

Institution: University of Dundee
Unit of Assessment: UoA18 Law
1. Unit context and structure, research and impact strategy

a) Organisational structure of UoA

UoA 18 Law (**UoA**) is an interdisciplinary academic community focused on world-leading impactful research aligned with the University's mission of *transforming lives, locally and globally*. The UoA comprises 30 researchers (26.8 FTE), drawn from the disciplines of **Law, Politics** and the Centre for Energy, Petroleum and Mineral Law and Policy (**CEPMLP**). Programmes in Law (*Dundee Law School*) and in Politics span undergraduate and postgraduate levels, including Scots Law, English Law, and International Human Rights. CEPMLP focusses on interdisciplinary postgraduate education and research. Our vibrant connected research culture is fuelled by a large doctoral community, with 69 postgraduate researchers (PGR) registered in the UoA at 31 July 2020.

The UoA has two complementary research themes: **Law for a Sustainable World** and **Law for a Just World**, with four cross-cutting initiatives comprising two new research groups; the **Interdisciplinary Legal Studies Group** and the **Human Rights Research Group**, and two longstanding research centres, **CEPMLP** and the UNESCO Centre for Water Law, Policy and Science (**CWLPS**). The Unit is situated within the **School of Social Sciences** (School), one of 10 academic Schools created through University restructuring in 2015 to enhance critical mass and connectivity across disciplines (see REF5a). Within the School, the UoA has flourished as the organising unit for interdisciplinary research on Law.

Overall research leadership for the UoA has been provided by **Belcher** throughout the current REF cycle, while collaboration with wider University networks is provided by **Roeben** as Co-Director of the **Institute for Social Sciences Research** (ISSR), a cross-School vehicle bringing together cognate interests across four academic Schools; Social Sciences, Education & Social Work, Business and Health Sciences. Figure 1 illustrates how the UoA's themes and research groupings are nested within those of the University and the ISSR.

b) Research Strategy

Early in the REF2021 cycle, the UoA came together to express its research strategy:

*We are committed to **disciplinary excellence and interdisciplinary research that will benefit society locally, nationally, and internationally**. We aim to maintain originality and rigour in research within University and School environments that **train and support researchers from PhD students to Research Leaders**. We aim to **sustain our research capacity** through underlying disciplinary strategies that enhance legal research, and through good succession planning.*

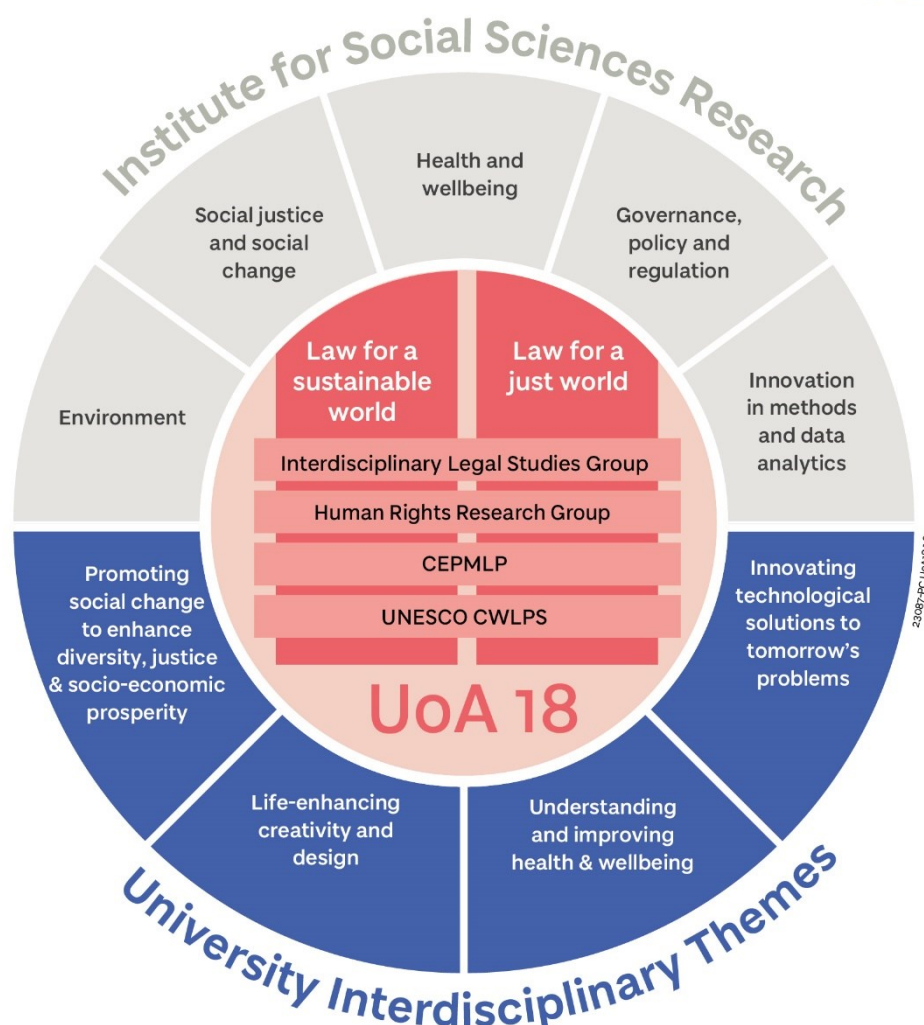


Figure 1: Alignment of UoA 18 Research Themes, Groups and Centres within the University and ISSR Thematic Context

The research strategy is implemented with the help of the UoA's staffing strategy and its culture of collegiality, in which senior staff mentor and support Early Career Researchers (ECRs). Operational plans that include research objectives and activities are developed annually.

To enhance our disciplinary excellence and impactful interdisciplinary research, the UoA encouraged and supported the formation of agile research groups with flexibility to respond to changes in the research landscape and to strengthen our research centres, ensuring vitality and sustainability. The UoA's research environment extends well beyond the UoA with collaborations across the University and across the sector. Interdisciplinary collaboration across the University is enabled by the ISSR, including events and seed funding, a global scholar programme and annual conferences with opportunities for staff and PhD students to present papers and posters. Wider University collaboration is enabled around the University's four interdisciplinary thematic priorities and the platform of the Dundee Interdisciplinary and Innovation Forum (DIIF), which facilitates collaboration aligned to the research funding environment for staff across the University and with external partners. The UoA aligns mainly with the theme of *Promoting social change to enhance diversity, justice, and socio-economic prosperity*.

