

Unit-level environment template (REF5b) [8,000 words maximum]

Institution: Liverpool Hope University

Unit of assessment: English Language and Literature (D.27)

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

Overview:

English Language and Literature at Liverpool Hope aims to produce research of the highest quality within a supportive environment that links individual research specialisms with a range of international, national, and regional interests. Staff develop their specialist research in collaboration with international organisations such as author societies and subject associations, national bodies such as Arts Council England, and regional institutions such as Tate Modern Liverpool, FACT, and the Bluecoat Arts Centre. Our specialisms include the application of close-reading analysis in literature within historical contexts, examining language within sociological frameworks, and aspects of linguistic and literary production.

In the 2014 Research Excellence Framework, the English Language and Literature Unit of Assessment at Liverpool Hope University left room for improvement in its articulation of research environment, in marked contrast to the ratings for publication outputs. Those overall publication outputs ratings ranked us above the UoA outputs of several research-intensive universities, including Oxford, Bristol, Edinburgh, and Glasgow. These results were achieved within Liverpool Hope's mission as a "teaching-led and research-informed" university, and that mission statement should be interpreted to demonstrate the ways in which research excellence is valued here both for its own sake and as the foundation for our classroom teaching. Thus, with consideration for that Liverpool Hope University ethos, and in accord with maintaining the high quality of research publications produced by English staff, a focused strategy for a more robust and more fully evolved research environment has been a central aim of the English unit since 2014.

We have developed structures and activities to support staff and postgraduate-student researchers, and Liverpool Hope is committed to that research support through postgraduate scholarship opportunities, staff research leave, and financial aid for publication costs and for conference participation and organisation. We are a small English research department that contests above its weight, motivated by competition and collaboration with our larger university neighbours within Liverpool and the North West, by a collegial spirit that extends to colleagues within the School of Humanities and elsewhere within the University, by clear paths to promotion, selective grant applications, and established channels for publication and impact. The staff who contributed to REF 2014, including early career researchers, have almost all been retained; and further recruitment, particularly for Creative Writing but also for Language and Literature specialisms, has enhanced the research profile of the team, in a concerted effort to build upon the success of REF 2014.

From 2014-18 English Language and Literature operated as the Department of English within the Faculty of Arts and Humanities. In 2019, following Liverpool Hope's restructuring from Faculties into Schools, English—composed of English Language and English Literature with the additions of Creative Writing and Media Studies staff—was reconfigured as one of five subject areas within the School of Humanities. The restructuring is designed to streamline management of resources including research funds and to enable more cross-subject interdisciplinary collaboration and synergies in staff development.

The staff contributing to this UoA submission with specialisms in English Literature are Associate Professor Guy **Cuthbertson** (Head of the School of Humanities and Head of English), Associate Professor William **Blazek** (REF UoA Coordinator, PGR Coordinator and PGR Partnership Moderator), Associate Professor Trish **Ferguson**, Senior Lecturer Alice **Bennett**, Senior Lecturer Ria **Cheyne** (based in the School of Education but whose research entails literature and disabilities studies), Senior Lecturer Zoe **Kinsley**, Senior Lecturer Lisa **Walters**, Lecturer Rosalind **Powell** (Leaver), Lecturer Louise **Wilson** (Assistant Head of English) and Professor Emerita Cynthia S. **Hamilton**. Those staff with specialisms in English Language are Principal Lecturer Linda **McLoughlin**, Senior Lecturer Salman **Al-Azami**, Senior Lecturer Manel **Herat**, Lecturer Daria **Izdebska**, Lecturer Lisa **Nahajec**, and Lecturer Ruth **Kircher** (Leaver). Creative Writing staff are Lecturer Paul **Johnston** and Lecturer Eleanor **Rees**.

Disciplinary Reach, Interdisciplinary Strengths:

While English at Liverpool Hope maintains a research base with a broad reach—from early modern through contemporary literature, sociolinguistics and bilingualism to stylistics in language, and both poetry and prose fiction in creative writing—that disciplinary base extends to a variety of interdisciplinary strengths. These strengths cross over national boundaries in language and feature fully interdisciplinary conjunctures of literature with history, philosophy, sociology, science, law, travel, and biography.

English Language research at Liverpool Hope covers a compact range of traditional and non-traditional fields, with strengths in four specialisms: sociolinguistics, bilingualism, historical linguistic analysis, and stylistics. **McLoughlin** publishes especially on gender and advertising, with a concentration on analysis of women in Indian English language magazines. **Al-Azami** addresses representations of religion in the media, particularly the language used to describe Muslims in journalism; his work has generated initial impact with the Muslim Council of Great Britain for this topic of special current relevance. He also has published on bilingualism, as has **Herat**, who also researches contemporary lexical expression. **Kircher's** publications are also in bilingualism, but on the ways that English and French are integrated in learning environments in Quebec. **Izdebska** focuses on vocabulary and emotion in detailed textual examinations of early medieval literature. Balancing that approach and historical periodisation, **Nahajec's** research deals with stylistic analysis of contemporary texts, including musical lyrics.

