1495 UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN

Lecturer in International Family Law

School of Law

Closing date: **29 October 2026**

Interview date: **To Be Confirmed**

Reference number: **LAW095A**

We are a Living Wage Employer

Healthy Working Lives

Athena SWAN Bronze Award

Stonewall SCOTLAND DIVERSITY CHAMPION

INTRODUCTION

The University of Aberdeen's School of Law is an ambitious School with a long history of high quality and innovative teaching and research. Consistently ranked in the Top 15 UK Law Schools (rated 10th in the Times and 15th in the Guardian University Guide 2027). We are committed to equality and diversity and hold an Athena Swan Bronze Award. We have a supportive research culture which will encourage and enable the successful candidate to pursue their research ambitions.

To support the delivery of our core programmes, we wish to appoint a Lecturer in International Family Law. Our family law teaching portfolio includes substantive family law of Scotland and of England and Wales, as well as a range of private international law courses. The successful candidate will be appointed to a Teaching and Research or Teaching and Scholarship contract. They would be expected to contribute to the delivery of core undergraduate teaching, as well as specialist Honours and postgraduate courses.

Our learning environment is one of support and personal development leading to well-rounded and highly employable graduates. The School of Law offers a range of LLB degrees, including 5-year programmes involving language study and a year's study abroad, and a two-year accelerated degree for graduates. Various postgraduate programmes are offered including the Diploma in Professional Legal Practice and a range of taught Masters' degrees (some of which are offered by online distance learning, as well as on campus) and research degrees.

JOB DESCRIPTION

MAIN PURPOSE OF THE ROLE:

The successful candidate will be expected to deliver student teaching and assessment in law at postgraduate and undergraduate levels, to undertake and disseminate top quality legal research or scholarship in accordance with the School's research strategy, to supervise postgraduate students and to participate in the academic administration of the School. It is anticipated that, for candidates appointed to a Teaching and Research contract, around 40% of the successful candidate's time will be spent on teaching, preparation and associated activities, 40% on research activities and 20% on administrative activities. For candidates appointed to a Teaching and Scholarship contract, around 60% of the successful candidate's time will be spent on teaching, preparation and associated activities, 20% on scholarship activities and 20% on administrative activities.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Contribute to the planning, design and development of teaching and scholarship within the School of Law (in person and/or on the School's online distance learning programmes)
- Design teaching material and deliver it appropriately across a range of courses and/or within a subject area
- Set, mark and assess work and examinations and provide feedback to students
- Work towards membership of Advance HE, formerly the Higher Education Academy (if not already a member)
- Develop legal research and scholarship projects and disseminate these projects effectively
- For Teaching and Research candidates, identify and secure appropriate funding opportunities to facilitate research projects
- Undertake knowledge exchange activities including public engagement in research and/or scholarship
- Contribute in a manner appropriate to experience and rank to the efficient and effective administration of the school
- Balance the pressures of teaching, research/scholarship and administrative demands and competing deadlines

CANDIDATE BACKGROUND

Applicants must have a postgraduate degree in law, normally a PhD or equivalent, alongside a demonstrable track record of high-quality research publications or scholarship.

Terms of Appointment

Salary will be at the appropriate point on the Grade 7, £47,389.00 - £56,535.00 per annum and negotiable with placement according to qualifications and experience.

