



Student Pro Bono opportunities

The following is a collection of various internship and voluntary positions available at various charities, NGO's and Pro bono services. They are listed in alphabetical order and contact details are provided for each opportunity.

Access to Justice Foundation

A charity based in the National Pro bono Centre that aids the overall 'access to justice' for those who are unable to afford help. It hopes to encourage the development of further schemes that will raise new, additional, money to support the position and organisation of pro bono legal assistance. Volunteer internships are offered from time to time and are normally advertised under the 'News' section of the website.

Website: www.atjf.org.uk
Email: vacancy@atjf.org.uk

Advocates for International Development (A4ID)

A4ID is a charity that facilitates free legal assistance to civil society, developing country governments, social enterprise and bar associations to help achieve the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Opportunities for students to become involved are advertised in their placement directory. Current opportunities include placements in countries including Cambodia and the Philippines.

Website: <http://www.a4id.org/get-involved>
Email: probono@a4id.org
Tel: 020 3116 2798

AIRE

The AIRE Centre is a specialist charity whose mission is to promote awareness of European law rights and the assistance of marginalised individuals and those in vulnerable circumstances to assert those rights. Internships and volunteer opportunities are available on their website.

Website: www.airecentre.org

Amicus

Amicus is a charity that helps to provide legal representation for those awaiting capital trial and punishment and raises awareness of potential abuses of their rights. They train and place 25-35 interns with capital defenders in the USA. Work can include admin, summarising interviews or visiting defendants on death row. They are three months long, self-funding and a driving license is required.

Website: <http://www.amicus-alj.org/>





Email: admin@amicus-aij.org

Tel: 0207 072 5603/31

Amnesty International

Worldwide campaign group on matters concerning human rights. Volunteering can include petition making and attending/advertising sponsored events. Why not join your local Amnesty students group, or set one up if there isn't one!

Website: <http://www.amnesty.org.uk/get-involved>

Email: sct@amnesty.org.uk

Tel: 020 7033 1500

Apex Trust

The Trust seeks to help people with criminal records obtain jobs or self-employment by providing them with skills they need in the labour market, and by working with employers to break down barriers to their employment. They are Merseyside based and no specific application form exists – speculative applications are welcomed.

Website: www.apextrust.com

Email: sthelens@apextrust.com

Tel: 01744 612 898

Appropriate Adult Scheme

Give support to young people in custody by volunteering as an appropriate adult. You will be trained to a NAAN National Standard Level 3. Click on the link to find your local scheme. See also the Youth Justice Board further down.

Website: www.appropriateadult.org.uk

Email: admin@appropriateadult.org.uk

Tel: 07739 904 858

Asylum Aid

Asylum Aid is a charity working to secure protection for those seeking refuge in the UK from persecution and human rights abuses. Legal volunteering primarily involves managing legal files and research.

Website: <http://www.asylumaid.org.uk/volunteer-with-asylum-aid/>





Bar Pro bono unit (BPBU)

The BPBU acts as a matchmaker for barristers wanting to take on pro bono work and the members of the public who need help but cannot afford to pay or obtain legal aid. They are often looking for interns during the summer and you can expect to work mainly as an assistant to the caseworkers.

Website: <http://www.barprobono.org.uk/>

Contact: http://www.barprobono.org.uk/new_contact_us.html

Bail for Immigration Detainees (BID)

BID is an independent charity that exists to challenge immigration detention in the UK. BID works with asylum seekers and migrants, in removal centres and prisons, to secure their release from detention. BID is a registered charity set up in 1998, based in London, Oxford and Portsmouth. BID has eight paid staff and a large number of volunteers. Volunteer information packs are available on the website. You will work on asylum, immigration, human rights bail and detention. Research and policy volunteers are not advertised; please send you CV to john@biduk.org

Website: www.biduk.org

Email: enquiries@biduk.org

Tel: 020 7247 3590

Bars in Their Eyes

'Bars in Their Eyes' involves students preparing and delivering material on the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act to prisoners who are due for release, covering their obligations of disclosure when approaching new employers, etc.

Alex Simmonds, BVC and law graduate from Nottingham Law School, developed the programme alongside his studies and is looking to expand to project to other law schools and prisons around the country.

You can **email** Alex at Alexandersimmonds@gmail.com

Brightside Trust Online Mentoring

They help young people and children to raise their aspirations through partnerships with online mentors. You can use your skills and experience to help someone else do well in life.

