supported interdisciplinary initiatives by members of the Law School, including **Cumper** and **Ryan** (see section 3, above). Other collaborative research groupings included **Cygan's** ESRC priority grant (2017-20) with Lynch and Whitaker from the School History, Politics and International Relations, which involved research on the implications of Brexit for parliamentary committees, and Miola's collaboration with academics in the College of Life Sciences in a project on research on dynamic consent in clinical settings (2019-2020), supported by the University-administered Wellcome Trust institutional strategic support fund.

Law academics have also been involved in international interdisciplinary collaborations. **Bertea** is a member of the research group *NormActivity* on the normative dimension of human experience, with academics from ethology, law, neurology psychology, sociology, and urban



architecture. He is also a member of the standing group on Kantian political thought of the European Consortium for Political Research. **Lorber** and **Rodgers** are leading members of the European Working Group on Labour Law, which brings together researchers from universities in seven European countries. **Slade** is a member of the Oxford Intellectual Property Research Centre, which hosts on international and interdisciplinary research on the legal, economic and public policy aspects of intellectual property).

### Sustaining legal disciplines

The School's commitment to pluralism is reflected in membership on editorial boards of law journals in many legal fields. There are 14 members of staff across the school engaged in this activity, covering different theoretical approaches to law (*Jurisprudence*, *Feminist Legal Studies*) as well as subjects as diverse as European and international law (*Human Rights Law Review and International and Comparative Law Quarterly*) medical law (*Medicine Science and the Law*), civil procedure (*Civil Justice Quarterly*) and business law (*Journal of Business Law*).

Members of the School run national and international academic networks. **Ahmed** is the founder and convenor of the civil justice systems and ADR stream of the SLSA conference. Through **Bertea**, the School collaborates with De Montfort University and the University of Modena in an annual legal research conference. **Hodson** and **Lavers** co-chaired the European Society of International Law's interest group on Feminism and International Law until 2018. **Omorogbe** set up and chairs the International Law and Policy in Africa Network (ILPAN). **Ryan** is co-chair of the Migration and Law Network which promotes that field in British universities.

International networks have also arisen from specific projects. **Cole's** ESRC grant on the social and psychological underpinnings of commercial arbitration involves researchers from universities in six countries. **Cumper** set up an AHRC-funded UK-wide network on collective worship in schools, involving educationalists, lawyers, philosophers and sociologists. **Du Bois'** British Academy funded project "Crossing Boundaries? Private Remedies for Public Duties" was established in collaboration with Cape Town University, and included contributors from five other South African universities, and from the National University of Lesotho.

### Engagement with law- and policy-makers

Engagement with law- and policy-makers is a strength of the School, which is linked to its strategic objective to promote research with potential for impact. The far-reaching nature of that engagement is reflected in the breadth and excellence of the School's four submitted impact case studies. These represent engagement with legal policy makers in fields as diverse as civil procedure (**Ahmed** ICS1), domestic violence (**Burton** ICS2), immigration law (**Ryan** ICS3), and the ownership of museum collections (**Ulph** ICS4). In all of these cases, the engagement activity has resulted, or will result, in important policy changes, affecting legislation (ICS2 and ICS3), legal guidelines (ICS1) or practical guidelines for actors in the field (ICS4).

The engagement activities at the foundation of the four impact case studies reflect just a small proportion of these activities undertaken within the School. Many academics have been involved in presentations to United Kingdom policy-making bodies. **Bakircioglu** advised the All-Party Parliamentary Group on international freedom of religion on religious violence in Nigeria. **Cygan** gave evidence to the House of Commons Procedure Committee, and its European Scrutiny Committee, on scrutiny of EU affairs after Brexit, and held a POST parliamentary academic fellowship. **Ryan** gave presentations on the Mediterranean migration crisis to the Home Affairs sub-committee of the House of Lords EU Select Committee, and to the Public Bill committee on

the Immigration and Social Security Bills of 2019 and 2020. **Ulph** participated in meetings of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for the protection of cultural heritage, and in a Government summit on cultural protection, and was awarded a grant by the Arts Council to produce guidance with the Institute of Art and Law) on repatriation for the museum sector (ICS4). **Watkins** gave presentations to a cross-government social research seminar on gamification, and to the All-Party Parliamentary Group for public legal education. **Wade** participated in a Law Commission stakeholder event on children's rights and surrogacy, leading to her research being cited in its 2019 consultation paper, *Building Families Through Surrogacy: A New Law*.

Members of the School submitted written evidence on government or parliamentary consultations. **Desmond** and **Ryan** jointly submitted evidence to a House of Lords inquiry on EU asylum law and Brexit. Evans helped draft the Society of Legal Scholars property law section's response to the Law Commission's Consultation Paper on making a will. **Yeung** submitted evidence to the Foreign Affairs Select Committee on China and the international rules-based system. **Kyd** and **Cammiss** submitted their report on the prosecution to road traffic offences to a House of Commons Transport Committee inquiry into road safety. **Ziegler** submitted written evidence to the Joint Committee on Human Rights' inquiry into the Government's proposed derogation from the European Convention on Human Rights (2017). **Burton** submitted research and evidence to a Scottish parliamentary committee in 2019, contributing to the case for introducing emergency protection orders (EPOs) for domestic abuse in Scotland, and these were proposed in a Scottish Government Bill in October 2020 (ICS2).