Exemplars of successful collaborations across and beyond the University include, in the Scottish context, **Ferguson** co-authoring on Scots Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure and Evidence with Strathclyde, Stirling and Aberdeen, respectively; and in UK terms, **Reid** publishing on Brexit and

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Environmental Law with colleagues in York, Sheffield, Belfast, Cardiff and East Anglia. EU Citizenship was examined by **Minnerop** and **Roeben** along with colleagues in Finland. Policing and global security issues were considered by **Hartmann** in collaboration with colleagues in Geography in *Taking Surveillance Apart? Accountability and Legitimacy of Internet Surveillance and Expanded Investigatory Powers* (NordForsk), joint with Universities of Stirling, Edinburgh, Glasgow, University of Uppsala, Police University College Finland, and Norwegian Police University College. **McEleavy**'s Oak Foundation-funded research *Evidencing Violation of Children's Rights in Brazil* was conducted in collaboration with colleagues in Geography, Education and Social Work.

The success of the UoA's strategic aim to benefit society can be seen in the three Impact Case Studies (ICS) chosen for submission to REF2021, and in the many other examples of impact and public engagement noted in this document. The case studies comprise one with a focus on Scotland's criminal procedure (**Ferguson** on Eyewitness Evidence). Her recommendations for legislation were accepted and have impacted on how Police Scotland must collect eyewitness evidence, contributing to **Law for a Just World**. **Ross**' ICS traces the route from her research on sustainability to the enactment of Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, contributing to **Law for a Just and Sustainable World**. Subsequently, that model for drafting legislation aimed towards achieving sustainable development (anywhere in the world) has been acknowledged by the WHO as ground-breaking. The third ICS (**Page, Reid**) shows the UoA's ability to respond to the UK's and Scotland's immediate needs in the wake of the Brexit referendum result with elements of the impact being in constitutional law and environmental law, contributing to **Law for a Just and Sustainable World**, respectively.

c) Organisation

To sustain our research capacity in line with the research strategy, the UoA has complementary structural themes and dedicated research centres to focus on our collective strengths. Respectful to Law's traditions as a hybrid, multi-disciplinary subject, colleagues collaborate for specific projects and conduct research as individuals. Our centres and research groups are:

CEPMLP (Director, **Cameron**) is the oldest energy-centre in the UK. It is explicitly interdisciplinary and is postgraduate only. For nearly 40 years, it has been a teaching and research unit of the University, distinguished for legal and socio-economic research into the global energy landscape. Energy was a priority theme in the UoA's REF2014 submission and, reflecting the global drive towards Net Zero, this has evolved into a focus on the **global energy transition** over the current assessment period. CEPMLP conducted a major review of its teaching and research that resulted in a reframing of its major strengths in **energy, sustainability, risk management and governance of just transition processes**. Examples of outputs are **Roeben**'s monograph *Towards the European Energy Union* and **Bastida**'s monograph on *The Law and Governance of Mining and Minerals: A Global Perspective* (CEPMLP achievements appear in more detail in sections 3 and 4 below).

CWLPS (Director, **Allan**) is the **UK's only UNESCO category 2 centre**, established in 2008 under the auspices of UNESCO, UK, and Scottish Governments. The interdisciplinary centre captures a university-wide community of cognate researchers with shared interests focussed on UN Sustainable Development Goal 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation). Internationally, **Allan**'s collaborative work, supported by UK Aid, NERC and ESRC, examined for example vulnerability to climate change in river deltas in Ghana, India and Bangladesh resulting in evidence-based advice to the three governments. Nationally, **Hendry**'s work has supported the development

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and implementation of water policy and associated legislation, funded by the Scottish Government's independent advisory body the Centre of Expertise for Waters (CREW).

These two centres are major contributors to the *Law for a Sustainable World* theme with some crossover into the *Law for a Just World* theme.

The **Interdisciplinary Legal Studies Group** promotes innovative interdisciplinary research with strong links to arts and humanities using theories from sociology (**Giddens'** work on comics and the Law), continental philosophy (**Silquini-Cinelli**), and feminism (**Belcher** and **Ferguson** as part of the Scottish Feminist Judgments project), among others. Expertise spans the areas of business, comics, education, history, human geography, law, literature, politics, and social work.

The **Human Rights Research Group** was formed following strategic investment in the recruitment of Human Rights specialists spanning multiple disciplines across the University including law, political science, geography, and social policy. Current UoA members are **Droubi**, **Hartmann**, **Mills**, **Olcay** and **O'Brien**, whilst Jones, Rigney and Waldorf departed for promotions in other institutions. The group meets for internal seminars, involving visiting speakers, and its members regularly provide advice and assist human rights NGOs, international courts and governments.

These two groups are major contributors to the *Law for a Just World* theme.

In addition to centre and group-based research activities, other research is individually-driven, as can be seen in monographs on Constitutional Law (**Page**), Insolvency Law (**Xie**), and **Ferguson's** work on Scots Criminal Law. The **Centre for Freedom of Information (CFI)** was established in collaboration with Scotland's first Information Commissioner. It has been running an annual conference for practitioners for five years. With the appointment of **Whittaker** as Director in January 2020, CFI will strengthen its research presence as a cross-cutting centre over the next REF period, building on the ESRC-funded project on access to environmental information led by **Reid**, whilst maintaining its practitioner network.

d) Impactful Research

Impact is integral to the UoA's research along with stakeholder engagement throughout the research lifecycle. The UoA has put in place structures and processes to enhance impact, which include peer review of funding applications to ensure strong pathways are framed to ensure outcomes are achieved. The School conducts an Annual Research Review (ARR, see section 2), which includes impact and Public Engagement as an attribute of researcher excellence. Taken together, peer review and ARR mean that impact is a key concern for every researcher. Impact training was provided in two masterclasses, organised through ISSR along with access to financial support for activities that enhance the impact of research. Impact awards were made to six members of the UoA, facilitating Research Assistant time and travel funds to interact with stakeholders. The UoA encourages and supports staff to engage with policy-makers as an important path to impact on the Law (see section 4).