Cuthbertson and **Blazek** have a research focus on First World War literature, from British and American perspectives, respectively, with an interdisciplinary basis that encompasses cultural, social, and intellectual history. Cuthbertson's biographical and textual analyses of the writings

of Wilfred Owen and Edward Thomas are supplemented by work on the cultural moment of the 1918 Armistice. **Blazek** has written on American First World War literature in historical context, the early fiction of Edith Wharton with respect to art history and aesthetics, and *The Great Gatsby* in relation to the philosophy of time. **Ferguson** has produced a biographical study of Maud Gonne while also working on Thomas Hardy's poetry and the science and history of time. Both **Walters** and **Powell** have published monographs on literature and science, drawing on seventeenth and eighteenth-century English writers, respectively, and the integration of scientific thought with textual analysis. **Kinsley's** archival-based research on eighteenth-century travel writing frequently applies social history and contemporaneous scientific theory with insights into textual production. **Bennett's** work on contemporary British and American fiction makes use of technological, medical, and media sources to examine the changing landscapes of contemporary literature. Targeting interdisciplinarity from the perspective of disability studies, **Cheyne** has explored modern literary texts and their reflection of social norms and issues. **Hamilton** takes recent history and trauma theory to bear on cross-genre innovations in detective fiction by Sara Paretsky. At the other end of the historical range of research in literature, **Wilson's** publications centre on early modern literature, particularly publication and reading practices, translation and transnational approaches to literature, and material culture.

Creative Writing was incorporated within the English subject area at Liverpool Hope in 2019 (along with Media Studies), enhancing the cross-fertilisation of research interests among staff. English Literature has benefitted from collaborative efforts with Creative Writing through such public-engagement events as the annual Matt Simpson Memorial Poetry Reading with an invited distinguished poet. The tactical inclusion of Media Studies within English was initially for teaching integration, but strategically the intention is to enable research collaboration within the English Language team's strengths in media representation as well as media and politics. The Creative Writing staff have built strong reputations for their work, including **Rees's** award-winning poetry, covering three published collections within the REF 2021 census period; and **Johnston's** popular fiction employs socio-historic research and genre theory for detective-fiction novels.

Research and Impact Strategy:

The key to building a strong research foundation in English at Liverpool Hope has been to hire and retain excellent researchers—staff who have almost always been hired in the early stages of their career and who can not only immediately contribute to the research profile and environment of the subject but also produce a sustainable level of excellent publication and research activity with relevant impact. The demands of the academic curriculum must factor into the areas of research that a relatively small number of staff can encompass. This academic consideration is necessarily reflected among the individual English Literature staff who cover the period from medieval to contemporary specialisms, the concentration in four central specialisms within language, and both poetry and prose expertise between the two creative writing specialists. Nevertheless, the “teaching-led, research-informed” ethos at Liverpool Hope should not be read as a dilution of research but rather a driving force in research excellence. At the heart of a collegium of researchers and learners is an active and productive research environment. That environment has been built here through the

importance of research outputs and external research funding among the criteria for promotion and for all staff in annual performance reviews. On a practical level of support, staff are encouraged to apply for internal research funding for consolidated research leave, conference participation, costs for the completion of publications, and further development opportunities.

These structural and practical features of our research in English Language and Literature have been imbedded within an overall strategy designed to (1) produce high quality outputs by individual researchers or in jointly authored or co-edited publications; (2) raise the level of our research impact since REF 2014 by building on collaborations with regional institutions, engaging with relevant national and international organizations, and taking leadership positions in national and international societies; and (3) further develop the research environment of English at Liverpool Hope through cross-subject collaborations, regularly scheduled research seminars and annual research events such as the Hopkins Lecture (described in Section 4 below), support for conference participation and organization, a rational measure of postgraduate research supervision, and administrative leadership roles at Liverpool Hope for research and postgraduate study.

As evidenced by the descriptions below of individual and joint-staff collaborative projects with general and specific impacts, increases in funding grants and postgraduate researcher numbers, and initiatives such as the annual Hopkins Lecture and Matt Simpson Memorial Poetry Reading, the English unit has achieved its strategic research aims during the current REF cycle. Our future research strategy is partly to consolidate the gains from the past seven years by retaining key research staff and further developing collaborative opportunities. With a more mature staff profile, and as the early career researchers appointed since 2014 develop new lines of research, we will also seek to apply for more external grants that build upon the impressive international research reputation earned in recent years and to expand postgraduate research numbers in the light of a current development. For 2020/21 Liverpool Hope are collaborating with the North West Consortium Doctoral Training Partnership (NWCDTP), so that Liverpool Hope PGR students in English and other Humanities subjects can access and benefit from the work of that Centre by, for example, attending PGR training events and collaborating with other PGR students across the Consortium institutions.

Section 2. People

Staffing strategy and staff development:

Our chief staffing strategy has been to appoint promising early career researchers who have an initial track record and a significant foundation for publications that have world-leading potential. In addition to four early career researcher lecturers appointed in 2011-12, in the current REF cycle four additional ECR lectureship appointments have been made, along with four two-year postdoctoral teaching fellowships, two of whom were subsequently appointed to lectureships. The ECR lecturers have contributed book publications to the outputs in our REF 2021 submission. While ECR staff, by the research criteria of their appointments, are naturally self-motivated and largely self-directed in their research projects, nevertheless, further direction, opportunities, and support are provided both within English and through the University's structures and facilities.

