

## 1 Advertisement

**Post Title: Lecturer in Family Law**

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

**Hours:** full time or part time hours considered up to a maximum of 1.0 FTE. Requests for flexible working options, including job sharing, will be considered (subject to business need).

**Contract:** Permanent

**Reference:** 6307

**Salary:** starting at £37,467 to £40,927 per annum, pro rata if part time

**Closing date:** 18 October 2021

**Expected start date:** January 2022

Sussex Law School is looking for a committed and dynamic academic to join our team as a Lecturer in Family Law.

The successful candidate will contribute in particular to undergraduate and postgraduate teaching with a particular focus on family law, broadly defined, whilst contributing beyond this to core areas of the law curriculum.

The successful candidate will be on our teaching and research academic pathway, and will need to demonstrate an emerging teaching and research record.

In your application it would be helpful to indicate clearly what subjects you have teaching experience in and what subjects you would be able to offer teaching in.

If you have any questions about the job, please contact Professor Donald McGillivray, Head of Sussex Law School, at [d.mcgillivray@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:d.mcgillivray@sussex.ac.uk)

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. The School / Division

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

Sussex Law School is one of the three departments which form the School of Law, Politics and Sociology at the University of Sussex. These three vibrant academic units all strive for excellence in teaching and are all engaged in cutting-edge research.

The ethos of LPS is a commitment to its core disciplines (Law, Politics and Sociology), while seeking to make the most of the synergies that arise from the three disciplines comprising one School. Current and new appointees are encouraged to make use of the inter-disciplinary opportunities in the School, but also those that exist in productive relationships with other schools and departments across Sussex in keeping with the inter-disciplinary ethos of Sussex.

In both teaching and research the School engages with key issues of contemporary concern, as well as with historical, philosophical and theoretical dimensions of its subject areas. It increasingly draws on the synergies between its three related disciplines.

Sussex Law School is a thriving and ambitious department which has grown significantly in strength and numbers over the past 6 years, enabling the creation of strong and vibrant research groups and critical mass across many areas of traditional and innovative legal study. There are approximately 65 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 newly refurbished Freeman building on the University of Sussex campus.

### Research

The Law School is strongly committed to placing its research, the impact of its research and its research environment on a secure, sustainable and successful footing. The Law School places considerable emphasis on supporting early career researchers to achieve their full potential, through mentoring and other avenues of support.

Many members of the Law School contribute to collaborative, cross-disciplinary research through research centres based in or led by Law, 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](#) including our Family, Relationship and Kinship research group which brings together academics from various schools and disciplines at Sussex researching topics broadly related to the family and personal relationships.

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.

Each faculty member has a basic 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.

### **Undergraduate studies**

There are around 1250 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 Media Studies
- 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 Policy of European Union, Criminal Law) and three introductory courses: English Legal System; Justice, Equality and Society; and Power, The State and the Individual. 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 including subjects such as Adult Family Law, Child Law, Sociology of Law, Human Rights, Criminology, Clinical Legal Education, Commercial Law, Company Law, Environmental Law, Internet Law, Law and Development, Legal Theory, 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.

### **Postgraduate Studies**

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

- LLM in Criminal Law and Criminal Justice
- LLM in Intellectual Property and Information Technology Law
- 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 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, mooting, client interviewing, mediation and negotiation. The training workshops are generally run by faculty with the assistance of local practitioners.

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. One strand of the Clinic is our award-winning Family Law Clinic, organised as a collaboration between Sussex staff and external solicitors.

### **3. Job Description**

#### **CORE JOB DESCRIPTION**

<b>Job Title:</b>	Lecturer in Law
<b>Grade:</b>	Grade 7
<b>School:</b>	LPS (Sussex Law School)
<b>Location:</b>	Freeman Building
<b>Responsible to:</b>	Head of Sussex Law School
<b>Role description:</b>	This is a Research and Education post. Lecturer A (Grade 7) is an early career position. Post-holders will be expected to teach in a developing capacity and establish an independent research portfolio, including publication and making applications for research funding, and mentoring will be provided.

#### **PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTABILITIES**

- 1 To deliver and contribute to the design of high-quality teaching programmes to attract students.
- 2 To engage in individual and/or collaborative research activity resulting in high-quality publications to be submitted to the REF at acceptable levels of volume and academic excellence; and develop research funding and knowledge exchange income individually or in collaboration with others, as appropriate, depending on the size and scope of the bid.
- 3 To contribute fully to the School and University by participating in meetings, working groups, committees and other School and University activities.

#### **KEY RESPONSIBILITIES**

##### **1 Teaching & Student Support**

- 1.1 Contribute to the planning, delivery and assessment of high-quality undergraduate and postgraduate teaching, in liaison with the relevant programme and course convenors.
- 1.2 Contribute to the development, design and management of new curriculum proposals that are attractive to students.

