Welcome

Queen Mary University of London is dedicated to the public good, pursuing the creation and dissemination of knowledge to the highest international standards, thereby transforming wider society and the lives of our students and staff.

Nowhere is this vision more apparent than the School of Law, ranked within the top five in the UK.

While we celebrate all that the School of Law has achieved over the last half-century we must also look forward, to our hopes and ambitions for the next fifty years.

This document outlines three projects that are key to the continued success of the School and its students. We hope you will choose to support us so that we can continue to recruit and educate the next generation of world class lawyers, barristers and solicitors.
The 2015/16 academic year marked the 50th anniversary of the School of Law at Queen Mary University of London. From its beginnings as a course with 30 students and four academic staff, today the School houses almost 2,000 students taught by 100 academic staff on two sites - at QMUL's Mile End campus and a dedicated building for the Centre for Commercial Law Studies (CCLS) at the heart of London’s legal quarter in Lincoln’s Inn Fields.

As the number of students has grown, so has the School’s reputation and stature. Today the School of Law at QMUL is ranked within the top five by the Guardian University Guide 2017.

Competition is fierce, with around ten applicants competing for each available place, and the entry requirements are rigorous. The student body is diverse, 53% are from the UK and the remaining 47% of law students represent fifty different nationalities.

The department of Law is extremely proud of its graduates, many of whom have gone on to pursue high profile careers, both in the legal and non-legal professions. 91% of law students were in employment or further study six months after graduating.

The School of Law is led by Professor Valsamis Mitsilegas who, in addition to his role as Head of School, is Professor of European Criminal Law and Director of the Criminal Justice Centre at QMUL. From 2001 to 2005 Professor Mitsilegas was legal adviser to the House of Lords European Union Committee and he remains a regular adviser to parliaments, governments and EU institutions including the European Commission, the European Parliament and the EU Fundamental Rights Agency.

Our alumni include:
- The Rt Hon Mrs Justice Cox (Laura Cox) a Justice of the High Court (LLB 1973, LLM 1975)
- Lord Justice Pitchford (Christopher Pitchford), Lord Justice of Appeal (LLB 1968)
- His Honour Judge Robert Bartfield (LLB 1970)
- Michael Crystal QC (LLB 1969)
- Judge Jeremy Richardson QC (LLB 1979)
Scholarships

Scholarships reward academic excellence and can be an important factor when students make the decision about their choice of university. QMUL's School of Law is ranked fifth in the UK and we aspire to improve upon this position. Scholarships will enable us to continue to attract the most talented students from across the UK and internationally.

Scholarships also break down the financial barriers to a university education, allowing the most academically able students to accept a place at QMUL irrespective of their, or their families', financial situation. This results in a diverse student body, which is a benefit of its own.

Case Study

"I am very grateful for this scholarship. The award will lighten the pressure of the coming year, allowing me to spend fewer hours working as a tutor and devote more time to my own studies and gaining experience relevant to my degree.

The financial support will make it possible for me to take on opportunities with human rights organisations during the summer. I hope to apply for an Amicus placement, assisting capital defence teams in the Southern States, and return to my former role as an intern at legal action charity Reprieve”.

Robbie Stern, School of Law Scholar

How you can help

• An undergraduate LLB student will pay tuition fees of £9,000pa. Most students access Government backed loans to pay their tuition costs but the cost of basic student living in London, calculated at £12,000pa, is a major commitment that not all students can afford.

• An annual gift of £12,000 will fund a full, named scholarship in the School of Law.

• Such a scholarship will be transformational for a student and will have an enormous impact on QMUL's ambitions to recruit the brightest and best to the School of Law.

• A partial scholarship of £6,000 will make a substantial difference to a student who is deciding whether to accept a place at QMUL.

• A gift of £3,000 or £1,500 will make a generous addition to the School of Law Scholarship Fund to be disbursed by the Head of School to attract the highest calibre of student to QMUL.

Donate online at www.qmul.ac.uk/law50
An International Education

Queen Mary University of London is in the top twenty most international universities in the world thanks to a diverse student and staff population, productive international research publication and a committed international exchange programme.

The School of Law has developed a number of collaborations in recent years to provide opportunities for undergraduate students to extend their studies by spending an additional year at one of our carefully selected, high-ranking partner institutions including the University of Hong Kong, Renmin University of China (RUC), Beijing and University of Texas at Austin, USA.

