

March 2011

£1 million Law School Improvements



The building hosting Newcastle Law School has recently undergone major improvements with a fully refurbished Lecture Theatre. The Lecture Theatre has had its capacity increased so that it now seats 230 students and is now fitted with state-of-the-art audio systems. The refurbishment is part of a larger renovation of Newcastle Law School with a brand new entrance and reception area at what used to be the back entrance next to the Robinson Library.

Head of Newcastle Law School Professor Chris Rodgers said of the developments: "The renovations will fully integrate the Law School with the rest of the University campus and no doubt provide a better student experience. The Lecture Theatre now allows us to use high-tech facilities and we look very much forward to using it in the years to come."

Head of School Introduction

Inside This Issue

- 1 Law School Improvements
- 2 Head of School Introduction
- 3 LLM Director Introduction
- 3 Amnesty International Lecture
- 4 New LLM Programmes
- 5 PG Survey Results
- 5 Teaching Standards
- 5 PhD Success
- 6 International Scholarships
- 7 Student Testimonies
- 8 Human Rights Group
- 8 Staff News
- 9 Staff News

Welcome to the latest edition of the Postgraduate newsletter for current students and applicants for postgraduate study at Newcastle Law School. We pride ourselves at Newcastle on providing the highest standards in the learning and teaching experience that we offer our students and you will see from the items in this newsletter that we have made a number of achievements in the last 12 months that show we are delivering strongly on this mission statement for our current and prospective students. External indicators have awarded us very strong marks for our student provision. The National Student Satisfaction Surveys for both 2009 and 2010 ranked us 2nd top law School in the UK for overall student satisfaction, with scores of 98% in each year. These scores are not only a fantastic achievement for the School – they also underpin our commitment to listen to students’ views and constantly seek to improve our learning provision where necessary. These scores were matched by excellent rankings for the Law School in several important league tables published in the last 6 months – 3rd best law school in the UK (Sunday Times) and 8th in the Guardian University Guide to UK Law Schools. We believe strongly in research – led teaching, and 85% of our research provision and outputs were ranked as “internationally excellent” by the Research Assessment Exercise in 2008.



If you join us at Newcastle you will be joining a friendly learning community, dedicated to legal scholarship of the highest quality. Many of the staff who will be teaching and supervising you are internationally-recognised leaders in their fields of legal scholarship. Our facilities provision for postgraduate students is also very good. We have dedicated study space in the library for postgraduate students, and our postgraduate research students have two dedicated computer rooms for private study. Newcastle University has, additionally, recently invested over one million pounds in new facilities for the Law School, including an expanded and improved Law Lecture Theatre with state of the art computer and digital facilities, and new student common room facilities. If you have applied to Newcastle for a place on our LLM or PhD programmes I look forward to meeting you and welcoming you to the School,

Professor Chris Rodgers

LL.M Degree Programme Director Introduction

Here at Newcastle Law School we pride ourselves on the academic attention and support we provide our students, whether under-graduate or post-graduate, international or EU students. This is evident from the continuous and consistent high assessment results that we obtain in national surveys such as the National Student Satisfaction Survey in which our Law School is ranked in the Top Two with 98% of overall satisfaction result. More recently, the Sunday Times University Guide has ranked our Law School third after Oxford and Cambridge.

Students can rest assured that by studying at Newcastle Law School they will have access to excellent library, computer and teaching facilities, with a recently refurbished lecture theatre equipped with high-tech equipment and a new entrance & reception area.

Quite significantly, students will be given the opportunity to study in a research-led and research-driven environment and they will be taught by leading academics in their respective fields of law. Many of our LL.M graduates lead successful careers in international and non-governmental organizations, international firms and corporations, and in the academic sphere.

New LL.M students will be able to specialise in areas such as, among others, European Environmental Law, Corporate Governance and Corporate Finance Law, the Law of the World Trade Organisation, the Movement of Persons in a Global World, and Foundations of Public International Law.

For more information about our LL.M Degree Programmes email Elena Katselli at Elena.katselli@ncl.ac.uk or look at our website:

<http://www.ncl.ac.uk/nuls/postgraduate/>.

To apply for one of our LL.M Degree Programmes visit: <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/postgraduate/apply/>.

