

UCL Integrated Legal Advice Clinic

“We have always been committed to exposing students to the operation of law in the real world and to experiential learning. Now, more than ever, it is important that we continue to inspire the next generation of lawyers to pursue careers in the public interest”

Jacqui Kinghan, Head of Teaching and Learning, UCL Centre for Access to Justice.

Delivering an improved service

This year we have continued to provide pro bono and legally aided casework and representation services to the local community in the areas of housing, community care, education law and welfare benefits. The Clinic prioritises taking on cases in the local area – Newham and surrounding boroughs. Due to ongoing research into health justice partnerships, we also aim to prioritise cases where clients have been referred to us by their GPs or a member of practice staff.

Progress through research

Since January 2017, UCL iLAC has hosted a study on the health impacts of legal advice. This work explores the health and well-being of clients using the service, how legal problems affect health, and the role that legal advice can play in supporting the health of individuals and the work of health services. Recruitment for the study finished in June 2018, with 100 clients participating

“UCL legal team have changed our outlook on the law. We feel privileged to have been looked after so well and fully involved in the entire case. The case preparation and presentation was excellent and (CAJ Advice Fellow) Catriona was exceptional. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.”

UCL iLAC Client



Students and Education at UCL iLAC

UCL iLAC would not be able to achieve its mission without the hard work and dedication of our students and the advisers and solicitors that support them.

In 2017-18, 23 undergraduate and postgraduate students undertook placements at the Clinic. Of these 23 students, 12 participated as part of a curricular placement (final year undergraduate course Access to Justice and Community Engagement and the UCL-HKU Double Degree Programme) and a further 11 took part on an extra-curricular basis. Together, these students put in a total of 1,128 hours of voluntary work.

Through iLAC, students who engage with the Centre for Access to Justice access a unique training ground for those seeking to experience the realities of the UK's legal system and the difficulties faced by those within it. With 200 students per year involved across a range of projects, including UCL iLAC, our students are being instilled with a deep sense of social justice and a pro bono work ethic.

In Summer 2018, the Clinic was delighted to be able to recruit three Summer Fellows. The Summer Fellowships are paid three to four month placements where students work intensively on UCL iLAC casework, supporting the Clinic's staff to ensure the Clinic is able to remain open during the summer months and continue providing a high quality service to our clients.

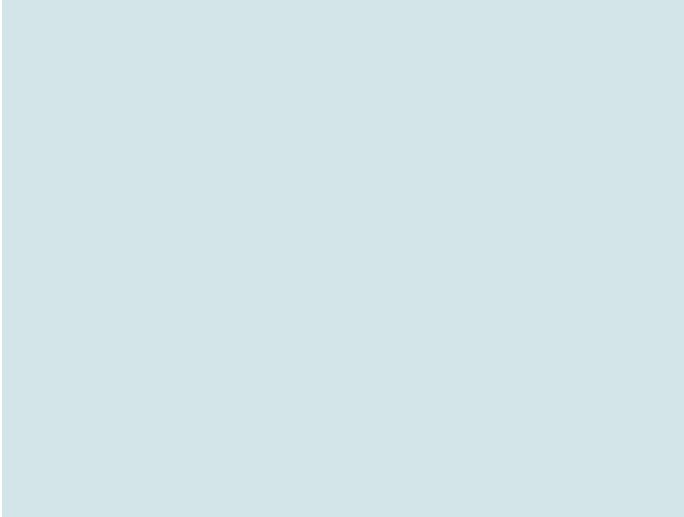
The Summer Fellowships are also an important part of the Clinic's social mobility agenda, ensuring that no student is excluded from undertaking valuable work experience in public interest or social welfare fields because they are unable to afford unpaid work.

Student Involvement

We actively encourage students to be involved in their community, using the skills they learn in their courses to benefit society. UCL iLAC is proud of our volunteer students and your support is setting them up to be conscientious citizens, giving voices to the silenced.

All extra-curricular students were recruited as UCL iLAC Assistants, and undertook a range of tasks including taking new enquiries over the phone and in person; assisting with data collection; sending routine letters; and case file management.

12 students volunteering at UCL iLAC conducted supervised casework in the areas of welfare benefits, housing, and community care as part of the Access to Justice and Community Engagement course. This is double the students that participated last year, demonstrating the growing influence of the Clinic.



Looking forward to the future

Welcoming New Faces

In September 2017, the Integrated Legal Advice Clinic was delighted to announce that Rachel Knowles, Senior Teaching Fellow and Solicitor joined the Clinic on a full-time basis as our Head of Legal Practice. Rachel had previously been working with both the Clinic and children's rights charity,

