

Law Students & Voluntary Advice

Careers & Employability Service

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**Manchester
Metropolitan
University**

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Law Students and Voluntary Advice Work

PRO BONO SCHEME AT MMU SCHOOL OF LAW

MMU School of Law offers law students the opportunity to engage in pro bono work via links with the following partner organisations:

- Partners of Prisoners
- Personal Support Unit at Manchester Civil Justice Centre
- Manchester Mediation Service
- Amicus
- The Boaz Trust
- Manchester Citizens Advice Bureau
- Shelter
- Victim Support
- Trafford Law Centre
- Innospace
- Lawworks

The scheme will be advertised to law students in the Autumn term and there will also be a Pro Bono Fair. Closing dates for applications will vary depending on the partner organisation.

MMU SCHOOL OF LAW PRO BONO FAIR

Date: Wednesday 28 September

Time: 2-6 pm

Place: Atrium, Sandra Burslem Building

For further information on pro bono opportunities at MMU School of Law:

E-mail: probono@mmu.ac.uk

Tel: 0161 247 3054

OTHER PRO BONO OPPORTUNITIES

A significant number of students express an interest in working as a volunteer in a law centre or Citizen's Advice Bureau in order to obtain related work experience and to put something back into their local community. Although you may not initially be able to undertake advice work, you will be involved in related administrative and reception duties, and in assisting the caseworkers. You will normally be expected to make a weekly or fortnightly commitment.

LAW CENTRES

Centres provide free initial advice on most legal matters to groups and individuals in the immediate community. Legal issues dealt with may include housing, care in the community, employment (sex and race discrimination), debt, welfare rights, immigration and nationality, women's rights and disability rights. Manchester currently has three law centres: -

SOUTH MANCHESTER LAW CENTRE
584 Stockport Road
Longsight
Manchester M13 0RQ
Phone: 0161 225 5111
Email: admin@smlc.org.uk
Website: www.smlc.org.uk

WYTHENSHAW LAW CENTRE
St Mark's United Reformed Church
Oatlands Road
Wythenshawe
Manchester M22 1AH
Phone: 0161 498 0905/0906
E-mail: info@wlawcentre.co.uk

There are also law centres in Bury, Oldham, Rochdale & Trafford. A full list can be accessed on the Law Centres Federation website (www.lawcentres.org.uk).

CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAUX

The majority of those involved in the CAB Service are volunteers. Over half are advisers but there are also opportunities to assist with office administration, IT, languages, fundraising or PR. CABs get involved in all areas of social policy – social security, consumer and debt, housing, employment, immigration, discrimination, health and community care.

NB. To train as a Gateway Assessor, CABs usually require that students are able to give a minimum commitment of 6-10 hours per week and commit for at least 12 months. You need to be accepted onto the CAB volunteer training programme.

For information about CABs in Manchester contact: -

Manchester CAB Service District Office (Training, Recruitment & Administration)
Swan Buildings
20 Swan Street
Manchester M4 5JW
Phone: 0161 203 2517
Email: Karen.dyson@manchestercab.org
Contact: Karen Dyson (Guidance Tutor)

Manchester CAB have a strong link with the MMU School of Law Pro Bono Scheme and currently recruit Gateway Assessors to work in their bureaux in Hulme, Moston & Withington.

There are also CABs in other parts of Greater Manchester. A list can be searched at www.citizensadvice.org.uk.

FOR GENERAL INFORMATION ON ADVICE WORK : -

National Pro Bono Group – www.lawworks.org.uk
Pro Bono Information Service – www.probonouk.net
Bar Pro Bono Unit- www.barprobono.org.uk
Free Representation Unit – www.thefru.org.uk
The Law Centres Federation – www.lawcentres.org.uk

National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux – www.citizensadvice.org.uk
The CAB Advice Guide - www.adviceguide.org.uk

VOLUNTARY ADVICE WORK IN MANCHESTER: -

Greater Manchester Centre for Voluntary Organisation – www.gmcvo.org.uk

GMCVO co-ordinate a network of voluntary advice and support agencies which may be of relevance: -

For example: -

- Community Advice Centres
- Low Pay Unit
- Immigration Advisory Service
- Prisoners and Families Support Group
- Greater Manchester Victim Support & Witness Service
- Women's Domestic Violence Helpline
- Young Adult Advice and Support Project
- Magistrates Court Witness Service

VOLUNTARY WORK AT MMU

Volunteering MMU is part of the MMU Careers & Employability Service. Opportunities for volunteering are offered in a wide range of areas, including Mentoring, Prison Befriending, Advice, Youth Work and Research. Further information is available at www.mmu.ac.uk/volunteering.

To search for volunteering positions which are listed on the Careers & Employability Service's online opportunities database, register at www.mmu.ac.uk/careers/coves and you can then search under "Volunteering."

Updated by Nick Touati
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