

qLegal
Public Legal Education

Name of project	qLegal – Public Legal Education (PLE)
Delivered by	qLegal Centre for Commercial Law Studies, Queen Mary University of London (QMUL)
Type of work / opportunity	Supervising postgraduate law students as they prepare legal workshops and resources on the legal issues relevant to innovative start-ups, entrepreneurs and non-profits.
Topic area	Corporate, commercial, IP, GDPR, employment, ESG
What is it?	Postgraduate students prepare interactive legal workshops, and bitesize toolkits and videos on legal issues relevant to innovative businesses. See qLegal's resource hub for examples of past projects.
Where is it?	Primarily virtual.
Duration	6-8 hours over 3-4 weeks, per resource.
Frequency	Ad hoc within term time (October - June, with a break in January for exams). Limited opportunities available.
Who is the opportunity open to?	A minimum of 1 qualified lawyer (England & Wales, or a Registered Foreign Lawyer) with a current practising certificate, per project. Other lawyers (trainees upwards) welcome to participate provided 1 volunteer has a current practising certificate.
What expertise does the lawyer need to have?	A passion for helping the next generation of lawyers. Knowledge/experience in the area of law covered in the resource (from corporate, IP, NDAs, data privacy, ESG, employment).
What do the pro bono volunteers do?	• Receive a client brief. • Have a 30 minute call with the students to discuss the brief. • Review a copy of the students' draft workshop presentation, toolkit or video script (as appropriate) and provide constructive feedback.
Insurance position	qLegal provides full insurance and indemnity for all volunteer lawyers provided at least 1 lawyer has a current England & Wales practising certificate.
Other support from organisation/charity	qLegal staff: formulate the project brief; coordinate call(s) and deadlines; provide training and internal supervision for students.
Fee/cost	None, but ad hoc sponsorship of events / student prizes is always welcome!

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Contact	Please contact NPBC In House Pro Bono lead mary@dobsonsmith.consulting for a direct introduction
Background to project/scheme	Launched in 2013, qLegal was one of the first commercial law clinics in the UK. qLegal offers 200+ postgraduate law students (many of whom are studying internationally) opportunities each year to gain practical legal experience alongside their studies. Our mission is to help the next generation of lawyers help the next generation of clients create value in the world. Students provide free legal advice, education and support to innovative start-ups, social enterprises and non-profits across a range of programmes. They do this under the supervision and / or mentorship of qLegal staff and qualified lawyers from our partner law firms and in-house teams. The qLegal team comprises 7 staff members with experience across legal practice, academia, employability, coaching and the creative arts – both in the UK and internationally. They regularly speak at clinical legal education conferences and legal industry events (such as London Tech Week and LegalTech Talks). qLegal works closely with: • Lawyers from 20+ law firms and in-house teams, including longstanding partners Ropes & Gray LLP, Bloomberg, Sidley Austin LLP, MoFo, Morgan Lewis, GSK and Wiggin. • Incubators and accelerators including Imperial Enterprise Lab, Innovate UK, Newable, Allia Impact, Tower Hamlets Council. • Other academics / institutions within QMUL to embed practical learning experiences and employability within the curriculum, including through interdisciplinary projects. qLegal runs 3 main programmes: • Future of Law: legal projects delivered on a 1-to-many basis. Including legal education workshops and videos, thought leadership competitions (ESG/AI), legal design consultancy projects, podcasts (TMT / climate law). • Legal Advisory: 1-to-1 preliminary legal advice on corporate, NDAs, IP and GDPR law. • Externships: students provide legal support (not advice) to a start-up 1 day a week for 6 months. qLegal won the University Commercial Impact Award at the inaugural LexisNexis Awards in 2025, in recognition of the forward-thinking programmes that equip students with the skills to navigate the

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	commercial aspects of both corporate clients and law firm management. Considerable work goes into delivering: • Exceptional student experience – many students choose to study at QMUL for a chance to join qLegal; and • A smooth (plug-and-play) volunteering opportunity for external lawyers. Volunteer lawyers often continue to support qLegal when they move to new firms. Don't take our word for it – hear what our students say about qLegal in this video!
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