

The University of Bristol Law Clinic

The University of Bristol Law Clinic has approximately 300 students involved in a range of activities. It is focused on both student education and widening access to justice. In 2024, the Law Clinic was awarded the LawWorks and Attorney General Award for *Best Contribution by a Law School*, in recognition of its outstanding pro bono work and ongoing national impact. The Law Clinic is committed to reducing difficulties in access to justice and providing quality advice and assistance, continuing to broaden its range of services and the number of individuals advocated over its thirty-year history. The University of Bristol Law School is the 6th most targeted law school by leading UK employers (HighFliers 2026), and the Law Clinic provides [hands on experiences](#) for its students through a range of opportunities including internships, mentoring and networking.

Over the last year the Law Clinic has taken on approximately 400 cases from 650 enquiries. Clients are predominately individuals who have exhausted other avenues for legal assistance with accepted cases within the legal competence of the three supervising solicitors with most relating to housing, employment, benefits, and general contract-based matters. The Law Clinic also has a team of students, Law Clinic Advisors, who represent families at inquests. This was the first university law clinic nationally to provide this service.

Demand for a place in the Law Clinic is high with an average of six student applicants to each Law Clinic Advisor role. Final year students taking the Clinical Legal Education module, are also guaranteed a place in the Law Clinic for the academic year, and the numbers of students taking this unit has increased from an initial 20 to 115 in 2025-26. Placement demand is driven by the quality of experience and the development of transferrable employability skills with Law Clinic students regularly feeding back that the primary discussion topic at job interview was their Law Clinic experience.

Law Clinic Advisors are students supported by a staff of six, together with two paid graduates who also act as mentors for the students. A number of graduate alumni also provide ongoing support and help to the Law Clinic and Student Advisors.

At the beginning of each academic term, [The Community Impact Team](#) (CIT) management team work with partner organisations to assess their needs and review how our students can provide meaningful support. The projects arising from these discussions take a variety of forms, including in-person workshops, webinars, and accessible legal factsheets. The projects are then allocated to the student volunteers, who work collaboratively to plan, research, and draft materials. All work is carefully reviewed, and feedback is provided to ensure a high standard of quality and accuracy.

CIT has developed strong partnerships with many Bristol-based organisations including ACH, Borderlands, and Global Goals Centre. Additionally, it has worked with national organisations to broaden reach and impact such as Women's Aid, IntoUniversity, and the Environmental Law Foundation (ELF).

Other recent initiatives include collaborating with Bristol Red Cross supporting family reunion issues with a team of ten students involved under the supervision of a lawyer who is employed jointly by the University and Red Cross; supporting a local Bristol firm of solicitors providing students with practical work experience supporting special educational needs cases; and, providing assistance to parents and carers with school exclusion hearings within the Bristol City Council jurisdiction.

The Law Clinic continues to develop its services to benefit the local community working with local MPs supporting cases forwarded on through government offices and the forthcoming opening of Temple Quarter will provide further opportunities for the Law Clinic to provide services at the heart of the Bristol community in addition to future plans to develop further services within the South Bristol area.

Overall, the University of Bristol Law Clinic is exceptional in the quality and range of the services provided.