

Queen Mary Summer School

SUM506P: Clinical Legal Education, Access to Justice and Pro Bono Law
School of Law

Course outline

Level: 5

Credits: 15 (Queen Mary credits)

Course Leader: Dr Frances Ridout

Assessment: Portfolio 100%

Course description:

This dynamic course will provide students with an opportunity to learn about access to justice and pro bono initiatives in England/Wales and globally. This will happen through an in-depth look at the theory of clinical legal education, public legal education and a specific type of public legal education known as 'Street Law'. Students will examine these important activities and concepts in the context of different legal systems, the Rule of Law and professional practice. Further students will have the opportunity to develop certain professional legal skills such as client interviewing skills through structured simulations. Other professional practice topics like advocacy, professional legal ethics, drafting will also be explored. This content will be covered through highly interactive seminars, court visits and simulations.

Learning outcomes:

On completion of the module, students can expect to have acquired:

- An explanation of the practices and theories of legal education and public legal education, and how these interact with access to justice for individuals within the legal system
- An understanding of the nature of pro bono legal advice and why it is so important to the Rule of Law
- The ability to identify key problems in access to justice and free legal advice and how these problems are interrelated
- The development of client interview skills

Approximate cost:

All reading material is provided digitally so you are not required to purchase any books.

Assessments:

The course assessments are not compulsory, however, if you wish to transfer credit for this course to your home university it is essential to complete the assignments.

Portfolio: 4,000-words (100%)

Preparation:

Before you arrive on campus, it is advised that you familiarise yourself with the course content before it begins. You will be given instructions for accessing our Virtual Learning Environment (QMplus) before you arrive on campus.

Teaching:

The course is taught in two two-hour sessions per day (10.00 - 12.00 and 13.00 - 15.00), held Monday to Thursday each week.

Indicative Additional Reading:

- International Journal of Clinical Legal Education
- International Journal of Public Legal Education

- - A Student Guide to Clinical Legal Education and Pro Bono, edited by Kevin Kerrigan and Victoria Murphy (2011)
- - ReImagining Clinical Legal Education, Edited by Thomas, Vaughan, Malkani and Lynch
- - Public Legal Education - The role of Law schools in building a legally literate society - Grimes, R., 2021. Public Legal Education: The Role of Law Schools in Building a More Legally Literate Society. Routledge.
- - Paths to Justice - Genn, H. and Beinart, S., 1999. Paths to justice: what people do and think about going to law. Hart Publishing.
- - Social Justice and Legal Education - Ashford, C. and McKeown, P. eds., 2019. Social justice and legal education. Cambridge Scholars Publishing.

Please note that the information provided may be subject to change.