

## 1 Advertisement

**Post Title: Senior Lecturer in Legal Innovation**

**School/department:** School of Law, Politics and Sociology/ Sussex Law School

**Hours:** full-time or part-time hours considered up to a maximum of 1 FTE. Requests for [flexible working](#) options will be considered (subject to business need).

**Location:** Brighton, United Kingdom.

**Contract:** Permanent

**Reference:** 20347

**Salary:** Starting at £54,421 to £63,059, pro rata if part-time.

**Placed on:** 05 June 2023.

**Closing date:** 30 June 2023. Applications must be received by midnight of the closing date.

**Expected start date:** We would like the successful applicants to start as soon as possible in advance of the commencement of the new academic year on 25 September 2023.

Sussex Law School, an established and successful Law School, is seeking to appoint a committed and dynamic academic to the position of Senior Lecturer in Law to develop and lead in the area of legal innovation and legal technology.

The successful candidate will have a range of expertise encompassing legal technology, research, and teaching skills, with strong networks across legal, technology and third-sector organizations.

The successful candidate will provide education and training to equip law students and legal professionals to become innovators in the legal services market; undertake research to understand how innovation can improve legal service delivery and access to justice; and engage in collaborative research and development through a partnership with stakeholders to capitalize on the benefits of innovative approaches to legal practice

The successful candidate will be on our teaching and research academic pathway.

This is an exciting opportunity to join a friendly and collegiate community whose staff is committed to high-quality legal education through which we encourage critical thinking and a supportive and inclusive learning environment. The Sussex Law School has a vibrant, supportive, and inclusive research environment across a wide range of sub-disciplines and approaches rooted in the Sussex traditions of critical scholarship and commitment to equality and social justice.

Please contact Dr Samantha Velluti ([S.M.Velluti@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:S.M.Velluti@sussex.ac.uk)) for informal enquiries.

For full details and how to apply see our [vacancies page](#)

*The University of Sussex values the diversity of its staff and students and we welcome applicants from all backgrounds.*

## 2. Sussex Law School

Sussex Law School is a thriving and ambitious department which has grown significantly in strength and numbers, both of staff and students, over the past years, enabling the creation of a strong and vibrant research and scholarship culture as well as an extensive portfolio of undergraduate and postgraduate courses offering both traditional and innovative legal study. There are approximately 75 members of Faculty in the Law School. The total undergraduate and postgraduate student population is currently around 1400 students, and we are located in the Freeman building on the University of Sussex campus.

For further information regarding Sussex Law School see [Law : University of Sussex](#) and information about the School of Law, Politics and Sociology (LPS) at <http://www.sussex.ac.uk/lps/>

### Research and Scholarship

Research within the Sussex Law School is rooted in the Sussex traditions of critical scholarship and a commitment to equality and social justice and covers areas including intellectual property and information technology, crime and criminal justice, critical legal theory, human rights and anti-colonial justice, migration studies, and international law. Contributing to a wide range of sub-disciplines, our research adopts doctrinal, theoretical, critical, contextual, social-legal, and interdisciplinary approaches. Our research ethos accords with the University aims of 'thinking differently' and 'pushing the boundaries'. Staff are engaged in interdisciplinary international research and our research has made positive changes to society regionally, nationally and internationally.

In REF2021, we were ranked 15<sup>th</sup> for research power by the THE. 78.4% of our outputs were graded as world-leading (4\*) or internationally excellent (3\*) as were 60% of our impact case studies demonstrating the positive social, economic and environmental impacts, nationally and internationally. Our research environment was graded 100% 4 and 3\* recognizing the supportive and collaborative environment which underpins what we do individually and collectively enabling us to explore new topics, adopt new approaches to existing topics and push the boundaries of the discipline.

Many members of the Law School contribute to collaborative, cross-disciplinary research through [research centres](#) based in or led by Law or LPS, including the Sussex Centre for Human Rights Research, Crime Research Centre, Sussex European Institute, the Sussex Centre for the Study of Corruption, the Centre for Gender Studies, the Centre for Information Governance Research, and the Sussex Sustainability Research Programme.

There are a number of [research groups based in Law](#) in Family, Relationship and Kinship; Art and Law; Property Law and Environment; Critical Theory: Legal Education Research and Practice; European Law and Policy; Social and Legal Issues in Science and Health; and, Sussex Terrorism and Extremism Network. Faculty are encouraged to explore new groups to provide a supportive environment for individual and collaborative research.

The Law School is strongly committed to embedding within our research culture the production of research that has a positive impact on society by ensuring that impact is an integral part of planning and support processes. Staff work with stakeholders outside of academia, including law and policy makers, civil society and non-governmental organisations and members of the general public to ensure that their work has the widest reach and contributes to positive change.

The Law School places considerable emphasis on supporting early career researchers to

achieve their full potential, through mentoring and other avenues of support. All staff have an annual personal research planning meeting. There are 6 Research Development Teams in Law, to provide support and guidance and mentoring for colleagues working in cognate areas.