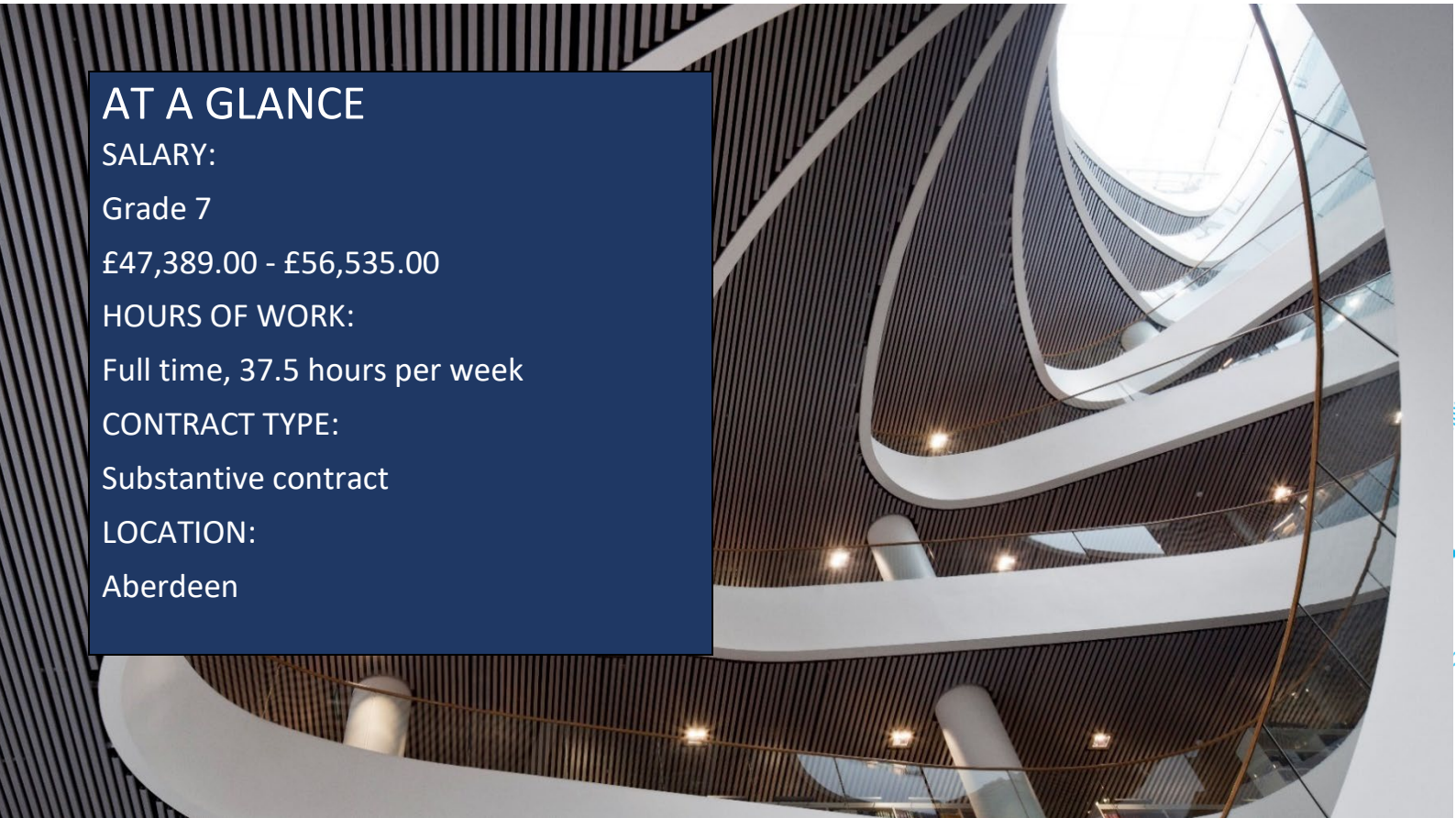
Any appointment will be made subject to satisfactory references and probation period.

For further information on various staff benefits and policies please visit www.abdn.ac.uk/staffnet/working-here

This role is based in the UK and as such the successful candidate will be required to live and work in the UK.

Should you require a visa to undertake employment in the UK you will be required to fulfil the minimum points criteria to be granted a Certificate of Sponsorship under the requirements of the Skilled Worker visa. At the time an offer of appointment is made, you will be asked to demonstrate that you fulfil the criteria in respect of qualification and competency in English. For research and academic posts, we will consider eligibility under the Global Talent visa. Please do not hesitate to contact Marija Sumetova, HR Adviser (e-mail: marija.sumetovs@abdn.ac.uk) for further information.

The candidate appointed to this post may be eligible for homeworking on an occasional basis. For more information, please refer to our Homeworking Policy.



AT A GLANCE

SALARY:

Grade 7

£47,389.00 - £56,535.00

HOURS OF WORK:

Full time, 37.5 hours per week

CONTRACT TYPE:

Substantive contract

LOCATION:

Aberdeen

1495 UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN

PERSON SPECIFICATION

	ESSENTIAL	DESIRABLE
Education/Qualifications Academic, technical and professional education and training	• A good upper second or first class undergraduate degree in law or another cognate discipline • A postgraduate qualification in law, normally a PhD or equivalent	• Membership of Advance HE (formerly the Higher • Education Academy) or equivalent • A relevant professional qualification
Work and Other relevant experience (including training) e.g. Specialist knowledge, levels of experience, supervisory experience, research	• Record of research or scholarship appropriate to the level of the post as evidenced by publications in leading legal academic journals • Record of, or evidence-based potential for, securing funding to support research and scholarship appropriate to the level and nature of the post • Demonstrable experience of effective teaching of law at undergraduate and/or postgraduate level	• A demonstrable ability to contribute towards the teaching of advanced and specialist modules at Honours and Masters' levels • Experience in postgraduate supervision, including that of doctoral students • Experience in academic administration • Evidence of impact activities, knowledge exchange and public engagement generated by research and scholarship • Relevant post-qualifying professional experience
Personal qualities and abilities e.g. initiative, leadership, ability to work on own or with others, communication skills	• An ability to work independently and within groups managing one's time and prioritising as between tasks • An ability to identify and resolve problems • A willingness to work collectively with colleagues	
Other e.g. special circumstances (if any) appropriate to the role such as unsocial hours, travelling, language requirements etc.	• Role may require occasional overseas travel	