e) Interdisciplinary Research

CEPMLP and **CWLPS** are the UoA's longstanding interdisciplinary centres. In the current assessment period, the School and ISSR have been important drivers for more interdisciplinary work within the School and in the wider University. Collaborations with colleagues from geography

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and environmental science has expanded through joint PGR supervision, e.g., disability and access to graduate work; socio-legal impacts of emerging pollutants, glacial melt and water law in Peru; and urbanisation in Africa. The **Human Rights Research Group** evolved through collaborative engagement with researchers and PGRs from politics and international relations. The **Interdisciplinary Legal Studies Group** was launched with funding from the School's Strategic Development Initiative and has attracted staff and PGRs from English, Social Work, Philosophy and Law, along with external speakers from across the UK. These initiatives have allowed researchers in Law to deepen interactions with a wider range of scholars to address interdisciplinary research questions.

f) Future Research Objectives

The aim over the next five years is, in continuation of the established research strategy, to enhance the UoA's position at the forefront of interdisciplinary and impactful research building on its strengths as embodied in its current research centres and groups using our two themes to frame these efforts. **Law for a Sustainable World** will address areas such as energy transitions, water research, environment, and climate change. **Law for a Just World** will include the work of the **Human Rights Research Group** and the **Interdisciplinary Legal Studies Group** along with the networks associated with these groups. **Law for a Just World** will also be advanced by the strengthening of the CFI under its new Director (**Whittaker**).

g) Research Quality and Integrity

Research integrity is central to all research conducted in the UoA, consistent with the University's values and congruent with the **Concordat to Support Research Integrity**. All PGRs are required to complete the University's 'Responsible and Ethical Practice in Research and Publication' course and staff are strongly encouraged to do so. The School has two joint Research Integrity Leads who are responsible for promoting a culture of research integrity within the UoA and provide an independent and impartial source of advice on the responsible conduct of research.

The UoA's research operates within the University ethics framework. All research involving human participants by staff and students is subject to ethical review, ensuring that all interviews, surveys and observations are undertaken with full regard for ethical standards and informed consent. Consistent with guidance from the University Research Ethics Committee (UREC), the School Research Ethics Committee (a joint Committee with the Schools of Business and Humanities) operates a risk-based approach to ethical review, that allows research methods with low ethical risks to be approved by a discipline lead (**Allan**), but requires additional review of projects with higher ethical risks.

h) Open research environment

The UoA works within the University's open research policy and follows the guidelines of the **Concordat on Open Research Data**. All outputs are recorded open access in the University's Discovery Research Portal supported by the Library and Learning Centre (LLC). Staff participate in LLC training. Compliance of research outputs with the open research policy is checked at the ARR, with follow-up discussions with individual researchers, including the open access requirements of external stakeholders, such as research funders, where necessary. Openness in making research data available is facilitated by University mechanisms for depositing research data either with the University or as required by individual research funders, observing where required GDPR requirements.

2. People

a) Staffing and Recruitment Strategy

The UoA's staffing strategy over the REF2021 period has been to grow capacity by attracting and retaining excellent staff embedded in a research-led collaborative environment. Recruitment is informed by our research strategy and the needs of teaching programmes. Throughout the current assessment period, the UoA recruited exclusively to Teaching and Research (T&R) contracts. All T&R posts are permanent. Research Assistants/Fellows (RAs) are fixed-term, research-only posts.

The core criterion for T&R posts is excellence in research, or potential in the case of early career researchers. The UoA's broad strategic aims take account of the wide range of teaching required by Law's undergraduate programmes in Scots Law and English Law. Whilst Law does not recruit to narrow research topics, it seeks applicants offering research expertise in areas that are cognate with those of the UoA to protect against fragmentation of the research effort and the isolation of individual researchers.

Recruitment by **CEPMLP** has been focussed on the Energy Transition with **Heffron** (Professor) adding expertise in Energy Justice, and **Roeben** (Professor) expertise in Energy and Public International Law. The appointments of **Mills** (Professor, Politics) and **O'Brien** (Lecturer, Law) are part of the effort to strengthen research in the area of Human Rights. The UoA recruitment policy demands applicants to demonstrate their capability to collaborate, internally and externally, and to engage closely with non-academic stakeholders and audiences. A willingness to explore innovative areas, often with an interdisciplinary element, is valued and accompanied by a supportive follow-through. For instance, **Minnerop** was supported, with funding from the School and a grant from the Society of Legal Scholars, to organise an international conference on climate litigation in 2019, with a high-profile list of speakers, and considerable media coverage (e.g. BBC Scotland).

New appointments have been made at all levels from RA to Chair. In 2019, the UoA won two of the University "Baxter Fellows" as investment in capacity building of growth areas. **Jueptner** (University of Dundee Doctorate) was appointed to grow expertise in private international law, while **O'Brien** brought specialism in Business and Human Rights to complement **Mills** (Chair in Human Rights) who joined in 2017 to grow international Human Rights research. **Hartmann** (promoted to Reader in the period) strengthened links across the socio-legal spectrum into political science through joint research seminars. **Hwaidi, Olcay, Siliquini-Cinelli** and **Whittaker** (Lecturers) added to the UoA's research expertise in the comparative approach (already used by **Belcher, Page** and **Xie**). **Siliquini-Cinelli** and **Giddens** (Lecturers) reinvigorated the UoA's use of interdisciplinary and theoretical perspectives in legal research.

New staff are welcomed agilely into our research culture. Succession planning for those approaching retirement is supported by senior staff tapering their time commitments, as exemplified by Churchill's retirement early in the current assessment period and **Page's** retirement at the end of the period. ECRs feature prominently in recent appointments ensuring balance between long-standing experience and new talent coming through (Table 1). School research seed funding was provided to ECRs to build their research portfolio, e.g. funds for sustaining **Droubi's** research on Investment in Latin America and for **Giddens** and **Siliquini-Cinelli** to establish the **Interdisciplinary Legal Studies Group**.