Senior researchers in English act as mentors to ECR staff, advising on mid- and long-term publication plans and giving feedback on draft writing. These collaborations are formed with an eye to REF assessment criteria but chiefly to enable staff to grow both as individual experts of high standing in their areas of research and as colleagues who learn from each other and can thereby best contribute to the research environment within English and within and beyond Liverpool Hope. Thus, ECR staff have designed internal research seminars and external lecture series and one-off events such as the Tolkien Day described in Section 4 below. They have also successfully applied for research grants, both internal and external, the latter often initially for focused and manageable projects such as the Not Sleeping symposium funded by the Wellcome Trust (**Bennett**). All staff in English have benefitted from the professional advice, experience, and demonstration of research expertise of Professor Neil Rhodes from the University of St Andrews, who was appointed Visiting Adjunct Professor of English at Liverpool Hope in 2017-18. In addition to subject-specific support for ECR and other English staff, the University offers research-writing workshops, runs career enhancement programmes, and invites publishers to campus for information and advice sessions.

University research support is particularly generous in funding conference-participation through both a central University research fund and through what was previously the Faculty, now School Research Committee (SRC). The SRC has been chaired by **Kinsley** for the past three years, with **Blazek** among the current membership of five senior research staff. Applications for conference-participation funding is competitive and contingent on the annual research-funding allocation; yet English staff have had an overwhelmingly successful record of internal grant approval. In the academic year 2018-19, for example, 13 of 14 funding applications by English staff to the Arts and Humanities Faculty Research Fund were successful. English staff have used the monies granted to participate in international conferences in Europe, North America and Asia; for publication expenses—for monographs and for *The F. Scott Fitzgerald Review*; and to support English research seminars with guest speakers and hosted events, including the Hopkins Lecture and the Matt Simpson Memorial Poetry Reading.

Liverpool Hope has not had a staff-sabbatical policy, as traditionally determined by service time or otherwise granted at regular intervals to pursue approved projects. A sabbatical policy was centrally costed before 2014, but the University derives less than 5 percent of its income outside of student tuition fees, and therefore full sabbatical leave would be incompatible with that financial model. Nevertheless, the English unit has flourished, mainly from using the advantages of other methods of research support offered by the University. University funding has always been earmarked for staff and postgraduate research, and the funding stream from REF 2014 allowed further money to be channelled towards research development. English research has benefitted from two University initiatives. Firstly, Consolidated Research Time (CRT) provides staff the chance to apply for from one to six weeks of teaching relief in order to pursue or complete specific research projects—often contracted publications but also for crucial stages of developmental research. Consolidated Research Time has been granted to seven English staff since implementation in 2015-16, usually for a minimum of two weeks but also reaching six weeks' leave for completion of a monograph. For example, **Cuthbertson** was enabled through CRT to complete the manuscript for his monograph *Peace at Last*, **Ferguson** used CRT for research trips to Dublin for her biography of Maud Gonne, and **Wilson** for her

research on Anthony Munday's translation of *Amadis de Gaula* (1619). Secondly, the Vice-Chancellor's Postgraduate Research Scholarships in 2016 funded full-time PhD candidates in targeted centres of research excellence. English Literature was awarded three of these Scholarships: for one student under the supervision of **Blazek** and **Cuthbertson** for a thesis on war poetry (completed in early 2020), another under the main direction of **Kinsley** on eighteenth-century travel writing (completion expected in 2021), and the third supervised by **Ferguson** jointly with History on Irish literature and history (completed in 2019). Two other postgraduate students were enabled financially through tuition waivers.

Composition of the Department by Category and Gender:

English (excluding Media Studies for REF purposes) at Liverpool Hope is currently comprised of 3 Associate Professors, 1 Principal Lecturer, 6 Senior Lecturers, and 5 Lecturers, all in full-time posts. In addition, 1 Professor Emerita contributes to PhD supervision. Of these 16 staff, 4 are male and 12 are female.

Professional Development and Promotion:

Liverpool Hope operates an Annual Academic Review policy for all academic staff, who complete a self-appraisal performance review document near the end of each academic year. This document contains relevant sections covering research attainments and targets, PGR supervision, and external research-funding applications, along with a section for staff-development needs and goals. It is then discussed in individual interviews with each staff member by the Head of School, who completes a summary report that is reviewed by the staff member, with targets established for the next year, and then further appraised by senior management for institutional oversight.

During the current REF audit cycle, 4 staff in this UoA (**Blazek, Cuthbertson, Ferguson, and McLoughlin**) have been promoted from Grade 8 to Grade 9 (Associate Professor/Principal Lecturer) and 6 staff] (**Al-Azami, Bennett, Cuthbertson, Ferguson, Herat, Walters**) from Grade 7 to Grade 8 (Senior Lecturer). Research excellence is a key criterion in promotion applications. Two staff who have contributed outputs (Kircher and Powell) left for promoted posts.

The English subject area follows University policy in its commitment to advancing equality and diversity in academia. Staff members have been actively engaged with Aurora, a programme that supports and develops women's leadership skills and that is committed to advancing gender equality in academia. **Kircher** served on the Self-Assessment Team for Athena SWAN at Liverpool Hope, and McLoughlin was a national assessor for Athena SWAN. **Herat, Ferguson, and Walters** were given funding and support from the University to participate in Aurora development days, which are conference-style events with over 200 women from across the United Kingdom. The University further provided an individual mentor to each participating staff member. All three female staff members were promoted to Senior Lectureship roles and one further promoted to Associate Professor after participating in Aurora.