There is an active community of colleagues undertaking Scholarship work on projects including enhancing placements, embedding employability, inclusion in extra-curricular activities, student engagement.

Each faculty member has an annual research grant to support their research by, for example, attending conferences, ad hoc research assistance and the purchase of appropriate research materials. Extra funding is available on a discretionary basis.

For further detail see: <http://www.sussex.ac.uk/law/research>

### **Undergraduate studies**

There are around 1200 undergraduates studying for an LLB in Law. The LLB degree is a three year degree consisting entirely of law modules or a three or four year LLB degree consisting of the following combinations:

- Law with American Studies (4 years)
- Law with Business and Management
- Law with a Language (3 years)
- Law with International Relations
- Law with Politics
- Law with Criminology
- Law with a study abroad year (4 years)
- Law with a placement year (4 years)
- We also run a Graduate Entry LLB (2 years)

All law students take compulsory modules, consisting of the modules covering the foundations of legal knowledge (Law of Tort, Law of Contract, Public Law, Equity & Trusts, Land Law, Law and Constitutional Foundations of the European Union, Criminal Law) and two introductory courses: English Legal System; Justice, Equality and Society. Students on the LLB (Law) can also choose to study either Power, The State and the Individual or Canadian Constitutional Law in year one and either Business Law and Practice or the Single Market of the European Union in year two. All modules are taught and assessed in a single semester, but some subject areas are taught across more than one module/semester. There is also a wide range of level 6 Law options, reflecting faculty expertise. These include subjects such as Intellectual Property Law, Law and the Creative Industries, Internet Law, Adult Family Law, Child Law, Human Rights, Criminology, Clinical Legal Education, Commercial Law, Company Law, Environmental Law, Anti-Corruption Law, Law and Development, Law and Resistance, Media Law, Public International Law.

In 2018, SLS began a successful joint degree with Wilfred Laurier University, Canada, which involves students joining the LLB programme at Sussex after 2 years of study in Canada. This attracts around 50 students annually.

SLS also teaches a number of popular modules on the Sussex pathway, which enables non-law students to take a coherent suite of law-focused modules in their first and second years of study. The Law Pathway includes Level 4 and 5 modules on Understanding Law; Law, Justice and Inequality; Crime and Criminal Justice; Gender Equality; and Contemporary Issues in Law.

For further information about our undergraduate modules: [Law LLB : University of Sussex](#).

## Postgraduate Studies

SLS offers the following postgraduate taught masters degrees, currently to around 130 students, as well as a PhD programme:

- LLM in Intellectual Property and Information Technology Law
- LLM in Criminal Law and Criminal Justice
- LLM in International Commercial Law
- LLM in International Law
- LLM in International Financial Law
- LLM in International Human Rights Law
- LLM in Law
- MSc in Social Research Methods (Law)

In addition, SLS offers an MA Law, a full-time, one-year, course which provides non-law graduates full exemption from all elements of the first stage of professional qualification for barristers, and which lays the foundations for students who wish to continue on to SQE1, the new training approach for solicitors in England and Wales. For further information on this course see: <https://www.sussex.ac.uk/study/masters/courses/law-replacing-the-gdl-ma>

## The Student Experience

Securing the overall quality of the student experience is a high priority for the Sussex Law School. The department organises a structured programme of skills, careers and other related events which run throughout the academic year including talks from faculty, practitioners and alumni. Where possible these events are co-curated with our students.

Students have the opportunity to undertake training and participate in internal and national competitions in debating, mooted, client interviewing, mediation and negotiation. The training workshops are generally run by faculty with the assistance of local practitioners. Students have opportunities to be involved in their organisation.

The Sussex Law School is also home to the Centre for Clinical Legal Education. The Clinic works closely with local practitioners and local organisations such as the Brighton Housing Trust and Citizens Advice. The Clinic gives students the opportunity to be exposed to real legal problems, develop practical skills and assist those who have difficulty accessing legal advice from other sources. Further details about Clinical Legal Education can be found here: [Free Legal Advice : Sussex Clinical Legal Education : Law Department : University of Sussex](#)

## 3. Job Description

<b>Job Title:</b>	Senior Lecturer in Law
<b>Grade:</b>	Grade 9
<b>School:</b>	LPS (Sussex Law School)
<b>Location:</b>	Freeman Building
<b>Responsible to:</b>	Head of Sussex Law School

## **Role description:**

The successful applicants will work with colleagues and students within the Sussex Law School and School of Law, Politics and Sociology. They will teach on and assess undergraduate and postgraduate modules offered on our LLB, MA and LLM courses in a developing capacity and contribute to the student experience and support of students. With the benefit of our research support processes, the post-holders will develop their research profile of high-quality publications, external research grant capture, impact on society and knowledge exchange, as appropriate to their sub-discipline. They will also make a positive contribution to the wider activities of the Law School, for example, to applicant and open days, judging or running client interviewing, negotiation or mooting competitions, convening modules etc

The successful applicants will be on the Teaching and Research pathway. It is envisaged that the post holders will spend approximately 40% of their time on teaching, 40% on research and 20% on administration and citizenship work. Mentoring is provided, and the postholder will benefit from a probationary reduction in teaching hours as well as remission to secure foundational HE teaching qualification if this is not already held.