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN

open to all and dedicated to the pursuit of truth in the service of others

The University of Aberdeen is a broad based, research intensive University, and we put students at the centre of everything we do. Outstanding in a wide range of discipline areas, Aberdeen is credited for its international reach and commercialisation of research ideas into spin out companies. The University has over 16,000 matriculated students and 3,600 staff representing 130 nationalities. We encourage bold thinking, creativity and innovation, and we nurture ambition with many opportunities for professional and personal development in an inclusive learning environment which challenges and inspires.

12TH IN UK
Guardian University Guide 2025

15TH IN UK
The Times & The Sunday Times Good University Guide 2025

37TH IN THE WORLD FOR SUSTAINABILITY
QS World Rankings 2025

10TH IN UK FOR SOCIAL IMPACT
THE Impact Ranking 2024
Based on UN SDGs

CURRENT CONTEXT

The University continues to uphold the principals of the foundational purpose. We remain committed to delivering positive change both locally and globally. We work together and with our partners in an interdisciplinary way, catalysing world-leading research in our areas of strength: Energy Transition; Social Inclusion and Cultural Diversity; Environment and Biodiversity; Data and Artificial Intelligence; and Health, Nutrition and Wellbeing. We are investing in our future and have committed £100m to upgrading our campus, including the new fully digitised Science Teaching Hub. Our commitment to our students, campus and community has led to us being named a Top 20 UK institution in two major league tables[1] and 4th in the UK for overall student satisfaction[2].

[1] The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2024 and the Guardian University Guide 2025
[2] National Student Survey (NSS) 2022

ABERDEEN 2040

On our 525th anniversary as a University we launched **Aberdeen 2040**, our strategic vision for the next 20 years. Four strategic themes will shape our learning and discovery, underlined by 20 commitments we have made against each theme:

- **Inclusive**
  We welcome students, staff and partners from all backgrounds, organisations and communities. We value diversity.
- **Interdisciplinary**
  We innovate in education and research by generating, sharing and applying new kinds of knowledge. We learn together.
- **International**
  We connect with others and extend our networks and partnerships around the world. We think across borders.
- **Sustainable**
  We understand and nurture our environment, and take care of our resources, including our people and finances.

  We work responsibly.

OUR EDUCATION

Recognised as the Scottish University of the Year in the Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2019, we remain true to our roots as an ancient Scottish university, combining breadth and depth in our degree programmes and drawing strength from the quality of our research. Our flexible curriculum encourages students to grow as independent learners and therefore to thrive as graduates in the diverse workplaces of the future. Our education is open to all and we are setting ambitious targets to further widen access.

OUR RESEARCH

Researchers at the University of Aberdeen have been at the forefront of innovation and excellence throughout the centuries, generating insights in medicine, science, engineering, law, social sciences, arts and humanities. This research has contributed to five Nobel prizes as well as other awards such as the Queen's Anniversary prize. Our research is intellectually rigorous working within our established areas of excellence as well as new methods of enquiry. We will continue to generate new knowledge addressing economic and societal issues with ambition and imagination, ensuring that it is globally excellent and locally relevant.

INTERNATIONAL

Aberdeen is increasing its international presence, positioning the University as a global organisation and building on established global partnerships around the world, including Qatar, China, North America, Europe. We feature in the top 50 institutions worldwide for international students[3].

[3] Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2024

IMPACT

In 2020 the University signed the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals accord, solidifying our commitment to developing the world in a sustainable way. In 2024 we were listed in the global Top 100 for 8 of these goals[4].

Our highly cited work in zero-carbon technology and global outlooks makes us Scotland's best institution for environmental research in 2022[5].

[4] Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2024
5 QS World University Rankings 2022

THE SCHOOL OF LAW

The School of Law, which is at present comprised of more than 50 FTE academic staff, offers a range of LLB degrees, including programmes approved by the relevant Scottish and English accrediting bodies, 5-year programmes involving language study and a year's study abroad, and a two-year accelerated degree for graduates. Various postgraduate programmes are offered including a range of taught Masters' degrees and research degrees. It actively engages with other parts of the University in order to provide legal content on interdisciplinary programmes. A range of advanced, and primarily research-led, courses are provided for Honours' and Masters' students. The School also, through its DPLP programme, provides professional training and qualifications for the next generation of lawyers in Scotland.

