

Research Environment (REF5)

UoA 29: English Language and Literature

English at Ulster has developed a dynamic research profile that is recognised internationally for the significance of its output. The English unit comprises of 15 members of staff including 10 lecturers and 5 professors. In the period 2008-14 it has enhanced its position as a leading international centre in Irish literary and bibliographical research, Irish and Scottish studies, creative writing, biographical scholarship, 19th-century literature and more recently, gender studies.

Highlights during this period include:

- publication of 15 monographs; 8 edited books; 40+ articles; 2 exhibitions
- organisation and delivery of 15 conferences
- 20 successful PhD completions
- research funding secured to the value of £948,979
- generation of impact beyond the University by influencing public policy, raising awareness of cultural heritage, contributing to curriculum design in schools and shaping professional creative practice.

The strategy of the English unit aimed to promote research carried out by established members of staff and to cultivate projects initiated by early career researchers. The unit continued to support the expertise of its members as individual scholars and sought to further expand this strength into national and international collaborative undertakings, particularly in the areas which were recognised as research specialisms. These areas included: Irish Literature and Bibliography; English Literary History; Creative Writing; Literary Biography; 19th -21st Century Fiction; Early Modern Literature (Renaissance to 18th Century); and Drama from the Renaissance to the present day.

Researchers in the English research unit at Ulster continue to contribute significantly to the discipline: we sit on advisory boards in government and in secondary and higher education; we are members of editorial boards and referee for key publishers such as Palgrave Macmillan, OUP, Blackwell, Routledge and Ashgate; we frequently provide invited keynote lectures and presentations at prestigious international conferences and symposia; we examine degrees and advise on programmes around the world.

Future strategic plans aim to build on existing research strengths at international, national and regional levels, sustaining and strengthening postgraduate programmes to deliver outstanding teaching and supervision and developing major collaborative projects with key partners across the globe.