Case study
“...was fortunate enough to be the first student selected to go on exchange at the University of Hong Kong. I decided to apply for this opportunity, as many law firms are moving into Asia, and so the chance to study and live there for one year could only be of benefit.

Whilst I was there I also took work placements, doing judicial marshalling at the Hong Kong Court of Appeal. This undoubtedly provides for an interesting and diverse talking point at interviews”.

Kerala Drew, Final Year LLB English & Chinese Law Student

A period of overseas study is a valuable addition to a graduate’s CV. Many students return from their experiences more independent, confident and receptive to other viewpoints. The experience aids in cultivating personal skills such as intercultural competencies, problem solving skills and language proficiency, all of which double as highly desirable professional competencies in a competitive marketplace. We aim to instil in our law students a sense of global citizenship, as part of the wider benefits of a high quality law degree, and an understanding of the global perspective and solutions needed to address global problems.

Whilst these programmes offer an outstanding opportunity to study Law in a different country and to develop a more global understanding of legal theory and practice, they present a financial obstacle that will deter many students from applying.

How you can help
• We would like to develop a fund for international mobility that will allow us to support students who are awarded a place to study at one of our partner institutions by removing any financial constraints they may face.
• A gift of £18,000 will fund a full, named scholarship to the USA/Canada
• A gift of £9,000 will fund a full named scholarship to Singapore/Hong Kong
• A gift of £6,000 will fund a full named scholarship to mainland China

Smaller gifts will form a School of Law International Mobility Fund, providing invaluable support to students who wish to take up a global summer placement or internship, or to study in Europe through the Erasmus scheme.

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Legal Advice Centre

The award-winning Legal Advice Centre (LAC) was opened by its Patron, Lord Goldsmith, in 2006 with the aim of making free legal advice as accessible as possible while enabling students to learn from practical experience.

The Centre welcomes clients from a wide variety of backgrounds to present on a range of legal issues including housing, immigration, family, employment, data protection and corporate law. Legal Advice is delivered by LAC Student Advisers under the supervision of qualified lawyers.

Since opening, the Centre has advised more than 1450 clients and in 2015-16 alone the Centre had 55 undergraduate law students volunteering as Student Advisers.

“Working alongside trainees and qualified solicitors greatly contributed to the development of my research skills and my ability to apply the law to practical scenarios. Yet meeting with real clients, with real problems, in search of real solutions was the best aspect of the LAC. I felt like I was making a difference to someone’s life by helping to resolve their legal problems – this experience was invaluable and it will really help me in the future.”

Law Student

The work of the LAC is supported by an impressive roster of City law firms, with more than 150 solicitors undertaking pro-bono work to supervise and mentor our students in the LAC.

In recent years, the number of people hoping to access the LAC has soared: there has been a 70% increase in enquiries since the Centre was founded and a 40% rise in the last two years alone, following the introduction of government cuts to the legal aid budget.

Frustratingly, the Centre has no option but to turn many of these enquiries away. The LAC is only able to take up around 240 cases per every 1,000 claims, mainly due to lack of resources. Furthermore, student places are oversubscribed so undergraduates are also missing out on the invaluable opportunity to provide hands-on legal advice in real-world situations.

How you can help
In order to meet demand for the services the LAC provides, the School of Law requires funding for a further practitioner to join the team. With the creation of a new post - a civil barrister, working as a part-time teaching fellow - the LAC will be able to take on more cases and provide the opportunity for more students to develop their legal skills beyond the academics of law.

The School is looking for funding of £60,000 per annum to support this new post and expand the reach of the Legal Advice Centre.

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Case study
Nicole came to the LAC because she was having great difficulty dealing with the anti-social behaviour, including fly tipping and drug use, taking place in an alleyway adjoining her flat.

Unable to find the owner of the alley, and with the council refusing to take responsibility for the problem, Nicole asked the LAC for help. The LAC was able to advise Nicole on how to find the owner, as well as explaining that she had a strong case against them for private and public nuisance.

With the LAC’s help, Nicole wrote to the owners to describe the problem, outline their legal responsibilities and request that a gate be fitted. After years of living with the situation, Nicole was finally able to speak finally with the owners, who agreed a solution to the issue and to cover all associated costs.
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hr-equality@qmul.ac.uk;
Tel: +44 (0)20 7882 5585.

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