

## The Human Rights Law Clinic

### Background

1. The Human Rights Law Clinic (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 in Africa and India.

### Working with the clinic

5. Example of 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
  - assisting and developing databases on torture prevention
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 2018 (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 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
  - Produce an annual report/account of 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:
  - I. Students must 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 research related thereto, both current and completed, must comply with data protection laws, for example, be securely stored 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 kept on an internal secure site to which only Clinic staff and student caseworkers will have access. A Clinic email will be set up to allow for exchange of correspondence with partner organisations.
  - V. Staff of the Clinic and student caseworkers should not keep emails, documents or details on casework matters on personal computers.

## Application Procedure

### Members of the Clinic

11. 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 students are welcome to apply, however for the LLB degree students must be in years 2, 3 or 4.
12. Students **must** also have undertaken or be currently undertaking one of the following modules in human rights or international law:
  - LLB:
    - Human Rights in Law Politics and Society
    - General Principles of International Law
    - International Child Law
    - British immigration, nationality and citizenship law
  - LLM:
    - International Law and Human Rights
    - European Human Rights Law
    - Individual Employment Rights
    - International Law of Labour and Social Rights
    - Migration Law and Policy - International, European, and Human Rights Dimensions
    - General Principles of International Law
    - African human rights system
13. Eligible modules for students on a two year masters programme are the same as those for undergraduates (LLB). Those studying for a one year masters degree are only eligible to apply if they hold a previous degree with an equivalent human rights element.
14. If you have chosen to take the Clinical Law Unit, then provided that you satisfy the above criteria you will be accepted on the Human Rights Law Clinic.

### Student team leaders

15. 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.

## How to apply

16. Students who wish to apply for any of the above positions with the Clinic must submit to [Suzanne.Mills@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:Suzanne.Mills@bristol.ac.uk) the following, as one document, by **Friday 13 October 2017.**
  - A letter of interest outlining why the student wishes to participate in the Clinic

- A CV
17. Please set out the following in your letter:
    - Year of Study
    - Course
    - Required Module(s)
    - Grades from units in your previous years/previous degree
  18. Applications will be considered and successful candidates informed, so that the Clinic can start taking its first projects in **early November 2017**.
  19. There will be a welcome meeting for new clinic members at 13.00-14.00 on **Tuesday 31 October 2017** (*details to follow*).
  20. 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 Suzanne Mills, HRIC Executive Assistant: E: [Suzanne.mills@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:Suzanne.mills@bristol.ac.uk) or T:0117 39 40055.