The School has a vibrant research culture, with the School's research activities organised primarily around five research centres, namely:

- Constitutional and Public International Law
- Scots Law
- Commercial Law
- Private International Law and Transnational Governance
- Energy Law

ABERDEEN AND ABERDEENSHIRE

Scotland's third largest city, Aberdeen sits on the coast between the mountains of Aberdeenshire and the stunning North Sea coastline. The Aberdeen City region is a can-do place that is actively investing, at scale, in its future.

Renowned as a Global Energy Hub, Aberdeen is a vibrant, entrepreneurial region, home to a unique mix of business opportunities and specialist skills across various sectors including energy, technology, life sciences and food & drink. More than 20% of Scotland's top businesses are located in this region which is taking great strides to ensure that it continues to compete on a world stage. Investments of more than £10 billion of public and private infrastructure is due to be delivered before 2030, marking an exciting time to be part of a genuine world-class location.

Built from sparkling local granite Aberdeen has earned the name of the Silver City. As the energy capital of Europe, Aberdeen nevertheless retains its old-fashioned charm and character making it an attractive place in which to live, work and study. Due to its global business and international energy industry credentials, Aberdeen is well served by local and national transport infrastructure with excellent rail networks that run both North and South of Scotland and the rest of the UK. It also acts as an international travel hub. Flying time to London is just over one hour with regular daily flights and serves international travel to European centres such as Amsterdam (Schiphol) and Paris (Charles de-Gaulle) as well as flights to other European destinations.

The City and the surrounding countryside provide a variety of urban, seaside and country attractions. Aberdeen has first class amenities including His Majesty's Theatre, Music Hall, Art Gallery, the P&J Arena, Museums, and Beach Leisure Centre. The City is framed by its accessible beach front which is within a short walk of the city centre and there are an array of activities available across the region such as hill walking; mountaineering; sailing; surfing; salmon, trout and sea fishing; golf; sailing; surfing and windsurfing. The surrounding countryside, known as Aberdeenshire, is also one of Scotland's most appealing regions. Royal Deeside and the Cairngorms National Park are within easy access of the city, and there are a variety of towns and villages scattered along the coastline.

The city and the surrounding area have ranked consistently highly in nationally recognised quality of life surveys, coming out top 10 as one of the best places to live in Scotland in 2020 in the annual Bank of Scotland survey.

To find out more visit www.visitabdn.com

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

The University values and celebrates a diverse working and learning environment and recognises the richness this brings, both in terms of contributing to the success of the University and creating safe and inclusive cultures. The University welcomes applications from individuals with diverse lived experiences.

The University supports flexible working, including hybrid working arrangements, and has policies in place to facilitate this where it is appropriate. The policies can be found at https://www.abdn.ac.uk/staffnet/working-here/flexible-working--5607.php.

The University is committed to progressing gender equality across all its functions and has been a proud member of the Advance HE Athena Swan Charter, achieving an institutional Bronze award, one Silver departmental award for the School of Psychology and eleven departmental Bronze awards. LGBTQ+ equality is championed through the University's membership of the Stonewall Diversity Champions Programme, where the University has achieved a Silver award in the Workplace Equality Index. The University is on a continual journey to respond to, and combat, GBV in our community and beyond. We are proud to be working towards the EmilyTest Charter, in partnership with the charity, EmilyTest. We all have a role to play in knowing how to signpost colleagues and students to support for gender-based violence, and training and support is available to all staff on this topic.

The University is signed up to Advance HE's Race Equality Charter, affirming the University's commitment to the Charter's aim of improving the representation, progression and success of staff and students who identify as belonging to a racialised group. The University launched its Antiracism Strategy in 2022, representing a bold framework for progress on race equality. Recognising the importance of addressing the under-representation of racialised groups in the senior team, the University's new Recruitment and Selection Policy embeds specific positive action measures to address this.

The University is delighted to be accredited as a Disability Confident employer and strives to ensure that disabled staff and students have the opportunity to work and study in an inclusive, accessible and supportive environment. The University's Wellbeing Strategy commits it to progressing work to tackle stigma related to mental health and action to promote and improve health and wellbeing for staff and students. Candidates who are British Sign Language (BSL) users can contact us directly by using contact SCOTLAND-BSL

The University's work on equality, diversity and inclusion is supported by a range of networks and engagement activities, designed to provide safe spaces and raise awareness of the support available and the steps everyone can take to create inclusive campuses.

www.abdn.ac.uk/staffnet/governance/equality-and-diversity-277

How to Apply

Online application forms are available at https://www.abdn.ac.uk/jobs

The closing date for receipt of applications is **29 October 2026**

Should you wish to make an informal enquiry please contact:

Prof Justin Borg-Barthet, Head of School, jborgbarthet@abdn.ac.uk

Please do not send application forms or CVs to Prof Justin Borg-Barthet

Please quote reference number LAW095A on all correspondence