

Pre-Law in Wales
Law Clinic Practicum
INST 4970
Summer 2026
3 credits

Course Description:

The module considers interpersonal and legal skills needed effectively to interact with clients, including how to give effective legal advice both orally and in writing.

Instructor contact information:

Your Cardiff contacts will be the co-Heads of Clinical Legal Education and Pro Bono, based in 0.10 of the Law Building, Museum Avenue, Cardiff, Wales, UK - postcode CF10 3AX:

Professor Julie Price – priceja1@cardiff.ac.uk – telephone +44 (0)2920 876510; and Hannah Marchant – walshhj@cardiff.ac.uk – telephone +44 (0)2920 6705.

Office hours

During your time at Cardiff, either Julie or Hannah or nominated Cardiff Law Clinic colleagues will be available initially by email, and for in-person meetings by appointment at any point during the working week. You are encouraged to use the generic email lawplacements@cardiff.ac.uk, which is monitored by Cardiff Law Clinic staff more widely.

Members of the Cardiff teaching team may include other academic staff who are qualified legal practitioners in the United Kingdom.

You will also be given an emergency contact number for a named person at Learn International, the study abroad provider.

Course prerequisites:

The program is taught in English, so students are required to be comfortable in oral and written English. No specific English language levels are required, but students need to be aware that if they do not have an adequate level of oral and written fluency, that might adversely impact upon their performance in the assessments.

Learning Outcomes:

– Law Clinic Practicum Skills: on completion of the course, a student should be able to:

- Apply the principles of enquiry-based learning and problem solving in a legal context to skills needed in a clinical environment, by observing and participating in such environments.
- Undertake basic, accurate Practical Legal Research.
- Prepare for a client interview/client consultation, reflect on different interviewing styles, and undertake client interviews/client consultations.
- Adapt your writing to different audiences, purposes and contexts, including writing a legal letter of advice to a lay client.

This module considers skills associated with dispute resolution, and will consider dispute resolution, both in-court and out of court. Students will look at both civil and criminal matters. The vast majority of legal disputes are settled without litigation (“going to court”), which is costly, time-consuming, and can sour future relations between the parties. So lawyers need to be effective negotiators.

Module elements:

1. Client Consultation/Client Interviewing (15 hours) – “*the practise of communicating with and advising a client on a legal matter*”



Cardiff students representing Wales against 20 other countries in Glasgow 2025. The 2026 International Competition will be hosted in Croatia, and 2027 in Canada.

Learning is based on the International Client Consultation Competition, launched in the US in 1969, adopted by the American Bar Association and now involving law students in more than 20 countries - [International Client Counseling Competition - Home \(brownmosten.com\)](http://brownmosten.com). Students will take part in client interviews involving scenarios from past competitions. They will learn the elements of an effective client interview, such as active and passive listening, effective questioning (open, closed and leading questions), obtaining information sensitively and professionally, abiding by legal professional obligations such as confidentiality and legal ethics, applying the law to the facts that they have obtained in the interview (thinking on their feet, and explaining potentially complex terms in an unpatronizing and manageable way).

2. Law Clinic experience (15 hours) – “dealing with real or simulated clients to advise and assist on law-related matters”



Students will gain exposure to the Cardiff University Law Clinic. Depending on numbers, client base and availability of schemes, that could include being introduced to our clinical training and practices and working on real/simulated law clinic client matters, for example at Cardiff's main court for civil matters, the Civil Justice Centre. (*Please note that the various elements of our clinical portfolio are reviewed regularly, and we cannot guarantee that a specific scheme will always be available, but we will provide law clinic experience*).

3. Legal Writing (15 hours) – “the presentation of legal information/advice in a format relevant to the reader”

Building upon the experience of interviewing a client and orally explaining legal points to them in language they can understand, students will learn to write letters explaining complex legal terms in language that can be understood by non-lawyer clients, avoiding “legalese”.