English staff have expanded the University's Women's Network, which developed a series of talks by key women in leadership roles. **Walters** joined with Dr Ruth Canning from History and Politics to create an Annex to this network called the International Women's Network, which recognises the unique challenges faced by women who are foreign nationals in academia. This network provides support for such women by organising induction events and social gatherings to cultivate a strong sense of community and diversity.

The English subject area's commitment to diversity is also reflected in our hiring practices. The staff included in the UoA originate from a diversity of countries, including Poland, Germany, Ireland, America, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka. In addition, British staff come from different countries and regions of the United Kingdom, including Scotland and North, Central, East, and West England. In the current REF cycle, the University has hired more women than men to the English Language and Literature team, and racial minorities and/or foreign nationals have been promoted to the rank of Senior Lecturer and Associate Professor.

Research Students:

English PGR provision has been in place since before Liverpool Hope was awarded research-degree awarding powers (RDAP) in 2009, but with only two PhD students previously under English Literature co-supervision though research-degree validation in partnership with the University of Liverpool. Since the conferment of RDAP, English PGR enrolment has been purposely restricted to match our capacity for research supervision. During the REF 2021 cycle we have supervised (or co-supervised with other subjects) in any one year at the most eight PGR candidates. That figure reflects, on the one hand, reasoned consideration of our PGR programme capacity and, on the other hand, the desire of staff to develop PGR opportunities for our BA and MA students and for external applicants who will benefit from the high standard of research expertise among English staff. Our modest numbers of PGR students mean that we can offer expert guidance and give the kind of close attention to student progress and training that might not always be obtainable in a large department.

Despite Liverpool Hope's unsuccessful application for inclusion in regional AHRC funding and training consortia, the University has moved forward by awarding scholarships and fee-waivers for PGR students in English. Within a robust PGR management scheme from central University to School and Subject levels, Liverpool Hope has developed a full PGR training programme following the Vitae model. In addition, the University has embedded PGR application and annual monitoring systems, policies and procedures for supervisor applications and training, and PGR regulations and a code of practice that apply not only at Liverpool Hope but also now to three partner institutions—St Mary's Twickenham, Newman University, and Maryvale Institute—whose PGR degrees (PhD, MPhil, and EdD) are validated by Liverpool Hope. English is directly represented in University PGR management by **Blazek**, serving as PGR Moderator for Newman University and on both University Research Degrees Subcommittee and PGR Progression and Award Board.

English PGR supervision has often involved interdisciplinary research, recently through co-supervision with History and Politics, Music, and Drama. Maximizing expertise and opportunities in this way leads to some fractionalisation in our REF 2021 PhD completions: the

4.0 total completions consists of full and proportional supervision of 7 students. In 2020-21 we are supervising 6 PGR students, 3 of those fully within English and 3 with either Drama, History/Law, or Film (the latter through partnership with the Catholic University of Lille). Beyond the service to students in providing specialist supervision across disciplines, the benefits to the Unit's research are in developing an environment that encourages collaborative efforts in research seminars, exchange of knowledge and methodological approaches, as well as potential projects and interdisciplinary funding bids (as with the Not Sleeping symposium).

In terms of student funding to promote PGR provision within English, details of the three Vice-Chancellor's Postgraduate Research Scholarships are given above. PGR students are eligible to apply for University and School research funding for conference participation, visits to archives, and some publication costs. They have a good record of participation at national and international conferences and colloquia, including subject- and author-specific events at, among other universities, Oxford, Cambridge, Liverpool, and Birkbeck, University of London. English PGR students have been instrumental in leadership of the University PGR Society and in organising regular PGR conferences at Liverpool Hope, with additional student-representation roles in organisations such as the British Association for Modernist Studies. Our students have successfully bid for external funding for conference attendance as well as for archive visits, including in Britain, Ireland, and the United States. They are encouraged to sign up for Liverpool Hope's PGR teaching training programme and to apply for Associate Fellowships with the Higher Education Academy after taking up mentored undergraduate teaching opportunities. They are also encouraged and supported in their publication efforts, both while in degree study and post-degree. They have published articles in *The Edith Wharton Review*, *War, Literature and the Arts*, and *The Modernist Review*, essays in collections by Manchester UP and Liverpool UP, as well as monographs with Peter Lang and Cambridge Scholars.

Section 3. Income, infrastructure and facilities

Income and Income Support:

The English Language and Literature unit have concentrated on obtaining research income that supports relatively short-term projects and enhances the subject's research base and reach. Much has been focused on individual publication outputs, in keeping with a central tenet of our research strategy, to build an international profile for research excellence across a range of staff interests and expertise. Networking is also an important means for achieving that goal, while collaborative events with wider social impact also drive that strategy.

The "Articulating Women" project gained our most significant external income. Led by **Hamilton** and drawing upon relevant expertise from colleagues in Education, "Articulating Women: Interrogating Intersectionality and Empowering Women Through Critical Engagements" was funded by an AHRC international networking project grant of over £60,000. It ran initially for two years from January 2018 and is described in Section 4 below.

External funding for networking was also obtained from the Wellcome Trust Small Grant scheme by **Bennett** in 2016 to run the innovative “Not Sleeping” one-night symposium. The grant was for £1,250. The night-time event, held in September 2017, was attended by 30 people in total (a mix of academics and members of the public with interests in sleep research) and involved papers from eight speakers, a keynote from Professor Jim Horne (former Director of the Sleep Research Centre at the University of Loughborough), a screening of an audio-visual installation, and the performance of a bedtime story. Bennett’s article accepted by *MFS: Modern Fiction Studies* in 2020 is the most recent publication outcome from the event.