Other policy-relevant work has had an EU law focus. **Caracciolo di Torella** gave presentations at Eurofound and EFTA seminars on work-life balance in Brussels, and prepared reports for the European Commission on gender equality and the collaborative economy, and for the European Parliament on the directive on equal access to goods and services. **Cortes** was a speaker at the European Parliament workshop on European civil law, and keynote speaker at an international conference on online courts co-organised by HM Courts and Tribunals Service. **Lorber** presented a report to the ETUC on confidentiality in information and consultation of worker representatives. **Ryan** gave a presentation on international law and the migration crisis at the European Commission policy centre in Brussels.

A separate strand of work involved engagement with EU and international human rights standards. **Bates** gave presentations on states' margin of appreciation and subsidiarity at the European Court of Human Rights, and on prisoners' voting rights at a Council of Europe event hosted at the University of Moscow. **Wade** gave a presentation to the Committee on the Rights of the Child on surrogacy and is an expert visitor to the Children's Rights and Bioethics Divisions of the Council of Europe.

Research by academics in the Law School has been cited in reported judgments. An article by **Evans** (a colleague with a teaching-focused contract) in the *Conveyancer and Property Lawyer* was cited in *Skelwith v Armstrong* [2015] EWHC 3830 in connection with powers of sale under an equitable mortgage. **Hsiao's** article 'Legitimized interference with private properties' was cited in the Singapore International Commercial Court case *CIPT Investments Ltd v Qilin World Capital Limited and another* [2017] SGHC(I) 5.

Colleagues have been involved in training of state officials. **Caracciolo di Torella** delivered seminars on anti-discrimination law to members of the German judiciary for the German Academy of Law, to members of the judiciary in Italy for the *Scuola Superiore della Magistratura*,

and to lay members of the Employment Appeal Tribunal in England. **Rodgers** spoke on labour law and the right to a fair trial to judges and other members of civil society through the European Research Academy. **Ryan** delivered training on the Dublin Regulation on asylum to the relevant decision-making unit in Malta.

### Civil society, public engagement and media

External engagement with the civil society, legal practitioners and members of the public has also become an increasingly prominent feature over the period. Many developments have involved collaboration with civil society bodies. **Bakircioglu** acted as consultant to TOHAV, a human rights NGO in Turkey, on the right to freedom from torture or inhuman or degrading treatment. Canto Lopez (an academic with a teaching-focused contract) presented research concerning voluntary redress for energy consumers to academics, practitioners, and energy market actors at an event organised at the University. **Cygan** participated in Industry and Parliament Trust stakeholder consultations on Brexit and discussed Brexit at public events organised by the Social Market Foundation and the Legal Education Foundation. **Kyd** and **Cammiss**' research for the Road Safety Trust in 2018-2019 (see section 1) was presented at a workshop involving the Magistrates' Association, the Parliamentary Advisory Committee on Transport Safety, police officers and road safety professionals. **Lorber** provided consultancy to the European Trade Union Institute on social policy and inclusion. **Ryan** collaborated with the Traveller Movement in a campaign concerning the legal status of Irish citizens.

Many academics in the School collaborate with members of legal and related professions. **Ahmed** is the secretary of the East Midlands branch of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, and **Cole** is a board member. **Cole** and **Cortes** each act as independent arbitrators for civil disputes including aviation, water, telecommunications, landlord-and-tenant, and domain names. **Ryan** worked with the Immigration Law Practitioners' Association on the protection of EU rights of residence after Brexit. **Cammiss** is a member of the Ethics, Integrity and Complaints Committee of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

Members of the Law School have been active contributors to media and blogs. **Bates** runs the 'UK Strasbourg spotlight' blog (<https://ukstrasbourgsplight.wordpress.com>). **Cammiss** contributed to blogs concerning the Stansted 15 Trial for *Metro*, the *Political Quarterly*, the *New Statesman* and *Open Democracy*. **Cygan** provided commentary on Brexit to media from France, Germany, Spain, Poland, Romania, and the United States. **Desmond** wrote opinion pieces about migration law and policy questions for RTE and the *Irish Independent*. **Golyner** wrote on citizenship and nationality for *The Conversation*. **Ryan** wrote about the EU migration crisis for *The Conversation*.

### Conclusion

The current REF period has seen a marked transformation in research outcomes in Leicester Law School. The School enhanced its research support infrastructure and raised research expectations across the School. The achievements which resulted included a substantial increase in external research funding, significant law and policy impacts, extensive engagement with law- and policy-makers, and an impressive range of monographs and other research publications. Our strategy for the future is to continue to develop our areas of research strength, particularly in European and international law, empirical socio-legal research, legal research with a policy dimension, and law and theory. The School's pluralistic ethos, based on valuing both personal and intellectual diversity, puts it in a strong position to sustain the vitality of its world-class research in the challenging period ahead.

