

The Human Rights Law Clinic 2023- 2024

Background

1. The Human Rights Law Clinic is a programme designed to involve students in projects aimed at supporting the work of international, regional and national organisations engaged in the promotion and protection of human rights law.

2. The Clinic is managed by the Human Rights Implementation Centre (HRIC), which maintains collaborative partnerships with human rights NGOs and human rights monitoring bodies at the national, regional and international levels. The Clinic seeks to integrate students in the Centre's work and help them acquire experience and knowledge on key features of international human rights law and practice.

3. The main aims of the Clinic are to:

- Provide students with an opportunity to obtain first-hand experience and a comparative perspective on international human rights law and practice
- Help students further develop their legal research and writing skills
- Provide students with an exposure to teamwork, as well as an opportunity to interact and work with diverse institutional partners involved in human rights work
- To promote awareness of the real-life issues existent in society through direct exposure to cases of human right violations
- Contribute to the Centre's aim of advancing the implementation of human rights standards worldwide through legal education, research and advocacy

4. The Clinic's cases and projects vary from year to year, depending in part on the type of request received from partner organisations. This year we have projects with international and regional organisations and civil society organisations.

Working with the clinic

5. Example of the activities in which students will be involved include:

- conducting background research and writing legal briefs on human rights issues for litigation or policy engagement before national, regional and international forums
- assisting with background research which feeds into bigger research reports for international stakeholders and lawyers

6. Upon admission students are divided into teams, each of which work on a specific project or set of topics under the supervision of the staff of the HRIC. The teams will have student team leaders, who will coordinate the day-to-day work of the students in each team and liaise directly with the staff of the Centre.

7. There is no limit on the number of students we take each year, but we aim to have 5-6 teams working on different projects.

8. Student participants, once accepted into the Clinic, are required to commit until the end of May 2023 (students should inform us of any circumstances which impact on their ability to work as part of the Clinic) during which they are expected to:

- Accept the tasks allocated to them by the Clinic (unless there are serious circumstances that prevent them from doing so)
- Work as a team with other members of the Clinic
- Assist the team leader in carrying out her/his responsibilities
- Attend meetings of the Clinic (including the welcome meeting) and any necessary training
- Adhere to Clinic policies, procedure and rules
- Deliver the tasks set by the partner organisation/clinic within the timeframe required
- Respect confidentiality requirements

The role of student team leaders

9. Student team leaders are selected from the students who have expressed interest in this role and will be responsible for the following tasks:

- Coordinate the activities of the team and liaising with the Centre's staff and partner organisations, as directed by the Centre
- Organise meetings of team members and delegate tasks, in consultation with the Centre's staff
- Work with the team members to prepare a work plan for each specific assignment;
- Provide an update to the HRIC staff on the progress of tasks assigned to his/her team and ensure their timely completion
- Provide an end of project report on the activities of the team for the HRIC

Confidentiality

10. The Human Rights Law Clinic appreciates that some of the cases and tasks it is being asked to work on may be confidential. In this regard students participating in the Clinic agree to the following:

11. Adhere to rules regarding privilege and confidentiality in relations to all publicity, discussion, assessment and supervision of Clinic cases. II. All case records and any related research both current and completed, must comply with data protection laws, for example, be securely stored (in the Clinic data storage facility) and accessible only by staff of the HRIC and student

caseworkers involved. III. Any paper waste produced in relation to the Clinic must be disposed of using confidential waste disposal facilities at the University. IV. All files and documents relating to Clinic work will be saved in the Clinic data storage facility, to which only Clinic staff and student members will have access. V. Staff of the Clinic and student members should not keep emails, documents or details on casework matters on personal computers. VI. Students should check with the HRIC before disclosing information to potential employers about the partners they have collaborated with, whilst working for the clinic.

Members of the Clinic

12. Membership of the Human Rights Clinic is open only to students registered in the University of Bristol Law School for an undergraduate or postgraduate (LLB, LLM, MA, MSc or PhD) degree. First year postgraduate students are welcome to apply, however for the LLB degree students must be in years 2, 3 or 4.

13. Students must also have undertaken or be currently undertaking one of the following modules in human rights or international law:

- LLM:

- o LAWDM0123 International Law and Human Rights

- o LAWDM0120 European Human Rights Law

- o LAWDM0021 Individual Employment Rights

- o LAWDM0136 International Law of Labour and Social Rights

- o LAWDM0112 Migration Law and Policy - International, European, and Human Rights Dimensions

- o LAWDM0026 General Principles of International Law

- o LAWDM0135 African human rights system

- o LAWDM0089 Human Rights in Law, Politics and Society

- o LAWDM0158 International Law and Armed Conflict

- LLB:

- o Human Rights in Law Politics and Society

- o General Principles of International Law

- o International Child Law

- o British immigration, nationality and citizenship law

14. Eligible modules for students on the MA programme are the same as those for undergraduates (LLB). However, if students on the MA or any other programme have human rights experience from previous degrees or work, they are encouraged to apply and should outline this in their application

15. Students who have chosen to take the Clinical Law Unit will be accepted on the Human Rights Law Clinic, provided they satisfy the above criteria.

16. Applications will be considered from students with previous equivalent experience in human rights law outside of the University. Each such case will be considered on its merits.

17. Students must have a very good standard of written legal English.

Student team leaders

18. Students who wish to be considered for the role of a team leader must clearly indicate this in their application. They should set out their reasons for doing so and the qualities they can bring.

Application Procedure/ How to apply

19. Students who wish to apply for any of the above positions with the Clinic must submit to hric-admin@bristol.ac.uk the following, as one document, by Friday 13th October 2023.

- **A CV**

- ***A summary of the following case (no more than 2 paragraphs which should cover the key facts conclusions and key points of law): the case is: Communication 742/20 African Freedom of Expression Exchange & 15 Others (Represented by FOI Attorneys) v Algeria & 27 Others, African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights, decided on 26 April 2021 and found here: <https://achpr.au.int/en/decisions-communications/african-freedom-expression-exchange-foi-attorneys-algeria-74220>***

20. Please also provide in your application:

- ***Year of Study***

- ***Course***

- ***Required Module(s) undertaken or being undertaken***

- ***Grades from units in your previous years/previous degree***

- ***Language competencies***

21. Applications will be considered, and successful candidates informed, so that the Clinic can start taking its first projects in early November 2023.

22. There will be a welcome meeting for new clinic members. A date and time will be confirmed in due course.

23. If you have any questions, regarding eligibility, the work of the clinic or need any other points of clarification, please do not hesitate to contact [Paige Spicer](#), HRIC Executive Assistant.