Dr Elena Katselli, LL.M. Programme Director

Amnesty International Memorial Lecture



Dr Katselli was invited by Amnesty International (Newcastle) to give the Aisha Ibrahim Duhulom 2nd Annual Memorial Lecture. The lecture was entitled "The Fall and Rise of Human Rights" and took place on 27 October 2010.

Newcastle Law School is pleased to announce exciting new LL.M. programmes

In an attempt to improve student experience and to offer enhanced knowledge on post-graduate students' chosen field of study, Newcastle Law School is pleased to announce the re-structuring of its current LL.M. programmes with a more specialist focus. The purpose of the changes is to provide a wider selection of modules to prospective candidates that fall within their immediate academic and professional interests. These programmes are subject to final approval.

According to these changes, the LL.M. in International Business Law will replace the existing LL.M. in International Commercial Law, the LL.M. in Environmental Regulation and Sustainable Development will replace the existing LL.M. in Environmental Law and Policy, whilst the LL.M. in International Legal Studies will provide more specialised options to prospective LL.M. students.

LLM in International Business Law

The Masters in International Business Law is designed to give students an advanced and critical understanding of some of the main elements of the public and private law framework in which international companies and other forms of business organisation operate. It examines the corporate legal form and the problems surrounding management and accountability of large, powerful multinational companies, their managers and owners. It considers alternative structures for doing business and raising finance for commercial enterprise and it explains the contractual dynamics of international trade and how best to manage contractual risk when selling and buying in different countries and different currencies as well as dispute resolution techniques when problems arise. A key component of the course involves understanding and debating the legal framework for global trade established by the World Trade Organisation. When are subsidies, import and export quotas and tariffs fair and permissible measures that developing nations can employ and when are they illegal protectionist measures? What measures can a company or country take if it suspects it is doing business on a cross border basis with one hand tied behind its back? These courses all involve interesting questions about economic policy and geopolitics as well as technical questions of legal analysis and will provide invaluable insights to anyone with a genuine interest in working for internationally active businesses or indeed, for Government departments or regulatory bodies concerned with international business. Elective courses are also available in International Commercial Arbitration, International Credit and Secured financing, Intellectual Property law, public procurement law, competition law, banking regulation and supervision, legal aspects of money laundering and financial crime, foundations of public international law and the movement of persons in a global world.

LLM in Sustainable Development and Environmental Regulation

This degree is aimed at students with an interest in environmental law and regulation and is designed to allow students to specialise in courses with particular relevance to environmental law. At least 60 credits must come from environmental law modules. By studying the LL.M. in Sustainable Development and Environmental Regulation, you will gain a greater understanding of the law and regulation relating to the environment. Students following this degree often have experience of working in the environmental field, although this is not a requirement. The degree is also ideal for students with non-law degrees who have an interest in gaining further understanding of environmental law and regulation.

LLM in International Legal Studies

In an increasingly inter-dependent and globalised world where States, individuals and international organisations emerge as primary actors, International Legal Studies becomes a field of law of paramount significance in areas such as World Trade Law, Human Rights, Environmental Law and Business Law. This Masters programme aims to provide comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the nature, structure and function of the international legal system and how it influences strategic national and international policies, whether in times of war or in times of peace. It provides the essential knowledge for understanding the fundamental principles on which inter-State relations are based and it explores the relationship of States with various other actors such as individuals and international organisations. It provides a critical approach on contemporary challenges such as the role of foreign affairs in the protection of human rights, the use of nuclear weapons, the proliferation of legal regimes and institutions that have allegedly led to the fragmentation of international law, the resolution of international disputes and the promotion of international peace and security. It further examines the rights and responsibilities of individuals in an international context with an analysis of recent human rights atrocities such as war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity and the role of international criminal courts and tribunals, such as those trying Liberia's former President Charles Taylor and Radovan Karadzic. This programme will be of particular value to those interested in pursuing a career in international organisations and non-governmental organisations, in the public and diplomatic sector as legal advisors, and law firms.

Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey Results

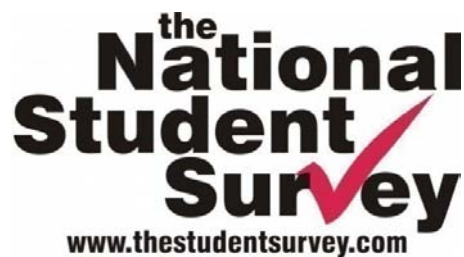
During the recent Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey (PTES), held between March – May 2010, the Law School scored very highly among its LL.M students. In particular, LL.M students gave high percentages to the following areas (all out of 5):

- Effectiveness of teaching and learning methods (4.55)
- Teaching support received (4.64)
- Intellectually stimulating course (4.55)
- Staff good at explaining things (4.55); made the subject interesting (4.36); enthusiastic about what they are teaching (4.55)
- My supervisor has the skills and subject knowledge to adequately support my dissertation (4.50)
- The programme is well-organised and is running smoothly (4.55)
- The library resources and services are good enough for my needs (4.55); and easily accessible (4.60)
- The programme has developed my research skills (4.36); my transferable skills (4.40)
- As a result of the programme I am more confident about independent learning (4.45)
- The programme has helped me to present myself with confidence (4.36)
- As a result of the programme my communication skills have improved (4.55)

Ph.D. Success

Newcastle Law School would like to congratulate the following students who successfully defended their Ph.D.s in 2010-2011:

- Kuanruthai Jangjumrus Siripatthanakosol, thesis on 'Human trafficking for Sexual Exploitation. The framework of Human Rights Protection' (supervised by Ashley Wilton).
- Geoff Wadsworth, thesis on 'Legal issues surrounding leases and Tyneside flats' (supervised by Chris Rodgers).
- Ismaeel Aljeriwi, 'The Compatibility of Saudi Domestic Law with the Seller's Obligations under the Vienna Convention' (supervised by Ian Dawson & Orkun Akseli).
- Ann Sinclair, thesis on 'Timeless Considerations: An Historical analysis of the development of residency and Contract Law, Gender and Parenting' (supervised by Richard Collier & Ian Ward)



Praise for Teaching Standards

Newcastle Law School is one of five UK Law Schools mentioned in the Times under the heading 'How Do You Find Great Lectures?' The Law School is mentioned as a result of its high student satisfaction rate which saw 98% of students surveyed in the National Student Satisfaction Survey (NSSS) give the Law School the highest overall ratings for student satisfaction.

In the article, Head of Newcastle Law School Professor Chris Rodgers says "the School's scores reflect a commitment to listening to students' views, and a strong emphasis on structured feedback and good organisation."

Funding for Postgraduate Taught Programmes for International Students

Newcastle Law School has established a number of scholarships for its LL.M. programmes:

ASEAN Scholarships

In 2006, we launched a new Scholarship Scheme for students from the ASEAN countries. We are offering up to three scholarships. One scholarship amounts to **100% of the tuition fees** and **two amount to 50%** of the tuition fees. This is one of the most attractive schemes of its kind in the UK.

Eligibility

The scholarships are awarded exclusively on academic merit in recognition of academic excellence. They are open to those who have previously studied or who are currently studying in any of the ASEAN countries and classified as overseas fees students.

International Scholarships

Also available are 4 international scholarships worth up to £2,500 pounds each to international (non-EU) students choosing to study for an LL.M degree at Newcastle Law School in the academic year 2011-12

Eligibility

The scholarships are awarded exclusively on academic merit in recognition of academic excellence.

Further conditions apply to these scholarships, more information can be found at

<http://www.ncl.ac.uk/nuls/postgraduate/taught/funding/> or contact Gemma Hayton (gemma.hayton@ncl.ac.uk).

Applications

For information of how to apply for a place on one of our programmes, please visit: <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/postgraduate/apply/> - we strongly recommend on-line applications. All applications will be automatically considered for a scholarship and no separate scholarship application is necessary. **Closing date:** Applications and supporting documents must be received by 31st May 2011 at Newcastle University. You may need to apply earlier if you do so through an agent. We encourage applicants to apply early.

HaSS Masters Excellence Scholarship Scheme 2011

The Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences is offering 15 awards of £2000 to the highest achieving Masters degree applicants across the Faculty. Scholarship awards are for UK/EU students who are 2011 Newcastle University graduates studying full time HaSS masters in 2011. Applicants must be expecting high 2:1/first degree honours.

