



**The Liverpool Law Clinic** aims to provide law students at the University with direct experience of practical legal advice and representation, in order to deepen their engagement with the law and to enhance their access to the legal profession. It also aims to provide a valuable service to the local community and to enhance access to justice, particularly in the light of cuts to Government funding of free legal advice.

It does so in two ways, firstly by offering assessed modules which contribute towards a student's degree and secondly by offering opportunities for students to volunteer.

### Assessed modules

Students who enrol on an assessed module learn through practical experience of legal casework under the supervision of qualified lawyers. This is called Clinical Legal Education. By working on real legal cases, our students acquire proficiency in the skills every lawyer uses in their practice: professional conduct and ethics; client interviewing; analysing factual information; assessing and evaluating evidence; practical legal research; application of the law to a factual scenario; legal writing and drafting; file management; teamwork; and reflection.

**Clinical legal education** is embedded within the curriculum and is a key aspect of the experience of students enrolled on a law degree here and selecting clinic modules in the School of Law and Social Justice. It significantly improves the employability of our students and teaches skills which are transferable to any professional environment.

# Liverpool Law Clinic

## Clinical Legal Skills Module

Students learn through practical workshops as well as lectures. They also learn by working under close supervision, for example when preparing for client interviews and drafting legal advice. By putting skills into practice, receiving constructive feedback and reflecting on what they have learnt, students acquire new skills and improve their confidence. Casework can be on almost any area of law (examples include family law, community care law, employment law and small business advice). Through this module, the School aims to help those who cannot afford to pay for a lawyer and to provide a valuable service to the local community. Students are closely supported and supervised by in-house solicitors and by solicitors from local law firms who volunteer their time.

## Human Rights and International Law Practice Module

As on our Clinical Legal Skills Module, students learn through practical workshops as well as lectures. They also learn by working under close supervision, for example when preparing for client interviews and drafting legal advice and documents. By putting skills into practice, receiving constructive feedback and reflecting on what they have learnt, students acquire new skills and improve their confidence.

The cases involve issues of international protection, usually statelessness but also asylum and human rights. To have students assisting with such cases in a Law Clinic is very unusual: immigration advice is strictly regulated in the UK and the stakes are high. There is no other Clinic project in Europe focussing on statelessness. Cases are complex, both legally and factually. Students work in pairs and undertake a variety of tasks, including drafting legal argument for court hearings and preparing applications to the Home Office. All supervision on this Module is by in-house solicitors and an employed barrister who are based in the Clinic.

*The Liverpool Law Clinic has received national recognition for the work undertaken by its students and staff. For example, our students won the LawWorks and Attorney General Student Pro Bono Award for best contribution by a team of students for their work on our Hillsborough project, supporting the work of a local law firm representing the families of 22 people who died in the disaster. We have also been shortlisted for LawWorks award for our family and child law service and won the Best New Student Pro Bono Activity 2018 for our work in our Anti-Trafficking Legal Project.*



## Volunteering

All students involved in the Clinic are trained by Clinic staff. We advertise for volunteers an example of opportunities available:

### ➤ Interpretation

Students can volunteer to become an interpreter to assist with client interviews for clients who do not speak English. Training is provided and students who act as interpreters benefit from involvement in legal interviews.

### ➤ Administration

Second and third year students can volunteer to help staff the Clinic reception desk, gaining experience of dealing with members of the public and the administration of a legal practice.

### ➤ Litigation

Second and Third year law students can volunteer to help with research and other tasks to support casework (for example, asylum fresh claim applications) and appeals undertaken by the Clinic.

### ➤ Statelessness

First and Second year students can volunteer to assist with our statelessness cases, gaining experience of research into the nationality laws of various countries as well as note-taking client interviews.