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Table 1: UoA 18 Category A staff profile by age

AGE	HEADCOUNT %
30-39	24
40-49	24
50-59	35
OVER 60	17

Part of the UoA's research community are post-doctoral researchers on full-time, grant-funded contracts, who often have been retained in a permanent post at Dundee or other institutions. For example, Nsoh, a post-doc on **Reid's** AHRC project, left in April 2014 to a lectureship post elsewhere, and **Whittaker**, a post-doc on **Reid's** ESRC project, was appointed to a lectureship (2019). Post-docs have access to all the benefits available to the research community, such as mentoring, peer review of their writing, support to attend conferences, training and development opportunities and careers advice to prepare them for their future careers. Currently, two Research Fellows, **Nalule** and **Paim**, are working for the Extractives Hub (PI **Cameron**) and enjoy these benefits.

b) Researcher development

Consistent with the University's strategy of enabling our people to flourish, the UoA supports staff development using the processes of the University's annual **Objective Setting and Review** (OSaR), where all staff are enabled to review their achievements against the University's values and aspirations, and the **Annual Research Review** (ARR), which reviews research and impact achievements, plans and resource needs of T&R staff, overseen by a Panel of senior colleagues chaired by the School's Associate Dean for Research (ADR).

Staff development starts with clear objective setting and a development plan during the Probation period for new staff. **Probationary T&R staff** are mentored by experienced research-active colleagues through structured conversations about where to publish, funding opportunities, external engagement/impact and network-building. Early career staff are supported in their aims for **career progression** by senior staff who are available for advice and guidance on expectations and on the University promotion process. Advice is provided informally and formally as part of feedback from the ARR and at the OSaR meeting.

All ECRs, as well as mid-career academics seeking support, are assigned a mentor. ECR staff can be assigned two mentors, if they wish, with one being external to the University through the cross-institutional Teaching, Research & Academic Mentoring (TRAM) Scheme, which is now in its 14th year.

These mechanisms are supplemented in the UoA with a set of informal and well-used supports. For grant proposals, internal peer reviewing is a requirement. Staff are also encouraged to read each other's writing in draft form before it is submitted for publication, which is part of the UoA's culture that has helped staff ensure the quality of their published work. Staff research workshops, where work is circulated beforehand, allow detailed and specific discussion and feedback, whether it is on technical legal points, presentational issues or publication strategy.

All staff have access to a comprehensive **Occupational and Professional Development** (OPD) programme mapped to Vitae's Researcher Development Framework and in line with the **University's HR in Excellence with Research Award** held since 2011 and the **revised Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers**. The University OPD offering is

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supplemented by targeted researcher training organised by the School, for instance impact masterclasses and data management training provided by external experts. ISSR organises research writing retreats, and the University offers opportunities to attend funder visits.

c) Research Time Allocation and Study Leave

Through the University's Workload Allocation Model (WAM), all T&R staff have a minimum of 30% of their time allocated to research, which can be increased subject to the staff member's type and level of external funding. Staff are eligible to apply for a semester's study leave (sabbatical) at the rate of one for every six semesters served under University policy. The UoA retains the flexibility to permit extra research time for specific projects, external engagement and professional placements by creating flexibility through periodic teaching-free semesters. Examples include Shields (until 2018), granted a semester's leave to undertake a Fulbright Scholarship at University of California Berkley in 2017; **Page**, granted a semester's leave to Australia in 2018 as part of his Leverhulme project *Sub-state Constitutionalism in Comparative Perspective*; **Siliquini-Cinelli**, granted leave for article writing at University of Surrey in 2019 and at Max Planck Institute in 2020, the latter postponed by COVID-19. Those taking advantage of creating teaching light semesters to focus on research included **Hartmann**, **Liao** and **Heffron**. Part-time staff are treated as equally eligible for all forms of research leave and support, indeed **Page's** leave was at a time, when he was working part-time.

d) Support for Exchanges with Government and Organisations

The University supports staff undertaking secondments and other opportunities to work in collaboration with external organisations. UoA collaborations come in many forms, including **secondments** and staff **working on advisory groups or committees**, for example, Shields spent a semester on a KE Fellowship working two days per week for the Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICe), briefing parliament. **Belcher** has held various positions as non-executive director (always a time-limited, part-time role). **Reid** has a long-term (18 month) appointment as adviser to the **Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee of the Scottish Parliament** (see section 4).

e) Rewards and recognition for research and impact

Rewards for research and impact are realised through a mixture of formal rewards, such as career progression (e.g. **Hartmann** promoted to Reader), or confidential merit awards. Within the UoA, research and impact achievements are publicised and celebrated in various ways: in congratulatory e-mails, at School and discipline meetings that open with a "good news" section, and in authorised tweets and other publicity. Achieving impact can be the basis for being rated "outstanding" in the ARR. The University has various prizes that reward research and impact, such as the Stephen Fry Awards and **Reid's** 2015 receipt of the College of Arts and Social Sciences award for Public Engagement. The University's outward-facing culture was recognised in 2020 with the University receiving a **Gold Engage Watermark** awarded by the National Coordinating Centre for Public Engagement.

f) Research students (PGRs)

The pattern of PGR completions is shown in Table 2. The UoA has 64 completions over the assessment period (equating to 63.5FTE including one shared supervision with another UoA) and, currently, a further 69 undertaking their postgraduate research. There were no research-based

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professional doctorates awarded in the assessment period, but from 2021 members of the UoA will supervise dissertations on the **University's Professional Doctorate** programme, led by the University's **Doctoral Academy**, established in 2019 to enhance the PGR student experience and build a cohesive interdisciplinary community providing PGR and supervisor support.