Website: www.thebrightsidetrust.org





Centre for Criminal Appeals

A non-profit criminal law practice based in London. Various volunteer roles are advertised on their website. They are mostly research based and involve a minimum time commitment of one day a week for three months. There is an online contact form (see below).

Website: <http://www.criminalappeals.org.uk/>

Contact: <http://www.criminalappeals.org.uk/contact.html>

Challenges Worldwide

CWW is an international development charity which places volunteers on projects around the globe. They can use the research skills of legal graduates to help on many projects. You will have to raise funds to cover the expenses of your trip. Mentor roles are advertised on the website and they actively invite speculative applications if no suitable roles are available.

Website: www.challengesworldwide.com

Email: info@challengesworldwide.com

Tel: 0131 225 9549

Citizens Advice Bureaux (CAB)

The Citizens Advice service helps people resolve their legal, money and other problems by providing free, independent and confidential advice, and by influencing policymakers. Each Citizens Advice Bureau is a registered charity reliant on trained volunteers and funds to provide these vital services for local communities. You have to approach each bureau to see if there are opportunities as it varies. Calling in is not suggested as the phone lines are often engaged with client calls. Some expect you to go through 6 months training before being eligible. Others will not accept students if they cannot commit year round.

You may find that administrative volunteering work is available – this could be a good way to get your foot in the door, with the possibility of shadowing advisors, etc. later on – and, therefore, should not be ignored.

Website: <http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk>

Community Links – Volunteer with the Advice Team

This organisation is based in East London in Canning Town. Volunteering opportunities are available for law graduate students to gain invaluable legal case work experience working on welfare benefits appeal cases, and for undergraduate students working as benefits support volunteers. Vacancies are advertised on the website in the following areas: fundraising, corporate, awareness raising and supporting young people.





Website: www.community-links.org/get-involved/volunteering-with-the-advice-team/

Email: ross.hunter@community-links.org

Tel: 020 7473 9649

Disability Law Service

The Disability Law Service is a registered charity, providing information and legal advice to disabled and deaf people on a range of legal areas including community care, welfare benefits and disability discrimination.

The Service requires a number of student volunteers to assist case workers in the office and on the advice telephone lines. Training is provided and a minimum six month commitment is asked of all volunteers. Expenses are covered and internal training opportunities are available. Roles advertised include Triage volunteers and legal team volunteers.

Please click on the web link below to find out more information and download an application form.

Web: <http://www.dls.org.uk/Pages/Volunteer-for-DLS.aspx>

Email: advice@dls.org.uk

Fair Trials International

Fair Trials is a unique human rights charity that helps people facing criminal charges all over the world to protect this basic right and campaigns for fairer criminal justice systems. Volunteer and fundraising opportunities are available.

Website: <http://www.fairtrials.org/>

Families need fathers

Families Need Fathers is firstly a social care organisation, helping parents whose children's relationship with them is under threat. They offer information, advice and support services for parents on how to do the best for their children. You can volunteer at their local branches, set one up or fundraise.

Website: <http://www.fnf.org.uk/join-us-2/volunteer>

Free Representation Unit (FRU)

FRU provides representation to those members of the public who do not have the funds to pay for legal representation. FRU representatives use their experience of the law to benefit those who are often the most in need of help. You can volunteer from May onwards in the last year of your law degree on social security cases.





Website: www.freerepresentationunit.org.uk

Email: <http://www.thefru.org.uk/contact-us#query>

Tel: 020 7611 9555

The Howard League for Penal Reform

The Howard League for Penal Reform is the oldest and most influential penal reform charity in the world. They work with parliament and the media, with criminal justice professionals, students and members of the public, influencing debate and forcing through meaningful change to create safe communities.

Many universities and law schools have a representative on campus. Join up or start a new group. Internships are advertised in their vacancies section and require a minimum commitment of two days per week.

Website: www.howardleague.org

Email: info@howardleague.org

Tel: 0207 249 7373

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Howard-League-Students/223390061037755>

Innocence Network UK (INUK)

INUK is the co-ordinating organisation for Innocence Projects based in UK universities. It aims to encourage and support innocence projects in the UK; to conduct and facilitate research on wrongful convictions and their associated consequences; and to improve the criminal justice system so as to reduce the number of wrongful convictions, and gain redress for victims.

You can only volunteer on the Innocence Project if your law school has set one up. Contact the Innocence Network if you are looking to set up a new project.