Rees’s involvement in community events for poetry writing led to a £5,000 Arts Council England grant for the Pavilion Poets Tour in 2015. Rees coordinated a tour for poets Mona Arshi, Sarah Corbett and herself to read at the Wordsworth Trust in Grasmere, Keats House in London, Aberystwyth Arts Centre, University of Manchester Centre for New Writing, and University of Liverpool; they also ran creative-writing workshops with local writers and a women’s group in Tamworth and Keighley Libraries. Following the success of this collaborative project, Rees was also awarded a Northern Writers Award of £1,000 from Arts Council England in 2018 to enable her to conduct research to complete her fourth poetry collection, *The Well at Winter Solstice*.

English Literature staff have also developed their research for publications with the aid of grants and fellowships, some with cash awards for travel and accommodation expenses, and others with in-kind benefits including access to special research facilities and archives, along with seminars for research dissemination and feedback. **Wilson** was the recipient of a \$2,500 Folger Short-Term Fellowship that she took up in March-April 2016 at the Folger Institute in Washington, DC. This was to undertake extensive archival work examining a heavily annotated edition of Anthony Munday’s translation of *Amadis de Gaula* (1619) that contains extensive marginalia and other indicators of use and that provides a long view of readerly engagement with the romance over the seventeenth, eighteenth, and nineteenth centuries. This research forms the basis of an extensive inquiry, initially for publication in *Review of English Studies*. She was also co-investigator and co-author of a grant proposal with a colleague at the University of Seville of a three-year project funded by the Spanish Government and hosted by the University of Seville in 2017-20: “The Spanish Romances of Chivalry in English Translation: Anthony Munday and Early Modern Culture in Europe”. (Although by Spanish regulation, the €59,290 grant remained exclusively for use by the University of Seville.) **Ferguson** was awarded a £1,548 British Academy/Leverhulme Small Research Grant for research at The Stuart A. Rose Manuscript Archives and Rare Book Library in 2016 to conduct archival research for a monograph on Maud Gonne and a Fellowship with a bursary of \$500 by the Rose Library for this project. *Maud Gonne*, which highlighted Gonne’s role as a journalist, dramatist and founder and editor of nationalist publications, was published by UCD Press in 2019. In 2019, the British Academy awarded Ferguson a Small Research Grant of £2,510 to carry out archival research at the New York Library and Toronto Public Library for a new Oxford World’s Classics edition of Arthur Conan Doyle’s *His Last Bow*. **Cuthbertson** was awarded €1,750 as Moore Institute Visiting Research Fellow at NUI Galway in 2015-16 for research on Edward Thomas and Ireland. **Kinsley** received a John Rylands Research Institute Visiting Research Fellowship, June-July 2016, with a £1,500 expenses allocation for a project on The Scrapbooks of Dorothy Richardson (1748-1812), the output of which was the journal

article "Cutting and Pasting the Popular Press: The Scrapbooks of Dorothy Richardson (1748-1819)" in *The Bulletin of the John Rylands Library*.

Non-remunerative research grants and fellowships also feature in our strategic aims for publication outputs and networking. **Blazek** was appointed Visiting Research Fellow at the University of Oxford's Rothermere American Institute in 2017 for his research on American literature of the First World War, and he delivered a research seminar talk there later that year. **Cuthbertson** was resident at Gladstone's Library as Ernest Walder Memorial Scholar to work on *Edward Thomas's Pilgrimages*, the sixth volume of the scholarly edition of Edward Thomas's prose, published by Oxford UP.

Infrastructure

Funding infrastructure at Liverpool Hope includes University and School funding grants for staff and PGR students, opportunities for teaching relief through approval of Consolidated Research Time, and awards of Vice-Chancellor's PhD Scholarships. The Pro-Vice Chancellor (Research) has overall responsibility for the implementation and oversight of research funding in the University. This responsibility also entails chairing the University Research Committee and its main subcommittee the Research Degrees Subcommittee. Chairs of School Research Committees sit on the University Research Committee and report to and consult with Heads of School. School PGR Coordinators are members of Research Degrees Subcommittee, along with PGR Partnership Moderators by invitation. The PVC (Research) is assisted by the University Research Facilitator, who provides data, information, training and advice to staff for research grant applications and networking opportunities.

Facilities:

The Liverpool Hope libraries contain a collection of over 320,000 items, and budget decisions have been targeted at developing electronic resources, especially a full range of journal databases and, increasingly, e-books. The Hope Institutional Research Archives (HIRA) enables University researchers to upload their outputs and publication details for public access. Designated funds are allocated for the library acquisition of staff publications, including monographs and essay collections.

The Sheppard-Worlock Library's Archives and Special Collections, located at the Hope Park campus, is home to over 75,000 books, manuscripts, journals, newsletters, magazines, and pamphlets. The Reading Room boasts an environmentally controlled vault to house the manuscripts and rare books including incunabula, early printed books, private presses and limited editions. Special Collections is open to all staff and students, as well as external visitors and researchers. The Library has three main Special Collections: the Gradwell Collection, the Radcliffe Collection and The Andrew F. Walls Centre for the Study of African and Asian Christianity.