In line with the Research Degrees Quality Code, all supervisors are trained and undergo periodic refresher training. ISSR researcher development programmes, now institutionally coordinated by the Doctoral Academy, bring PGRs together for training including a very well-attended annual residential retreat. The School PhD Programme publicises OPD workshops. It provides administrative support for the School's **Thesis Monitoring Committee** meetings and Upgrade panels. A £500 allowance per student per year is provided to be used for conference fees, travel and research expenses. Each student attends a PhD seminar series. These series are organised by academics and include student presentations and discussions. Examples of research topics aligned to the theme of **Law for a Just World** include *Women's inheritance rights in Pakistan*, *The Right to Trial within a Reasonable time in Saudi Arabia and England*, and *Can a Democratic Country Take Steps to Legally Dissolve a Political Party?* Whilst illustrative topics under the **Law for a Sustainable World** theme include *Sustainable use of water resources at large-scale mining sites*; *Sustainable Shared use of Rails and ports in Sub-Saharan Africa*; and *Cooperative Governance of Transboundary Waters and Ecosystems*.

Table 2: PhD completions (2014-2020)

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total
PhDs	10	7.5	7	8	6	16	9	63.5

g) Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

The UoA takes a holistic approach to Equality Diversity and Inclusion (ED&I) in relation to all protected characteristics. ED&I is promoted in the UoA through formal mechanisms overseen by the University and the School. Within the UoA's culture of collegiality, ED&I issues are discussed openly, and the outcomes achieved by the UoA are shared. ED&I training is mandatory for all staff and completion is monitored as part of the probation process. The School achieved the **Athena SWAN Bronze award** (prepared and submitted at School level during the REF2021 period; led by **Hartmann**). It provided the opportunity for more in-depth discussion of equality issues in relation to promotion and generated data at School level. The School ran two workshops on promotion specifically for female staff. It also runs a **Female Staff Support Network** that functioned particularly well during the COVID-19 lockdown and continues to meet frequently online.

The School's ED&I committee organises a programme of events on ED&I issues e.g. for **Black History Month**, and its chair convenes the Female Staff Support Network where issues are aired and shared, even if they cannot be resolved, and brought to wider attention, e.g. the extra pressures of working from home alongside childcare reported to the **University COVID-19 Research Working Group**. The UoA demands gender neutral language in student work. Finally, the promotion of ED&I as an important value of the UoA can be seen in its outcomes. The UoA's PhD students come from a large number of countries including many from Africa and Asia. The UoA's current T&R staff, RAs and RFs have their origins in Australia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Denmark, England, Germany, Ireland, Italy, The Netherlands, Russia, Scotland, Turkey, Uganda, and the USA. The range of nationalities still contains a limited variety of ethnic backgrounds.

The UoA is 13% BME, 80% white and 7% other, which is comparable to the UK's ethnicity population profile (13% BME; 87% white).

h) Construction of the REF submission

Throughout the construction of the UoA's REF submission the University's Code of Practice was the guide for all decision-making. The UoA minuted reminders to refer to the Code at the start of every meeting and the chair ensured there was a copy on the desk for meetings held in person and available electronically when meetings went on-line due to COVID-19. Due regard to ED&I included a review of outcomes: Category A staff in the UoA are 38% female and 62% male. Outputs are attributed 38% to females and 62% to males. When Category A and B staff are included, the attribution of outputs is 34% to females and 66% to males. The age profile of UoA staff is 48% under 50s and 52% over 50s. This can be compared to the age profile of output attributions which is 43% under 50s and 57% over 50s. For the protected characteristics of disability and race the data are very low numbers and for disability confidential self-identification prohibits analysis.

3. Income, infrastructure and facilities

a) Research income

The UoA's research income over the REF2021 period was £2,075,548, and it achieved additional research-related awards of £816k, notably from DfID and the World Bank in relation to provision of expertise on the global Extractives Industry. The strategy for generating research income is enabled by the ARR process as a way of ensuring that all researchers continue to plan their research so as to put time and energy into applying for funding for projects which require it. The aim is to ensure that applications for funding are well-targeted as to the funder and scheme and of the highest quality possible. Quality has been supported through the culture of sharing work-in-progress for the purpose of making improvements based on constructive criticism. Another part of the strategy is to support applications for smaller amounts of funding for research activities that could form the basis for further, larger, bids in the future. Some types of UoA research require significant funding (e.g. empirical research). In other areas of research, grant funding is less vital, but time allocated either within the normal workload model or extra time in the shape of unfunded research leave remains crucial (e.g. theoretical, critical and doctrinal research).

The ARR process includes a review of grant capture, whilst the UoA's ARR Panel is able to take account of the sort of research being undertaken and planned, and there is no mechanistic requirement for every researcher to be pursuing funding every year. However, obtaining funding at an appropriate level and for activities where it enhances the outcomes and impact, even for a theorist, is encouraged in ARR feedback and its importance is emphasised in relation to career progression. Some of the highest quality submitted outputs have benefited from funded projects in this or earlier REF periods. The submitted Impact Case Study on Sustainable Development Law had its origins in an AHRC project *National Sustainabilities in Scotland and Wales* held by **Ross** jointly with Jones (Aberystwyth). This is an example of grant income (awarded in 2013) linking directly with excellent outputs and significant impact.

The UoA encourages collaborative projects where appropriate, such as projects undertaken by the UNESCO CWLPS with multiple partner organisations. Other major awards include **Hartmann's** *Taking Surveillance Apart?* (NordForsk, Dundee share £285k); and **Allan's** *DEltas, Vulnerability and Climate Change; Migration and Adaptation* (Ghana, India and Bangladesh, Dundee share

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£269k); **Liao's** *Chinese National Oil Companies and the Economic Development of African Oil Producers* (DfID-ESRC, Dundee share £253k); and **Bastida's** *Strategic Dialogue on Sustainable Raw Materials* (EU Horizon 2020, Dundee share £112k).

Most of the UoA's successful large-scale collaborations have a longer history beginning in cooperation on a smaller scale built in the context of wider networking. An example of sustained networking that has supported success in obtaining research funding is **Cameron's** bid to lead the continuation and refocussing of the **Extractives Hub** funded as part of DfID's *Releasing the Transformational Potential of Extractives for Economic Development* (RTPEED) programme. The £700k funding of phase 2 extends to 2022 for the maintenance of the Hub's information and data platform, and for research on extractives law and policy. The end-users are government departments and NGOs working in Low-and Middle-Income Countries (LMIC), which for the Hub's subject area are mostly in Africa. The Hub has engaged with LMICs throughout the COVID-19 pandemic by webinars.