They may be writing as a law news reporter for a satellite of our innocence project, for the online magazine, The Justice Gap, about access to justice issues – www.justicegap.com - and reflecting upon different writing styles including their own.

Other educational, cultural and social experiences offered:

Typically, this may include events organized by Learn International and/or the law school, such as: Attending criminal and civil courts to observe courts and lawyers in action; Tour of the Senedd (Welsh Parliament) and meeting politicians and law-makers; Visit to major law firms; Cardiff Castle, and other castles; Historical coal mining sites; National Museum of Wales; National History Museum of Wales; Joining a typical “Welsh Male Voice Choir” at a practise session; Cricket practises/matches; other sporting venues eg The Principality Stadium, home to the Welsh Rugby Union.

Required Class Materials:

Readings will be provided during the program and will vary according to the modules selected, but all essential and recommended readings will be provided by the instructors with sufficient advance notice and will be emailed and/or posted on the course web site.

General requirements and expectations for the course:

You will be expected to comply with general professional requirements that relate to practicing lawyers. You will be placed in a real or simulated real client setting, and will be expected to observe client confidentiality and general ethical/professional requirements of being a lawyer. Some elements of the modules include being in a working court setting and/or law clinic, with real clients, lawyers and judges in a legal working environment. For those elements you will be required to dress for court (office wear) and to behave appropriately with courtesy and respect. You will be expected to turn up promptly and attend all elements of the modules. If you are unable to attend for good reason such as illness then you will be expected to let your supervisor know in advance.

Required Participation Outside of Class Meetings:

You may be expected to take part in visits to courts and/or law firms and other organizations during the summer school. These may be in addition to scheduled class times, and will form part of your overall practical experience.

Final Examination:

Legal Practice Skills – the assessment is a Reflective Presentation. In groups (but assessed on your individual contributions of 15 minutes), in the last days of class you will orally present your reflective presentations. This will involve synthesizing and organizing the main points of your presentations, and creating an appropriate visual presentation.

You will be required to complete a reflective diary throughout the course using pro-forma diary entries that will inform your reflective presentation. You will be given time to do this in some of your classes and will have to complete others outside of classes.

In your reflective presentation, you should reflect on whether and how your learning from the course has given you, or allowed you to improve upon, foundational skills employed by legal practitioners, and also whether it has informed your future career planning.

Reassessment: In the event of a FAIL grade:

Legal Practice Skills – reassessment will be facilitated by requiring you to deliver an adjusted 15-minute oral presentation online normally within two months of the end of the course. Feedback will be given on failed assessments, and examiners will liaise with you to find a suitable time slot for the re-assessment to take place remotely.

Grading Scale and Grading Policies:

For both modules, you will be graded as **Pass/Fail**. More specifically:

FAIL - This denotes performances that are:

Not passable: Performance in this range demonstrates hardly any knowledge of the issues raised and hardly any reflective learning. There are substantial omissions, irrelevancies and inaccuracies. A mark in this range may also be awarded to a competent answer to a question largely different from that which has been set.

Poor. Performance in this range may well be warranted where the candidate shows virtually no understanding of the issues raised or has only written a few lines.

Very poor. Performance in this range demonstrates no knowledge of the issues raised and no meaningful reflection.

Unacceptable. A mark in this range may be awarded to a candidate who writes and reflects on nothing, or who largely restates the question, while adding virtually nothing to it.

PASS - This denotes performances that are:

Exceptional. Performance in this range shows real flair and innovation.

Excellent. Performance in this range consistently demonstrates most if not all characteristics for an exceptional performance and excels in them, but will fall short of being an exceptional performance in at least one way.

Very good. Performance in this range typically goes beyond what has been taught and excels in at least one and probably several of the criteria. There is no expectation of originality of exposition or treatment. Areas of relative weakness will be minor.

Good. Performance in this range is good, but not higher than that. It shows sound knowledge and understanding of relevant principles and details, displays some analytical ability and contains no major errors or omissions.