Wilson has assisted in the development of archival planning and has identified scope for future research projects for PhDs and herself based on our particularly strong Special Collections holdings in early modern herbals (natural histories of plants), richly annotated

Tudor and Stuart chronicles, and a uniquely important copy of an early atlas. Her current research plans focus on the extensive collection of medieval manuscripts, and she is part of the Manuscripts in the North West consortium; she is one of four grant writers of a large-scale funding bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Paul Mellon Foundation to stage a series of exhibitions and outreach events across the North West of England in 2025 and to produce a catalogue with commissioned original research essays focusing on the manuscript holdings of a number of North West institutions. Besides Liverpool Hope, these include the University of Liverpool, Walker Art Gallery, the University of Manchester and the John Rylands Institute, the National Trust, Stonyhurst College, and Knowsley Hall.

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

The English Language and Literature staff at Liverpool Hope have a wide range of research specialisms to meet curricular demands, and they have used that structural requirement to their advantage in the Unit's research base. A larger department would be expected to develop significant common research interests within language arts or historical periods of literature, but English at Liverpool Hope has developed a vibrant research culture through networking, collaboration with external bodies, and interdisciplinary research.

The distinctive nature of our research environment and one of our key research environment strategies is to enable individual specialist research. With respect to that aim, we have not targeted large external grants involving a substantial number of staff. Instead, collaborations both internally and externally have been designed into our research strategy, whereby we are best able to group common interests and ideas; focus on viable, short-to-mid-term projects; and produce outputs that are drawn from those collaborations without detracting from individual researchers' publication endeavours.

Collaboration and Public Outreach

We annually have run an English Research Workshop, with monthly meetings for discussion and dissemination of research in both language and literature, with papers and presentations by English and humanities staff as well as external invited speakers. The Hopkins Lecture is a major public event in the English unit's calendar, and it is named for Liverpool Hope's connection with Gerard Manley Hopkins, who served as a priest at the site of what is now the University's Creative Campus. Prestigious invited speakers who have delivered the lecture include the American novelist Marilynne Robinson, UK linguist David Crystal, and Scottish crime novelist Ian Rankin. Other public events have been a Crime Fiction symposium at the Bluecoat Arts Centre in 2016, organized by **Ferguson** and **Hamilton**, featuring round-table discussions with crime writers including John Connolly (then a guest lecturer on the Creative Writing programme), Louise Phillips, Richard Godwin, and academics from Hope including Hamilton and Jacqui Miller (Media). In 2016 we also hosted the Tolkien Day, organized chiefly by **Walters**, that was inspired by the discovery in the Liverpool Hope Special Collections holdings of J. R. R. Tolkien's signed Latin dictionary from his schooldays. (Tolkien was part of the translation and editing team for *The Jerusalem Bible*, a project conducted at what is now Liverpool Hope.) The keynote speaker was Alan Lee, Academy Award-winning concept artist

for *The Lord of the Rings* and *The Hobbit* films. Other invited speakers were John Garth, author of *Tolkien and the Great War*, Edmund Weiner, co-editor of the *Oxford English Dictionary*, Liverpool Hope University alumnus Lord David Alton, and Stuart Lee and Elizabeth Solopova from the University of Oxford. The Matt Simpson Memorial Poetry Reading event, organised by **Rees**, regularly draws a sizeable audience from the North West region.

Blazek, **Cuthbertson**, and **Al-Azami** are members of Liverpool Hope's Desmond Tutu Centre for War and Peace Studies, an interdisciplinary research centre which runs an annual international conference and a seminar and hosts a distinguished speaker. **Al-Azami** is currently its deputy director. English staff also help to organise and contribute papers to the University's interdisciplinary Irish Studies Research Group. A recent further development is the Early Modern and Renaissance Research Group, established in 2018 by **Walters** and a colleague from History, formed around a visiting speaker series. In 2019 **Wilson** won a competitive place on the Being Human Festival (the National Festival of the Humanities) programme and designed and delivered a sold-out public event—with local artists, bookmakers, and printers—on women's hidden histories in the Sheppard-Worlock Library archives.

Collaboration and Research Networks

While English Language and Literature looks to build a research structure that serves internal purposes and seeks to engage external participants for its local activities and events, staff members are also strongly encouraged and enabled to widen their research networks to national and international levels. Among the significant, targeted research developments aimed at achieving that wider recognition and greater external impact, individual staff have made the following contributions since 2014:

Al-Azami has collaborated with the Muslim Council of Britain on two projects: (1) the ongoing 'Media Monitoring Project', which publishes quarterly reports on media representations of Islam and Muslims. He is one of four UK academics providing academic support to the project. (2) He is the academic lead of the ongoing 'Media style-guide' project, which is contributing to an edited book entitled, "Media Language on Islam and Muslims: Terminologies and their Effects" to be published by Palgrave Macmillan in 2023. Al-Azami is the editor of the book, with a foreword contributed by the Muslim Council of Britain. He is also a committee member of the British Association of Applied Linguistics Special Interest Group (SIG) on Multilingualism.

Bennett organized a Being Human Festival event on Migration Stories in 2018 in collaboration with the Museum of Liverpool, along with Liverpool Hope colleagues from art history and music. She was Guest Editor for the *Journal of David Foster Wallace Studies* and an invited speaker at Università degli Studi "G. d'Annunzio" di Chieti-Pescara and at the University of Surrey.