Website: www.innocencenetwork.org.uk

<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/law/aboutus/law-activities/innocenceproject>

Twitter: @innocencenetuk

Ipssea

Independent Parental Special Educational Advice (IPSEA) is a registered charity offering free and independent advice to parents of children with special educational needs. IPSEA volunteers advise on a range of topics, including: the legal duties of local authorities, discriminatory action or inaction by local authorities, exclusions from school and more. IPSEA is a volunteer based organisation, with many of the volunteers providing telephone advice and tribunal support to parents.

Website: <https://www.ipsea.org.uk/home>





Justice

Justice is a human rights and law reform group based in London. They operate a summer internship research programme between June and September usually offers two – three places each year. They also invite applicants to a winter policy internship from mid-January to the end of February.

This scheme is only open to law graduates. They also offer externships where you can work on a specific project from home for at least 6 weeks for 10 hours a week.

They also have general volunteer roles throughout the year. Send a CV and covering letter explaining why you would like to help and they will keep your details on record in case an opportunity comes up.

Finally, there is the student network for you to join and receive regular updates on what's going on.

Website: www.justice.org.uk

Email: jobs@justice.org.uk

Law Centres Federation

Law Centres provide free legal advice and representation to the poorest and most disadvantaged members of society. There are at present over 60 Law Centres covering England and Wales, 29 of which are in London. There are separate associations for Scotland and Northern Ireland. The LCF staff team provides an initial point of contact for those seeking information about the work of Law Centres. Law students can volunteer at their pro bono clinics and in admin roles.

Website: www.lawcentres.org.uk

Email: <http://www.lawcentres.org.uk/contact-us>

Tel: 020 3637 1330

LawWorks

LawWorks is a charity committed to enabling access to justice through free legal advice. They work to achieve this in two ways by enabling access to justice to individuals in need of advice, who are not eligible for legal aid and are without the means to pay for a lawyer; and brokering legal advice to small not-for-profit organisations, to support the continuation and expansion of their services to people in need. They are often advertising for interns in the clinics team and other areas of the charity.

Website: <https://www.lawworks.org.uk/solicitors-and-volunteers/get-involved>

Lawyers without borders

Avocats Sans Frontières (or Lawyers without Borders) is a non-governmental organisation working to promote civil, political, social, and, cultural human rights of individuals and peoples.





ASF lawyers and jurists have conducted programmes in 18 different countries. For example, in the wake of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, ASF initiated intensive training for lawyers from Africa and other continents in preparation for the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and later assisted with the development of Rwandan Supreme Court. In this way, ASF also works to assist in the building of legal capacity in post-genocidal societies like Rwanda and Kosovo. ASF is committed to working in partnership with and supporting local processes.

ASF offers a small number of internships at its Brussels headquarters; candidates must speak very good French or Dutch.

Website: www.asf.be.

Tel: +32 2 223 36 54

Liberty

Liberty is also known as the National Council for Civil Liberties. Founded in 1934, they are a cross party, non-party membership organisation at the heart of the movement for fundamental rights and freedoms in the UK. You can either fundraise for them or take part in one their many campaigns.

Website: <https://www.liberty-human-rights.org.uk/>

National Association of Official Prison Visitors

Official prison visitors provide regular, friendly and non-judgemental contact for prisoners. At the same time the experience will provide volunteers with an insight into the prison system.

Volunteers through this scheme must be over 21. However, there are independent university led schemes in existence as well, where this stipulation may be waived.

Website: www.naopv.com

Email: info@naopv.com

National Centre for Citizenship and the Law

The National Centre for Citizenship is an educational charity which aims to empower and inspire young people to live and work within the law. They are looking for Law students to volunteer 2 hours of their time (either on a one off or regular basis) to help coach and inspire our young people during mock trial workshops – ‘Court in Session’ - at the Royal Courts of Justice.

If you would like to sign up for this opportunity or require further information please **email** the Learning Manager Domenica Bartoli: domenica.bartoli@nccl.org.uk.





Website: <http://www.nccl.org.uk/>

Tel: 0115 952 0555

National Centre for Domestic Violence

There are already a couple of universities doing this around the country. Students assist by taking the initial phone call from the victim and potentially then helping the individual to seek the injunction.

They also have the opportunity to train as a 'McKenzie Friend' which is a scheme where you can act as a litigant assistant for domestic violence survivors, prepare & assist emergency injunction applications, Court room advocacy in real litigation, practice real case management and develop client relation skills. Applications are through the website.

Website: <http://www.ncdv.org.uk/>

Email: volunteer@ncdv.org.uk

Tel: 0800 970 2070

Peace Brigades International

PBI is an international grassroots NGO that promotes nonviolence and protects human rights. They send international volunteers to areas of conflict, providing protective accompaniment to human rights defenders threatened by political violence. They also facilitate other peace-building initiatives.