The UoA, therefore, supports small scale projects and network-building activities, which have the potential to lead to larger projects and significant outputs and impact. **Xie's** paper on corporate rescue in the US, the UK and a possible way forward for China won first prize from more than 200 presented at the very high profile 8th Chinese Bankruptcy Law Conference organised by Renmin Law School (ranked no 1 in the PR of China). She was supported by the UoA to travel to the conference and on other trips to China where she engaged with judges and academics. Senior colleagues often help junior colleagues to find suitable sources of funding, either internally or external to the University. **Giddens**, **Minnerop** and **Siliquini-Cinelli** have all been awarded small grants of this type.

Following **Droubi's** appointment as a Lecturer, School funding supported him to organise two international workshops in 2018 that sustained his Latin American network of researchers working on international investments and ecological sustainability in Latin America. In 2019, **Droubi**, **Heffron** and **Ross** were supported by the School and University to present their research at an international conference of researchers and policy makers in Buenos Aires. **Droubi** and **Heffron** were supported financially and logistically to extend the Buenos Aires trip to work with multiple institutions in Brazil, Argentina, and Colombia. They strengthened their links with policy-makers whilst also connecting **Droubi's** work on international investment law in Latin America with **Heffron's** *Just Transition* network extending into Uruguay and the West Indies, with funding of £60k from the UK Energy Research Centre Whole Systems Networking Fund. The interdisciplinary momentum created, supported **Heffron's** appointment to an **EU Jean Monnet Chair for 2019-2022** on the *Just Transition to a Low-Carbon Economy* (c. £54k).

The results of **Reid's** AHRC-funded (£212k) project on *The Privatisation of Biodiversity?* (see monograph with same title) completed in 2014, pointed to the potential of a policy based on conservation covenants that is now being implemented in UK law. **Reid's** next major project, *Uncovering the environment: the use of public access to environmental information* (ESRC, £354k 2018 - 2020), considered the actual use of the public's right of access to environmental information in collaboration with Mendel (Geography) and **Whittaker** working with the Scottish Information Commissioner. **Hendry** has continued to attract funding through the Scottish Government's CREW programme to understand better and guide legal frameworks for equitable and increasingly low carbon solutions for public drinking water supply. Her research results were presented in various formats, including policy briefing notes.

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Brexit has generated the need for focussed research into many areas of Law. Researchers in the UoA were supported to respond in a timely way to funding opportunities with very tight deadlines. Familiarity and confidence in the workings of Dundee's support systems were key to the UoA's successes. **Page's** Brexit contribution has been as an expert adviser to the Scottish Government on devolution and constitutional aspects of Brexit (see section 4). Shortly after his appointment at Dundee, **Roeben** received a European Parliament grant for an academic workshop in May 2018 that brought together leading academics, practitioners, and UK politicians to follow up on his earlier work on Associate Citizenship for UK nationals post-Brexit and Union citizenship in the post-Brexit period. This support led to a number of outputs, co-authored with the research team that included **Minnerop**. **Reid's** work on Brexit and the Environment was funded by a collaborative ESRC grant of £149k bringing together researchers from Sheffield, York, Cardiff, Queens Belfast and UEA to look at Brexit and the Re-politicisation of UK Environmental Governance.

b) Research Support Services

The support infrastructure for grant applications is provided by the University's Research and Innovation Services (RIS) and Research Finance Services (RFS), the School Research Administrative Lead and School Finance Officer. Researchers are also supported by UoA's culture of sharing draft applications for internal peer review, and celebration/recognition for researchers who pursue grant funding. Changes in organisational infrastructure since REF2014 have been particularly beneficial to the UoA's research income generating activities. The School and ISSR facilitated many more opportunities for interdisciplinary discussions. It also facilitated a closer relationship between the parts of the UoA, including the use of a single ARR panel that reviews researchers in Law, CEPMLP and relevant staff in Politics. The follow-on establishment of ISSR as an organisational vehicle for interdisciplinary research has supported **Hartmann** (work with Global Scholar), **Giddens** and **Siliquini-Cinelli** (conference support) and **Cameron** (incubator grant for mining and water research).

The School, Centres and University are continuing to invest in facilities and estates. Social spaces have been created in various buildings, including a specific room for PGRs in the School, to enhance cross-fertilisation of ideas. Laptops replaced desktops in staff offices allowing flexible working (especially beneficial during COVID-19 lockdown). The recent refurbishment of the LLC included the development of a number of fully equipped individual/group study spaces. The LLC offers extended opening hours and one to one support (for example with literature searches), provided online during COVID-19 restrictions.

The School provides financial support for collaborators to travel to meet in order to prepare funding proposals, to attend conferences, to meet with practitioners and other end users, and to engage in activities that are aimed towards enhancing impact, for instance travelling to give evidence to Parliamentary/Assembly Committees in Scotland, Wales, UK and beyond.

c) Operational Infrastructure

Across the School considerable attention is paid to assisting staff in obtaining external funding. Staff have access to up-to-date information on funding opportunities via RESEARCHconnect and specific training events are held on identifying sources of funding and writing grant applications. Staff benefit from strong and close support from the RIS team and RFS, who assist staff in matching projects to funding providers and schemes, advice on costings and assist in managing any awards received. This provision is notable for its individualised provision. Upon arrival, **Heffron** immediately obtained support, leading to his successful application for an EU Jean Monnet Chair

(2019-2022). The School and the University require evidence that research grant proposals have been peer reviewed. UoA researchers have been very successful in obtaining internal funding awards through the School or ISSR for networking, travel to conferences, and impact activities.

d) Addressing Equality Issues

The UoA supports staff to acquire research funding, or access other research-specific support by, ensuring that all staff can access the range of events and services on offer. For example, part-time staff are able to work flexibly, to enable them to attend external briefings taking place on fixed dates outside their normal working patterns, and the UoA sets the timing of its own events to accommodate, as far as possible, those of part-time staff and those with caring responsibilities. The Law Library was consolidated into the main library building during the REF2021 period, moving it from a location with shorter opening hours and access issues for some people with disabilities to a fully accessible facility, while maintaining access to subject specialist librarians for all.