Successful applicants will be chosen on academic achievements and supporting personal statement. For more information on eligibility and how to apply visit <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/hss/postgrad/excellencescholarships.htm>

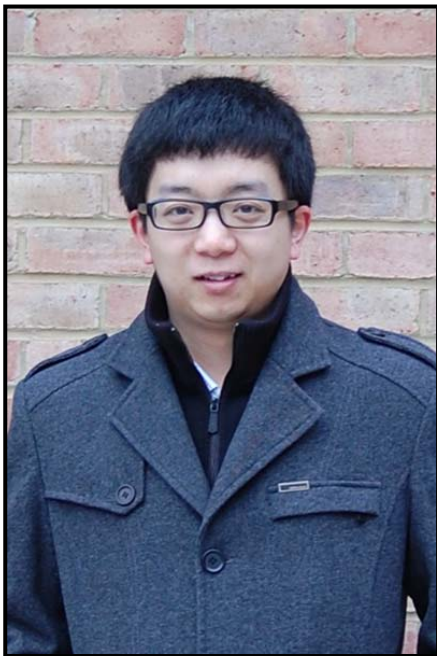
International Summer School 2011

Newcastle University offers a three-week summer school for those about to start University, already at University or those interested to spend some educational time over the summer. Prospective applicants may choose from a wide list of topics including Law. By applying to Newcastle University International Summer School you will have an outstanding academic experience. To apply please visit www.ncl.ac.uk/nuiss/apply

Student Testimonies

"When I finished my LL.B. I felt that I had only scraped the surface of the vast field of law and there was so much more that I wanted to study. A year later, when the opportunity came to do the LL.M in International Legal Studies, I jumped to the prospect. I knew I was attracted to international law, having touched on some small areas of international human rights during the LL.B. What I did not know then is that through the LL.M I found my passion that eventually led to doing a Ph.D. and teaching. There are several reasons for this. Enthusiasm for the subject area is a vital requirement, but so is the quality of the teaching and research, as well as the support received whilst writing the dissertation. Moreover, being taught by enthusiastic lecturers made the LL.M. easier and enjoyable – although it can be hard work! Studying the LL.M at Newcastle was one of the best choices I had ever made. When the course came to an end, my supervisor actively encouraged me to publish my dissertation (which I did) and apply for the Ph.D. (currently 3rd year!). I have no doubt that the LL.M. played a significant role in my academic career and I would highly recommend it!"

Patricia, LL.M in International Legal Studies



The studying environment in the Law School is excellent and it helps me cultivate a good habit which is to pay attention to detailed information.

Lei Zhang, LL.M in International Commercial Law

"I think the main benefit of holding the LL.M is that it has helped me stand out in a very crowded pool of applicants for training contracts... On a day to day basis, I think the LL.M improved my knowledge base which was particularly useful when I was in the property department. This was not just the knowledge gained in tutorials, but at the guest lectures by Judge Schomburg, Lord Phillips, the IP & Competition Panel Evening being notable examples. The presentations I had to give as part of the IP & Competition Law module were useful in developing presentation skills and dealing with questions whilst on your feet."

Stuart, LL.M Environmental Law and Policy

Human Rights Research Group joins Association of Human Rights Institutes



The Newcastle Human Rights Research Group is pleased to announce that it has recently been accepted as a member to the Association of Human Rights Institutes (AHRI).

AHRI is an international academic network of human rights institutes and centres which aim to make an impact in the field of human rights. It currently consists of well-reputed European centres/institutes and is currently funded by European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST). COST, supported by the European Union, is an 'inter-governmental framework for European Cooperation in Science and Technology allowing the co-ordination of nationally-funded research on a European level'.

More information about AHRI can be found at their website: <http://www.ahri-network.org/>.

The successful application of the Newcastle Human Rights Research Group to become an AHRI member falls within the Group's co-ordinated efforts to play an influential role in the latest human rights developments and to actively engage with other actors in the promotion and respect of human rights internationally.

Staff News

Prof Rodgers to visit China

Prof C Rodgers and Dr D Liu are visiting some top Chinese Law Schools in May. The visit aims to carry through our strategic plan for internationalisation. During the visit, they are to deliver guest lectures and establish cooperation with the Chinese institutions.

Head of School appointed as Visiting Professor

Professor Chris Rodgers has been appointed Visiting Professor at the International Islamic University Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur.

Chris will be visiting Malaysia in March 2011. He has been asked to review the provision of law courses in the public law department of IIUM's Law School, and to advise IIUM on improving the course content and administration of their undergraduate and postgraduate law courses. He will also be discussing future collaborations between Newcastle and IIUM with the Dean of the IIUM Law School, and giving lectures in environmental law at IIUM.