Website: www.peacebrigades.org

Email: <http://www.peacebrigades.org/contact-us/>

Personal Support Unit (PSU)

The PSU pairs trained volunteers with members of the public who intend to represent themselves and require a helping hand. They are often looking for student volunteers and suggest you contact your local PSU unit to enquire about opportunities.

Website: <https://www.thepsu.org/support/volunteer-for-us/>

The Police

a) Police Volunteering

There are opportunities for law students to get involved with their local police force. The London Metropolitan Police has an established volunteering program covering 32 local boroughs, the Olympic Security Directorate,





Hendon Training College and the Serious Crime Unit. The scheme incorporates volunteers on specific projects, which add value to the existing paid roles within the force.

If you live in the London metropolitan area and would like further information, you should contact the manager of your local borough volunteer centre. All this information can be found here - www.met.police.uk/careers/volunteers.

The program will try to work around your availability and so could encompass work in or out of term time. In order to qualify you must be over 18 years of age with at least 3 years of continuous residency in the UK and be able to provide two references.

For those outside the metropolitan area, find your local police force site and find out if they have also developed a program for volunteers.

b) Special Constables

The Special Constabulary is a force of trained volunteers who work with and support their local police. A Special receives the same training as a normal police officer. You are expected to volunteer for one day a fortnight.

Website: www.policecouldyou.co.uk.

Prisoner's Advice Service

PAS offer free legal advice/information to prisoners on topics relating to their imprisonment. They are always in need of legal volunteers.

Website: <http://www.prisonersadvice.org.uk/>

Release

Reprive provides legal and humanitarian assistance to people facing the death penalty, many of whom later turn out to have been wrongly convicted.

Reprive places suitable and committed volunteer interns in lawyers' offices throughout the southern US. Interns assist in a range of tasks in and out of the office including: case investigation; legal research; taking of statements; interviewing witnesses; attending hearings etc. You must have completed both your first year of law and a module in criminal law. Roles can include casework and volunteering on the helpline.

Further information: <http://www.reprive.org.uk/volunteerlondon/>

Tel: 02075 538 140





StreetLaw

A nonprofit organization that creates classroom and community programs that teaches people about law, democracy, and human rights worldwide. Street Law participants benefit from “real-life” lessons and insights, which they use to effect positive change for the rest of their lives. Our accessible, engaging, and interactive programs empower students and communities to become active, legally-savvy contributors to society.

Website: <http://www.streetlaw.org/en/home>

Enquiries: clearinghouse@streetlaw.org

Student Action for Refugees (STAR)

STAR is a unique organisation giving students the opportunity to: Learn about and raise awareness of refugee issues in innovative ways, supporting refugees in their local communities by volunteering, campaigning with and for the rights of refugees.

Opportunities are either through local university groups or at their office in London.

Website: www.star-network.org.uk

Email: http://www.star-network.org.uk/index.php/about/contact/contact_details

The Advocacy Project

Professional and volunteer advocates support people with learning difficulties in Westminster, The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, Westminster and Camden.

Website: www.advocacyproject.org.uk

Tel: 020 8962 8695

The Law Society Human Rights International Action Team

Students are eligible to get involved in this team to work on interventions and other human rights work supported by the Law Society.

Website: <http://international.lawsociety.org.uk/node/2988>

Email: ilbf.recruitment@gmail.com

Witness Service (run by Victim Support)

Victim Support is a national charity helping victims of crime. The charity consists of a national office, a country-wide network of Victim Support branches, the Witness Service and a national helpline. Victim Support offers help to around one and a half million people affected by crime each year.





Volunteers are crucial to this work and throughout the year there are many opportunities to get involved either in your local branch or on the Supportline (based in South London).

The Witness Service (run by Victim Support) provides practical information and emotional support for witnesses attending court. To volunteer for the Witness Service you need to be available on working days (Monday to Friday) for at least one day every two weeks.

Website: www.victimsupport.org.uk

Email: <https://www.victimsupport.org.uk/node/375>

Tel: 0800 840 4207

Youth Justice Board

There are a number of opportunities for student volunteers in the Youth Justice System. For example, you could be involved as a mentor for a young person or act as a 'responsible adult' to support young people during police interviews.

Further information: <http://www.justice.gov.uk/youth-justice/workforce-development/working-with-volunteers>

Email: recruitment@yjb.gsi.gov.uk

Tel: 020 3334 5300