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

The UoA's collaborations and contributions to society include working with organisations and governments. For example, Shields provided briefings for the Scottish Parliament as KE Fellow of the Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICe). **Belcher** has held various positions as non-executive director and is currently on the board of CILEx Regulation (based in Bedford) providing expertise on directors and Corporate Governance. **Page** was appointed as **Specialist Adviser to the House of Commons Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee** in relation to its inquiry into Brexit and Devolution. He also holds an appointment on the **Scottish Parliament's Standing Committee of Experts**. **Reid** has a long-term (18 month) appointment as adviser to the **Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee of the Scottish Parliament**. **Hartmann** has contributed to an *amicus curiae* brief to the Philippines Human Rights Commission inquiry on how the world's largest producers of fossil fuels contributed to climate-related human rights violations on behalf of two groupings of National Human Rights Institutions.

Staff **work on advisory groups or committees**, including: **Ferguson** has served on two JUSTICE working parties and on both the Academic Group appointed by the Lord Bonomy, and The Bonomy Committee. These bodies shape the future of Scots criminal law (see Ferguson's impact case study on Eyewitness Evidence). **Hendry** served on the (Scottish) Customer Forum, and the (Irish) Expert Commission on Water. **Reid** has contributed to a large number of initiatives, including: A report by the Roundtable on Environment and Climate Change (1 June 2018). **Fiorini** was selected by the **European Parliament** to advise on International Private Law, **Heffron** and **Minnerop** acted as expert reviewers for the **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change**. **Cameron** regularly advises and trains officials in developing countries in energy law. **Vinogradov** sits on the **Compliance Committee of the UN Protocol on Water and Health**.

Law for a Just World

In the REF2021 period, the UoA has supported individual members of staff who are in the early stages of forming or growing collaborations with the potential to have strong and impactful futures, e.g. the **Interdisciplinary Legal Studies Group** (**Giddens** and **Siliquini-Cinelli**), **Droubi's** Latin American International Investment Group and **Heffron's** interdisciplinary Network for a Just Energy Transition. Both are mid-career researchers, who have been supported by the School and the UoA with a view to their long-term growth. It has also supported individuals in distinct, one-off,

Unit-level environment template (REF5b)

collaborations (e.g. **Belcher** and **Ferguson** were collaborators in the Scottish Feminist Judgments Project – supported by holding one of the project’s “on tour” events in Dundee). Yet to establish a feminist legal research “group”, **Belcher** and **Ferguson** have been supported in their feminist research in the fields of Scots criminal law and commercial law, respectively. **Belcher** received financial support to renew her international and interdisciplinary collaborative connection with Masson (European Court of Justice, and ESSEC Business School, Paris) and to present at an international interdisciplinary event for academics and practitioners working on legal innovations (Paris, 2018). The UoA also encourages and supports staff in their external memberships, networking and collaborations. As a relatively small UoA it is these external mechanisms that provide and enhance connections to the relevant sub-specialty community for a number of Dundee’s staff; for instance, **Siliquini-Cinelli** was supported with paid periods of research leave at Surrey Centre for Law and Philosophy and his Max Planck Institute for European Legal History Postdoctoral Fellowship. An example of the UoA’s involvement in long-term collaborations is **Mills’** acting as vice-chair of the Academic Council on the United Nations System, a long-standing international collaborative organisation of academics (all levels and across multiple disciplines), diplomats, lawyers, NGO officers and governmental representatives.

Most of the UoA’s large grants are both collaborative and interdisciplinary. As an example, **Hartmann** and O’Neill (Geography, PI) set up a collaboration including colleagues from the Universities of Stirling, Edinburgh, and Glasgow, University of Uppsala, Police University College Finland and Norwegian Police University College, winning €1.04 million (Dundee share of £285k) for the project *Taking surveillance apart?* (NordForsk, 2017-20). The project has produced a deeper understanding of legal provisions for the powers of intelligence and law enforcement agencies to monitor online communications data, and how surveillance, data collection and analysis is (or will be) regulated. It will discover citizens’ perceptions of surveillance and privacy to identify any gap between citizens’ and authorities’ expectations that would need to be managed. This fits with **Hartmann’s** other work on citizen’s perceptions of Human Rights Law and aligns with the UoA theme of *Law for a Just World*.

Law for a Sustainable World

Heffron has been making major strides, advancing theory and practice and establishing networks such as the *Just Transition to a Low-Carbon Economy*, supported through UKERC’s Whole Systems Networking Fund (ESRC and EPSRC support). It has connected academics from across the world (Monash in Australia; Michigan, Connecticut, & Vermont in the US; Tilburg in the Netherlands; West Indies in Trinidad and Barbados; and Queen Mary London, St. Andrews, Coventry and Dundee in the UK). The Network has held international conferences in Edinburgh (2018) and Trinidad (2019) supported by the EU, the universities and major energy companies (for example, Shell and BP). **Heffron** was then supported by RIS, RFO and colleagues in the UoA to obtain EU funding in the form of a Jean Monnet Professorship. His insights from various disciplines have been applied to finding new ways of achieving a Just Energy Transition for a sustainable world.

Minnerop’s Climate Change Conference (see section 2) was supported by the UoA (drafting funding bid), School (some extra funding) and ISSR (event management that achieved considerable media coverage, including TV news broadcasts). **Minnerop** was also a visiting researcher at a Max Planck Institute in 2018.

Another collaborative and interdisciplinary award was to **Liao** (Dundee lead) and **Macatangay** as part of a DfID-ESRC research grant made jointly to Dundee and the Open University (Dundee share £253k). The research investigated the strategies and governance arrangements pursued by

Unit-level environment template (REF5b)

Chinese national oil companies (NOCs) and their likely implications for economic development in Africa. The involvement of official Chinese and African partners made impact more likely to happen. Two workshops were held for specialists on China's energy security studies in 2016; Dundee (April) and Beijing (November) followed-up in Beijing in September 2018.