Dr Brown awarded funding

Dr Kevin Brown has recently been awarded £2,872 from the Humanities & Social Sciences Faculty Research Fund for a project Analysing the Strategies of Social Housing Providers in the Governance and Regulation of Anti-Social Behaviour.

Prof. Collier research successes

Professor Richard Collier was a Visiting Scholar at the Centre of Gender Excellence (GEXcel) Sweden, Linköping University/Örebro Universities in January 2011, and will be returning in May to undertake work on transnational masculinities.

He has recently been awarded a Research Fellowship at the Faculty of Law UNSW and a Visiting Fellowship at the Australian National University College of Law (Sept-Nov 2011).

In October 2010 was a panellist at the 'Battle of Ideas' on fatherhood and social policy, discussing his recently published books.

More Staff News

Dr Pedersen delivers Climate Change paper

Dr Pedersen delivered a paper titled 'The Human Rights Implications of Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation' at Widener Law School in October 2010.

In addition, Dr Pedersen delivered a paper titled 'An International Environmental Law Court: Realistic Utopia or Global Legalism?' at the International Law Weekend hosted by the American Branch of the International Law Association at Fordham Law School, October 2010.

Visiting Fellowship for Dr Gil-Bazo

Dr Maria-Teresa Gil-Bazo has been invited to be a Visiting Fellow at the Centre for European Studies at the Australian National University. Dr Gil-Bazo will join the Centre in January 2011.

During her stay she will present her paper "The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and the Right to be Granted Asylum in the Union's Law" at a Public Lecture.

She will also present her paper on the Common European Asylum System at the ANU Centre for European Studies and Freilich Foundation Summer School on "Refugee and Asylum Seekers – whose responsibility?" Further information is available at <http://ces.anu.edu.au>.

Dr Gil-Bazo is on research leave during the second semester of the 2010/11 academic year, when she will be completing her research on conceptual and theoretical approaches to sovereignty and statehood.

Dr Katselli visits Netherlands Institute of Human Rights

Dr Elena Katselli was invited to visit the Netherlands Institute of Human Rights, Utrecht Law School in January 2011. While in Utrecht, Dr Katselli continued her research collaboration with the Institute and in particular with Dr Antoine Buyse & Dr Yves Haeck on the project on protection of property rights.

Dr Katselli's first book run sold out!

Dr Katselli-Poukaki's book entitled "The Problem of Enforcement in International Law: Countermeasures, the Non-Injured State and the Idea of International Community" published by Routledge in December 2009 has sold out. The publisher announced the reprint of the book format in the summer of 2011, whilst currently it is on-demand status

Dr Akseli observes UNCITRAL Working Group

Dr. Orkun Akseli was invited as an observer to the 18th Session of the UNCITRAL Working Group VI (Security Interests) meetings in Vienna. The Working Group discussed the registration of security rights in movable assets with a view to prepare model regulation to support the future implementations of the UNCITRAL Legislative Guide in Secured Transactions.

Dr Akseli's monograph has been published

Dr. Akseli's monograph 'International Secured Transactions Law Facilitation of Credit and International Conventions and Instruments' (Routledge, 2011) has examined the underlying principles of the Legislative Guide and conventions on secured transitions law.

<http://www.routledge.com/books/details/9780415488105/>

De Mars defends doctoral thesis

Sylvia de Mars has successfully defended her doctoral thesis entitled 'The Influence of Recent Developments in EU Procurement Law on the Procurement Regulation of Member States: A Case Study of the UK, the Netherlands and France' on 13 December 2010.

The examiners were Dr Annamaria La Chimia, Lecturer in Law at the University of Nottingham and Professor Peter Kunzlik, Professor in Law at The City Law School, London.

Prof. Gray acts as consultant for Volunteer Corps.

Joanna Gray, Professor of Financial Regulation, was invited to draw on her research expertise in order to conduct a consultancy project in December 2010 for the Financial Services Volunteer Corps in Rabat, Morocco.

The Financial Services Volunteer Corps is a not-for-profit, public-private partnership whose mission is to help build the sound financial systems needed to support robust market economies in transitional & developing countries. The project involved consultations on Operational Risk Analysis within a Financial Stability Framework with the Conseil Déontologique de Valeurs Mobilières (CDVM), the Moroccan regulator responsible for oversight of capital markets.