## **PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTABILITIES**

1. To deliver high-quality teaching on our undergraduate and/or postgraduate courses.
2. To engage in individual and/or collaborative research activity evidenced, for example, by high-quality publications, successful external funding bids, wider impact or knowledge exchange activity as appropriate to the field and to contribute to the unit's REF submission.
3. To contribute fully to the School and University through citizenship and by participating in meetings, working groups, committees and other School and University activities.

## **KEY RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **1. Develop and Lead the Legal Innovation and Technology Hub**

- 1.1 Build strong foundations and networks across legal, technology and third sectors.
- 1.2 Map and continually monitor the needs of the legal, business and third sector with respect to legal innovation and legal technology.
- 1.3 Initiate and lead projects that engage staff and students to support users and enhance access to justice through technology.

### **2. Teaching & Student Support**

- 2.1 Engage students through workshops, hackathons, lab session and legal clinics to explore how technology can interact with social and legal needs.
- 2.2 Contribute to the planning, delivery and assessment of high-quality undergraduate and postgraduate teaching, in liaison with the relevant course and module convenors.

- 2.3 With guidance: develop high-quality inclusive teaching materials, methods and approaches using appropriate technology; take responsibility for their quality, and ensure that they meet defined learning objectives.
- 2.4 With guidance: set, mark, and assess coursework and examinations; select appropriate assessment instruments and assessment criteria; and provide constructive and comprehensive feedback to students.
- 2.5 Ensure that teaching materials remain up-to-date and relevant, incorporating advances in the subject area into the course of study.
- 2.6 Develop and maintain an understanding of appropriate pedagogy in the subject area.
- 2.7 Supervise the work of undergraduate and taught postgraduate students, providing them with advice on study skills.
- 2.8 Undertake and complete administrative duties required in the professional delivery of teaching.
- 2.9 Undertake academic advising duties.
- 2.10 Adopt an approachable and accessible attitude towards students, offering office hours, informal advice etc.

### **3. Research, Scholarship & Enterprise**

- 3.1 Conduct research on emerging themes relevant to the sector, including but not limited to legal design methodologies, artificial intelligence, online legal services, etc.
- 3.2 Develop research objectives and proposals for own or joint research, at acceptable levels, with assistance if required.
- 3.3 Conduct research projects individually and/or in collaboration with others.
- 3.4 Produce high-quality research outputs for publication in monographs or recognised high-quality journals, as appropriate, and contribute to the School's REF submission at acceptable levels of volume and academic excellence.
- 3.5 Make research funding applications as appropriate, with assistance if required.
- 3.6 Individually or with colleagues, explore opportunities for enterprise activity, third stream income and/or consultancy.
- 3.7 Build internal contacts and participate in internal networks and relevant external networks in order to form relationships and collaborations.
- 3.8 Supervise doctoral students as part of a supervision team, as appropriate to the discipline.
- 3.9 Continually update knowledge and understanding in field or specialism, and engage in continuous professional development.

### **4. Contribution to School & University**

- 4.1 Attend and contribute to School meetings.
- 4.2 Engage in activities beyond day-to-day teaching duties.
- 4.3 Assist with undergraduate and postgraduate recruitment.
- 4.4 Participate in School or University working groups or committees, as required.
- 4.5 Undertake additional administrative duties, as required by the Head of School.

This Job Description sets out current duties of the post that may vary from time to time without changing the general character of the post or level of responsibility entailed.

## **PERSON SPECIFICATION**

### **ESSENTIAL CRITERIA**

1. Normally educated to doctoral level, or being close to completion of doctoral studies, or other equivalent qualification in law, or appropriate level of experience, as appropriate to the discipline.
2. Evidence of existing strong networks across legal, technological and third sectors.
3. Evidence of leadership in building partnerships across private, public and third sectors.
4. Experience of high-quality teaching at undergraduate and/or postgraduate level. Please make clear in your application which areas of law you have experience of teaching and which additional areas you are willing to teach.
5. Emerging track record of high-quality academic publications.
6. Ambitious and realistic research plans for outputs, external funding bids, impact and knowledge exchange as appropriate to discipline.
7. Excellent presentation and interpersonal skills, with the proven ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, with students, colleagues and external audiences.
8. Evidence of willingness to make a proactive contribution to Department and/or School and to participate in departmental activity beyond teaching duties.
9. Evidence of ability to work independently and as part of a team, prioritising and meeting deadlines, and managing time.

### **DESIRABLE CRITERIA**

1. Experience of generating research or knowledge exchange income.

2. Satisfactorily completion of at least the first stage of the Postgraduate Certificate in Higher Education and/or Associate Fellowship HEA, or equivalent (this is desirable at the point of applying, but you can be supported to obtain this).
3. An ability to contribute to the teaching of Intellectual Property, Internet Law, or core UG or PGT is desirable.