- 1.3 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.
- 1.4 With guidance: set, mark, and assess coursework and examinations; select appropriate assessment instruments and assessment criteria; and provide constructive and comprehensive feedback to students.
- 1.5 Ensure that teaching materials remain up-to-date and relevant, incorporating advances in the subject area into the course of study.
- 1.6 Develop and maintain an understanding of appropriate pedagogy in the subject area.
- 1.7 Supervise the work of undergraduate and taught postgraduate students, providing them with advice on study skills.
- 1.8 Undertake and complete administrative duties required in the professional delivery of teaching.
- 1.9 Undertake academic advising duties, and provide first-line support for sensitive issues, referring on as appropriate to services providing further assistance.
- 1.10 Adopt an approachable and accessible attitude towards students, offering office hours, informal advice etc.

## **2 Research, Scholarship & Enterprise**

- 2.1 Develop research objectives and proposals for own or joint research, at acceptable levels, with assistance if required.
- 2.2 Conduct research projects individually and/or in collaboration with others.
- 2.3 Produce high-quality research outputs for publication in monographs or recognised high-quality journals or comparable, as appropriate, and contribute to the School's REF submission at acceptable levels of volume and academic excellence.
- 2.5 Make research funding applications as appropriate, with assistance if required.
- 2.6 Individually or with colleagues, explore opportunities for enterprise activity, third stream income and/or consultancy.
- 2.7 Build internal contacts and participate in internal networks and relevant external networks in order to form relationships and collaborations.
- 2.8 Supervise doctoral students as part of a supervision team, as appropriate to the discipline.
- 2.9 Continually update knowledge and understanding in field or specialism, and engage in continuous professional development.

### **3 Contribution to School & University**

- 3.1 Attend and contribute to School meetings.
- 3.2 Engage in activities beyond day-to-day teaching duties, for example Admissions Days.
- 3.3 Assist with undergraduate and postgraduate recruitment.
- 3.4 Participate in School or University working groups or committees, as required.
- 3.5 Undertake additional administrative duties, as required.

### **4 Role-specific duties**

#### **Essential**

- 4.1 Contribute to the teaching of family law at undergraduate and, where appropriate, PGT level
- 4.2 Contribute to other core teaching on UG and PG courses as required. It is an essential part of the role that you can contribute beyond family law, especially in one or more areas of the core of the law syllabus, and your application should clearly indicate how you might do so.
- 4.3 Evidence of research activity in a specialist field relevant to family law, and an ability to develop and/or deepen own research expertise in family law.

#### **Desirable**

- 5.1 Emerging track record of high-quality academic publications
- 5.2 Experience of generating research or knowledge exchange income.
- 5.3 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)
- 5.4 In addition to family law teaching, an ability to contribute across more than one core module at UG or PGT level is desirable.

### **INDICATIVE PERFORMANCE CRITERIA**

- High quality teaching performance across a range of teaching activities, at different levels (year 1 undergraduate to postgraduate) appropriate to the discipline; as evidenced by surveys, focus groups, questionnaires and peer review.

- Evidence of skill in assessment and feedback techniques, and using a range of methods for evaluating the effectiveness of teaching, as evidenced by internal and external scrutiny processes.
- Demonstrable contribution to the planning and development of modules and courses.
- Delivering a teaching load in line with School expectations.
- Evidence of applying knowledge arising from research and scholarship to enhance teaching practice.
- Evidence of active engagement in advising students and proactively responding to problems experienced by students.
- Completion, within a reasonable period of time, of a recognised higher education teaching qualification.
- A PhD or equivalent scholarly or relevant professional activity.
- Pursuing a line of high-quality independent scholarly research appropriate to the discipline.
- Publishing research (either from a recently completed PhD or new original research). For Grade 7 it is not an essential requirement that your work has so far been published but you must have an ambitious and realistic 5 year research plan and your application must include this.
- Success in obtaining competitive/peer reviewed research support funding or collaboration in significant research projects with institutions of equivalent standing.
- Other forms of externally recognised professional practice or creative output, of a standing equivalent to regular publication of original research.
- Initiating, developing or participating in links between the University and external bodies such as business and industry, the professions, community organisations and policy-makers.
- Evidence of successful engagement in PhD supervision as appropriate to the discipline.
- Efficient and effective contribution to academic support duties within the School or the University.

## **Person Specification**

### **Essential Criteria**

1. An appropriate degree and relevant education experience. Normally a Masters or PhD or an appropriate professional qualification and/or substantive professional experience.
2. Excellent interpersonal skills, with the ability to engage with students using a variety of teaching methods.
3. Experience of teaching at undergraduate or postgraduate level.
4. Evidence of engagement in high-quality research activity.
5. Excellent presentation skills, with the ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, with students, colleagues and external audiences. The ability to explain concepts clearly to students is important.
6. Ability to work individually on own initiative and without close supervision, and as part of a team, and to work in a collegiate way that exemplifies the values of the University.
7. Ability to exercise a degree of innovation and creative problem-solving.
8. Excellent organisational and administrative skills.
9. Ability to prioritise and meet deadlines.
10. A willingness to participate in student support activities beyond required teaching duties.
11. Excellent IT skills, with the ability to produce high-quality, inclusive learning materials.

### **Desirable criteria**

Experience of teaching family law.

An ability to contribute to the working of the Family Law Clinic would be desirable but this is not primarily a position where we are looking for applicants with professional practice experience whose main or primary focus would be clinical.

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.