Blazek is a founding co-editor of *The F. Scott Fitzgerald Review*, now in its eighteenth annual volume, published by Pennsylvania State Press. He has been a member of the executive board of the Fitzgerald Society since 2007 and has served as site co-director and as programme co-director for its biannual conferences. In 2020 he was elected Vice-President of

the author-society by its nearly 500 members worldwide. As an outreach activity, he presented a series of five filmed mini-lectures in 2017 on *The Great Gatsby* for Massolit, a national and international subscription service for A-Level students. He also was an invited guest in 2020 for a programme about *The Great Gatsby* on the BBC Radio 4 series *In Our Time*. In 2014 he was Visiting Professor at Centre d'Études sur les Littératures Étrangères et Comparées (CELEC), Jean Monnet University, Saint-Étienne, France. He has been an invited speaker at the University of Glasgow; the University of Oxford; Newman University; Başkent University, Ankara, Turkey; and Linneaus University, Sweden.

Cuthbertson delivered the prestigious Chatterton Lecture at the British Academy in 2018, disseminated through the British Academy's journal and as audio on the British Academy website and i-Tunes. His public-engagement activities include being an invited studio guest, discussing the Armistice, on BBC One, *Remembrance Sunday: The Cenotaph* in Nov. 2019. His *Wilfred Owen* biography and *Peace at Last* monograph were widely reviewed and led to numerous national and international invited talks. *Peace at Last* was also published as an audiobook, and his related articles on the Armistice were published in the *New Statesman* and *BBC History Magazine*. He was featured in an interview on Wilfred Owen for the BBC programme *Songs of Praise* in 2018 and wrote the lead article in *The Tablet* on Owen.

Ferguson has given radio interviews and delivered conference keynotes in relation to her publications, especially on Thomas Hardy. She was interviewed on newstalk.com for "[Thomas Hardy: A Life](#)" and about her recently edited collection of essays, [Literature and Modern Time](#). She was also interviewed on how changing conceptions of time are reflected in Victorian literature for the scholarly podcast programme 'Words to that Effect' (ranked number 23 in arts podcasts in Britain). She has also given three keynote lectures since 2014, two for the Thomas Hardy Society (2016 and 2019—available on YouTube) and one for the Institute of Advanced Studies, Durham (2016).

Hamilton is the co-editor of the FORECAAST series (Forum for European Contributions to African American Studies) for Liverpool UP. She directed the 2015 international conference for the Collegium for African American Research conference and served on the planning committee for the "Charity, Philanthropy, and the Black Atlantic" symposium, part of the Bluecoat 300 programme in 2017. She was invited onto the Advisory Board of *SMIJAR--Stella Maris Multidisciplinary International Journal of Academic Research*, helping to inaugurate this publication for its first issue in 2019.

Hamilton's £60,000 AHRC-funded project "Empowering Women" [website](#) has had over 100,000 hits and contains accounts of the project along with the conferences, competitions, training materials and films that have come from it. The work is ongoing, but the project's significant international and local reach and impact to date include workshops, teaching materials, documentary competitions, an animated film, the appointment of an artist in residence at the Bluecoat Arts Centre, a film screening at FACT of South Asian films by women, a leadership conference for women in academia in Bangalore, and postgraduate conferences in Liverpool and Bangalore. Both FACT and Bluecoat have affirmed that involvement in the project has helped to shape the direction taken by those institutions and has helped to initiate more international collaborative activity.

Herat collaborates with LOCnet, a group based at the University of Manchester that works on the language of correspondence and is in the process of setting up a website to develop further collaborations and funding bids. She has also collaborated with Dr Andy Davies (University of Liverpool, Department of Geography and Writing on the Wall) on Lives and Legacies, a project that explores the lives of Black ex-servicemen, factory workers and seamen stranded and destitute in Liverpool after World War I.

Izdebska has worked with the local Wirral Archaeology group on educational activities related to her research in medieval linguistics, and she has accepted invitations to deliver guest lectures or run workshops at international venues including Jagiellonian University (Kraków), the University of Western Australia, and the University of Glasgow (in collaboration with the Academy of Historical Arts).

The long-standing Liverpool Travel Writing Seminar is a collaborative partnership between Liverpool Hope, the University of Liverpool, and Liverpool John Moores University. Led by **Kinsley** for Liverpool Hope, the Seminar attracts local, national, and international participants for its annual meetings, held since 2007. Outcomes of that collaborative research network include publications edited by its three founding coordinators and contributed to by members of the network—such as Charles Forsdick, Zoe Kinsley, and Kathryn Walchester, eds, *Keywords for Travel Writing Studies: A Critical Glossary* (Anthem, 2019). In addition, since 2012 **Kinsley** has been a Steering Group member for Borders and Crossings/Seuils et Traverses: An International and Multidisciplinary Conference on Travel Writing. She also gave keynote addresses at the 2016 Curious Travellers: Movement, Landscape, Art conference at Glyndwr University and the 2018 Traveling Bodies conference at Universität Koblenz-Landau, Germany.

McLoughlin collaborated with colleagues at the University of Liverpool on a bid to host the 2020 International Gender and Language Association Conference.

