

# **Law Students and Voluntary Advice**

## **Law Students and Voluntary Advice Work**

A significant number of students express an interest in working as a volunteer in a legal advice centre or Citizens 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](mailto:admin@smlc.org.uk)  
Website: [www.smlc.org.uk](http://www.smlc.org.uk)

#### **WYTHENSHAWE LAW CENTRE**

260 Brownley Road  
Wythenshawe  
Manchester M22 5EB  
Phone: 0161 498 0905/0906  
E-mail: [info@wlawcentre.co.uk](mailto:info@wlawcentre.co.uk)

#### **NORTH MANCHESTER LAW CENTRE**

Unit A Harpuhey District Centre  
Off Rochdale Road  
Harpurhey  
Manchester M9 4DH  
Phone: 0161 205 5040  
Email: [info@nmlc.org.uk](mailto:info@nmlc.org.uk)  
Website: [www.nlmc.org.uk](http://www.nlmc.org.uk)

There are also law centres in Bury, Oldham, Rochdale & Trafford. A full list can be accessed on the Law Centres Federation web-site ([www.lawcentres.org.uk](http://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. CAB's 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 volunteer generalist adviser, 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 CAB's in Manchester contact: -

Manchester CAB Service District Office (Training, Recruitment & Administration)  
Swan Buildings  
20 Swan Street  
Manchester M4 5JW  
Phone: 0161 839 7300  
Email: [volunteering@manchestercab.cabnet.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@manchestercab.cabnet.org.uk)  
Contact: Karen Ashley (Training & Recruitment)

Currently, bureaux operate in the following districts of Manchester –  
Beswick, Harpurhey, Hulme, Longsight and Withington.

There are also CABs in other parts of Greater Manchester. A list can be searched at [www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk).

### **FOR GENERAL INFORMATION ON ADVICE WORK :-**

Solicitors Pro Bono Group – [www.lawworks.org.uk](http://www.lawworks.org.uk)  
Pro Bono Information Service – [www.probonouk.net](http://www.probonouk.net)  
Free Representation Unit – [www.freerepresentationunit.org.uk](http://www.freerepresentationunit.org.uk)  
The Law Centres Federation – [www.lawcentres.org.uk](http://www.lawcentres.org.uk)  
National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux – [www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk)  
The CAB Advice Guide - [www.adviceguide.org.uk](http://www.adviceguide.org.uk)

## **VOLUNTARY ADVICE WORK IN MANCHESTER: -**

Greater Manchester Centre for Voluntary Organisation – [www.gmcvo.org.uk](http://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**

MMU has an agency that works with the not-for-profit sector to develop voluntary work experience and project work opportunities for students. It is based in the Students Union at All Saints and you are welcome to call in and discuss the opportunities currently on offer. Alternatively, visit their web site at: - [www.mmu.ac.uk/volunteering](http://www.mmu.ac.uk/volunteering)