For the UoA, the main research users tend to be government policy-makers or NGOs that try to shape the debate on issues and in turn influence policy-makers. UoA researchers have given evidence to the Scottish Parliament (**Hendry, Ross, Reid, and Page**), Welsh Assembly (**Page, Reid and Ross**), and Westminster Parliament (**Page, Reid**). Interactions with Government departments include Brazil (**Heffron and Droubi**), Uruguay and Australia (**Heffron**) and China (**Liao and Macatangay**), Kazakhstan (**Vinogradov**), Ireland (**Hendry**), Uganda, Nigeria and South Africa (**Cameron, Nalule**). **Cameron** published '*Oil, Gas, and Mining : A Sourcebook for Understanding the Extractive Industries*, supported by funding from the World Bank in 2017 on the [World Bank's website](#). It has attracted 54,500 single downloads at time of writing. Work with International Organisations includes **Cameron** and **Roeben** (International Energy Agency and OPEC); **Vinogradov** (World Bank and UN Economic Commission for Europe); and **Bastida** (European Commission - EU raw material policy).

a) Wider contributions to the economy and society

The following are examples of impact achieved by the UoA that is not captured in the impact case studies.

Law for a Just World

Hartmann's research funded by the Max Sorensen Foundation and the Dreyer's Trust, resulted in a monograph published to coincide with the Danish chairmanship of the Council of Europe in November 2017. The research was conducted against the existing background of a contentious debate on Denmark's continued membership of the European Convention on Human Rights. There was a push to leave the Convention based on an argument that the rights appeared to benefit "undeserving" groups such as prisoners. **Hartmann's** research disproved earlier reports of strong support for Denmark leaving the Convention by showing that 73% of the population support continued membership. Other false or controversial assumptions were exposed, and the monograph itself was cited several times in questions by MPs to the Danish Minister of Justice. In addition, excerpts from the monograph have been published in highly reputed national newspapers and **Hartmann** was interviewed several times by the Danish Broadcasting Corporation. A blog, which was based on the research, led to intense online debate by world leading scholars. Amnesty Denmark said the project had produced 'Really good public information'.

Mills founded the ***Scottish Human Rights Defenders Fellowship*** funded by the Scottish Government and the EU; a major new initiative aimed at supporting human rights defenders from around the world by providing them a short period of respite and protection in Scotland while they conduct research and interact with students, staff, civil society and government across Scotland. **Mills** won the ***Outstanding Achievement Award*** (for a member of academic staff) at the [Herald Higher Education Awards ceremony in 2019](#) for the development of the Fellowship programme.

Law for a Sustainable World

Cameron was awarded £700k as PI of the **Extractives Hub** (2019 – 2022); a project of the UK government to deliver research and capacity building for the benefit of developing countries so they can better manage their extractive sectors at the time of the energy transition, contributing to the achievement of **UN Sustainable Development Goals**. Implementation is being coordinated

Unit-level environment template (REF5b)

with DfID country offices and is facilitated by a network of Hub national champions in a dozen countries in Africa, Eastern Mediterranean and Central Asia. The project extends an earlier project, and in its latest incarnation has been refocussed to achieve wider research aims with the employment of two research fellows.

b) Indicators of wider influence

Members of the UoA are encouraged via the ARR process to become part of the wider influence of the discipline.

Journal editorships held in the UoA are: **Cameron** and **Roeben**, general editors of *Global Energy Law and Policy*; **Droubi**, General Editor, *Perspectives to International Law*; **Mills**, Editor, *Global Governance*. **Editorial Board memberships** held are: **Ferguson**, *Criminal Law Review*, *Juridical Review*; **Giddens**, *Law and Humanities*, *International Journal of Semiotics and the Law*; *The Comics Grid: Journal of Comics Scholarship*; **Heffron**, *International Energy Law Review*, *Renewable Energy Law and Policy Review*; **Hendry**, *Journal of Environmental Law and Management*, *Journal of Water Law*; **Mills**, *Journal of Human Rights*; **Reid**, *Scottish Planning and Environmental Law*; *Journal of Environmental Law*; *Environmental Law and Management*; **Ross**, *Environmental Law Review*; **Vinogradov**, *Journal of Water Law*. *Global Energy Law and Sustainability* was launched in 2020 with **Heffron** as Editor-in-Chief, **Cameron** and **Bastida** on the editorial board and **Liao** editing country reports.

UoA staff on advisory boards and grant awarding committees are: **Belcher**, member and chair of the SLS Research Activities Fund, member of a panel and then a board of the National Institute of Health Research's "[Health Services and Delivery Research Programme](#)" to 2015. **Reid**, member of the advisory boards for an EU funded project (BENELEX) and for University College Cork's Centre for Environmental Law.

UoA staff have acted as referees for various funding bodies including: **Belcher**, UKRI Future Leaders Fellowship (FLF); **Ferguson**, Carnegie Trust for the Universities of Scotland, AHRC, Leverhulme; **Giddens**, AHRC; **Heffron**, Austrian, Israeli and Mexican Research Councils; **Hendry**, Scottish Universities Insight Institute (SUII), ESRC, NERC; **McEleavy** and **Heffron**, Research Foundation Flanders (FWO), The Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NOW); **McEleavy**, Leverhulme; **Reid**, SUII applications.

Other indications of esteem include that **Cameron** is a Fellow, and **Heffron** a junior Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. **Cameron** is research director of the Federation of European Energy Law Associations. **Hartmann** was awarded a Fellowship at the Uppsala Forum for Democracy Peace and Justice, Uppsala University. An article on Brexit by **Reid** won the Willoughby Prize 2016 for the best article in the *Journal of Energy and Natural Resources Law*. **Law** consistently ranks in top 10 Law Schools in the UK and **obtained Gold in the Teaching Excellence Framework 2017**. The research environment has enabled UoA members to collaborate, to work in interdisciplinary ways, to research in ways that sustain and change the discipline and to connect with and have an impact with policy makers and other end-users.