Rees has been invited to run poetry workshops and to give numerous poetry readings at literary and arts festivals and events since 2014, including locally at the Bluecoat Arts Centre, Liverpool Central Library, St Brides Church, Holy Trinity Church, ArtsLab Liverpool, the University of Liverpool, Williamson Arts Centre for the Heritage Lottery funded Black Chair Eisteddfod Centenary Festival, the West Kirby Arts Centre, and the Wirral Poetry Festival. Nationally this work has taken place at the University of Nottingham, the Wordsworth Trust in Grasmere, the House of Commons for a poetry magazine launch, Keats House London, Bradford Library, Manchester for Verbose Manchester and Waterstone's, Ledbury Festival, and Damson Poets Preston. It has led to international work for the EU-funded Versopolis Project in Austria, the University of Essen (as Visiting Poet), the Bluecoat Arts Centre Irish/Liverpool Exchange Scheme in Cork, Ars Poetica International Poetry Festival in Bratislava, and Druskinkai Poetic Fall in Lithuania.

Walters has been on the executive board of the International Margaret Cavendish Society for several years, served as president from 2013-15, and co-organised three of the Society's biannual conferences—in Cyprus 2015, Maine 2017, and Norway 2019. A member of the

general council for the Renaissance Society of America from 2014-2015, she has organised panels for their annual conferences since 2014 and has accepted speaking engagements at Sheffield Hallam University and for the annual Othello's Island Conference in Cyprus. She was appointed co-editor of the Restoration section of the *Palgrave Encyclopedia for Early Modern Women* and has been on the editorial board of *ANQ* since 2015. In 2018 she was invited to speak on a podcast called New Books Network where she was interviewed about her monograph on Margaret Cavendish. The podcast is available to the public at this [link](#).

Wilson has served as associate editor of the MHRA Tudor and Stuart Translations series since 2011, with particular responsibility for advising on proposals from modern European languages and for the series style-guidelines. Her invited speaker engagements have been at the University of Newcastle in 2016 and the University of Seville in 2018. She was an invited seminar participant at the 2017 Shakespeare Association of America annual conference in Atlanta and was selected to organise and chair a seminar at the 2019 conference. She was also invited to give a public talk on the rare books of The Athenaeum library in Liverpool, opening a partnership opportunity in the process.

Peer-Reviewing and External Examining

These various collaborative and networking activities propel the English Language and Literature unit's research opportunities, publication achievements, and socio-cultural impacts. Beyond this specific evidence of a vigorous internal and external research environment, the staff also contribute through PhD external examining and service as peer-reviewers for book publishers and academic journals.

Al-Azami has peer-reviewed for Routledge and Sage journals and also peer-reviewed two books for Cambridge UP. He has been an external examiner for PhD theses for three universities in India. **Bennett** has reviewed book proposals for Routledge and Bloomsbury, and has been PhD external at Trinity College Dublin, University of Huddersfield, and University of Edinburgh. **Blazek** has been a book manuscript reader for Cambridge UP, Oxford UP, Manchester UP, and U South Carolina P, as well article reviewer for the *Journal of American Studies*, *Modern Literature Review*, *Orbis Litterarum*, *Tulsa Studies in Women's Literature*, & others. He also is on the editorial board of the CELEC journal and has examined PhD theses for the University of Aberdeen, University of Edinburgh, and Queen's University Belfast. **Cuthbertson** has peer-reviewed for Oxford UP, Harvard UP, and Yale UP, as well as for *The Proceedings of the British Academy*, *ANQ*, and *English: Journal of the English Association*. He has examined PhD candidates at Royal Holloway, Exeter, and Durham. **Ferguson** has peer-reviewed books for Palgrave Macmillan and articles for *English Studies*, *Oxford Bibliographies in British and Irish Literature*, *Irish Studies Review*, *Irish Literature*, and *The Review of English Studies*. She is also on the editorial panels for the *Thomas Hardy Journal*, the *Hardy Studies Journal* and *Romance, Revolution and Reform*. She has reviewed British Academy funding applications and has also been a PhD external examiner for the Open University. **Izdebska** peer-reviewed for Routledge and the journals *Forum for Modern Language Studies* and *DSH (Digital Scholarship in the Humanities)*, published by Oxford UP). **Kinsley** has been an article reviewer for *The Review of English Studies*, *Journal for Eighteenth-Century Studies*, *English Studies in Travel Writing*, *Women's Writing*, and *ABO: Interactive Journal for Women in the*

Arts, 1640-1830. **McLoughlin** has been a reader for Bloomsbury and PhD external examiner at Staffordshire University. **Rees** was external examiner for an MPhil Writing at the University of South Wales. **Walters** has been an article reviewer for *Criticism*, *HOPOS: The Journal of the International Society for the History of Philosophy of Science*, *History of Education Quarterly*, *Journal for Early Modern Cultural Studies*, and *ANQ: American Notes and Queries*, as well as a reader for Liverpool UP. **Wilson** has peer-reviewed for *Renaissance Studies*, *Studies in Medievalism*, *Journal for Early Modern Cultural Studies*, *SEDERI* (Journal of the Spanish and Portuguese Society for English Renaissance Studies), and *Explorations in Renaissance Culture*.

Research Collaboration, Networking, and Societal Impact

The English Language and Literature team at Liverpool Hope underpin individual and collaborative research activity with a strong commitment to working with subject-area associations, other universities, and various institutions and projects, developing partnerships on local, national, and international levels. Beyond our successes in pursuing a research strategy that enables individual research to be conducted to the highest standards, we have established lasting foundations for enhancing grant opportunities, growing PGR numbers, and especially increasing societal impact through the collaborations and networks that will prove most instrumental and beneficial to these future strategic goals.