Satisfactory. Performance in this range demonstrates a sound knowledge of the subject, but may not handle the information well in answering the question. It may contain errors and/or omissions

Adequate. Performance in this range is never more than sound in parts, with significant irrelevance, inaccuracy, omission and limited understanding. Passable, but barely so.

Late Work

Late work will be accepted with a 50% deduction if submitted after the due date. Example: If you turn in a 50-point assignment on Monday at 12:30 a.m. and the due date is Sunday at 11:59 p.m., you will receive 25 points maximum for the assignment for perfect work.

Incomplete Grades

The grade of "I" may only be assigned if the student is unable to complete the course due to circumstances beyond the student's control that develop after the last day to withdraw from the course.

Class Withdrawals

It is your responsibility to know important dates, such as the final day to withdraw from classes. You must officially withdraw from any class that you intend to drop.

Academic Integrity

This course upholds a strict policy of academic integrity. All students are expected to complete their work independently and honestly.

This includes:

- Proper citation: All sources used in assignments must be cited appropriately according to the [preferred style guide (e.g., MLA, APA)] to avoid plagiarism.
- Independent work: All assignments must reflect your own understanding of the material. Collaboration on assignments may be allowed in some cases, but only with prior instructor approval and within specified guidelines.
- Honest exam practices: Exams and quizzes must be completed individually and without unauthorized resources.

If you have any questions regarding academic integrity or proper citation, please don't hesitate to ask me.

The Use of AI for Writing in this Course

Use of Generative AI Permitted Under Some Circumstances or with Explicit Permission

During this class, we may use AI Writing tools. You will be informed as to when, where, and how these tools are permitted to be used, along with guidance for

attribution. It is important to note that if AI tools are permitted to be used for an assignment, they should be used with caution and proper citation.

For example:

- You may use generative AI tools to brainstorm ideas for an essay or research paper.
- You may use generative AI tools to help you edit your writing.
- You may not use generative AI tools to generate the content of an essay or research paper.

Required Participation Outside of Class Meetings:

You may be expected to take part in visits to farms, agribusinesses and other organizations during the summer school. These may be in addition to scheduled class times, and will form part of your overall practical experience.

Attendance and Absence policies

This is a study abroad summer school program, so attendance is somewhat different than traditional courses. However, regular, consistent attendance is both expected and required. Failure to maintain regular participation may result in withdrawal, or failure of the course.

Classroom Behavior Policy:

At all times, treat your presence in the classroom and your enrollment in this course as you would a job. Act professionally, arrive on time, pay attention, complete your work in a timely and professional manner, and treat all deadlines seriously. You will be respectful towards your classmates and instructors. Spirited debate and disagreement are to be expected in any classroom and all views will be heard fully, but at all times we will behave civilly and with respect towards one another.

Personal attacks, offensive language, name-calling, and dismissive gestures are not warranted in a learning atmosphere. The instructors have the right to dismiss you from the classroom, study sessions, electronic forums, and other areas where disruptive behavior occurs.

Electronic devices such as mobile phones should be set to silent or turned off. Laptops are allowed for note-taking purposes; those who require laptops for accommodation of disabilities, work with Disability Support Services and your instructors to accommodate your needs. No unauthorized video or audio recording during class is allowed to protect the privacy of your fellow students; for those who require recording for accommodation of disabilities, work with Disability Support Services and your instructors to accommodate your needs.

If you are attending a court building or any other public building you are not permitted to carry any weapons, including pepper-spray or other defense sprays. If you are found to be carrying such items they will be confiscated and the local police may be involved to consider whether any offences under English/Welsh law may have been committed. If you are in any doubt, speak to your Cardiff instructors.

Substantive changes to syllabus.

This syllabus is a guide. Circumstances may alter the reading, teaching schedules, and/or test schedules.

Daily or weekly schedule of topics, activities, and graded work:

The exact daily/weekly schedule will be available closer to the start of the program.