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Head of School Introduction

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 2009, 2010 and 2011 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. For example, the Sunday Times University Guide 2012 ranks Newcastle Law School as the number one law school in the UK.

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
Head of School

Sunday Times Ranking

Newcastle has been ranked the number one UK law school in the prestigious Sunday Times University Guide 2012.

The authoritative guide which ranks universities and departments according to criteria of teaching excellence, student satisfaction, peer assessment, research quality, the number of graduates assumed to be unemployed, number of A-levels, and drop-out rates adds to the Law School's impressive results in the 2011 National Student Satisfaction Survey (NSSS), where Newcastle Law School scored an impressive 98% satisfaction for the third year running. Newcastle Law School has consistently been found to be among the top 10 UK Law Schools for some time and receiving the top ranking from The Sunday Times is an excellent achievement for our Law School. As a relatively small Law School, our strength is in fostering a learning community among students and staff with a shared objective; the provision of high quality teaching by academics at the forefront of research in their fields, and supported by high quality administrative and library staff. This ranking, and that of the recent NSSS result, is a welcome recognition of the tremendous work by Newcastle Law School staff but most of all it highlights the strength of a Newcastle law degree to current and future students.

International Scholarships

Newcastle Law School has established up to eight international scholarships for the following programmes:

LLM International Business Law

LLM Environmental Regulation and Sustainable Development

LLM International Legal Studies

Scholarships ranging from a minimum of £2,500 each, to full tuition fee waiver are available. If awarded, international scholarships are deducted from the tuition fees. Tuition fees for 2012 entry are £11,165.

In order to be eligible for scholarships students will have to have accepted an offer to study at Newcastle Law School. Candidates having accepted an offer and interested in applying should contact Ms Gemma Hayton no later than May 31st 2012.

Finance and Financial Law Research Group

The new Finance and Financial Law Research Group recently held its inaugural symposium on 6th July in Newcastle Law School

The new Finance and Financial Law Research Group recently held its inaugural symposium on 6th July in Newcastle Law School and hosted Professor Charles Goodhart (London School of Economics) who spoke on "The Role of Default in Macroeconomics". The afternoon consisted of a panel discussion reflecting on the financial crisis involving Professors Robert Sollis (Newcastle University Business School), Joanna Gray (Newcastle Law School), David Campbell (University of Leeds Law School), Robert Hudson (Newcastle University Business School) and Professor Goodhart. The symposium was chaired by David Bholat (University of Chicago, Visiting Scholar at Newcastle Law School), and further details have been posted on his blog at <http://davidbholat.blogspot.com/>.

The new Research Group has also recently been recognised by the Newcastle Institute for Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities and awarded a grant of £2,700 to support its activities during 2011/12. Planned activities for the forthcoming year include a short seminar series on sanctions and accountability for corporate crime and a workshop reflecting on the final report of the UK Independent Commission on Banking, expected on 12 September 2011.

New LLM Degrees, New Modules

As part of our ongoing effort to improve the quality of teaching that students can expect at Newcastle Law School, our recent drive to re-launch our LLM degrees;

International Business Law

International Legal Studies and

Environmental Regulation and Sustainable Development

under new banners and with new content has led to the creation of seven new specialist optional modules. The courses are custom-designed around the research interest of staff, and thus will not only be taught by experts in the relevant fields, but also represent a unique opportunity for students to engage with current, important legal issues through the subjects they are taking.

The following new modules have been introduced under this initiative to create a stronger bridge between the research carried out by Law School staff, and the student experience:

Biodiversity and Natural Resources Law

This module will examine the law protecting living natural resources and biodiversity, including the Convention on Biological Diversity, the law of the EU concerning the sustainable use of living natural resources, the EU Directives on Wild Birds, and on natural Habitats and Species, and nature conservation law in the UK. It will examine not only on the existing rules, but also consider to what extent regulation *can* in fact protect natural resources, and will be of interest to any students with either a professional or personal interest in environmental law and policy.

International Commercial Arbitration

This module offers the fundamentals of international commercial arbitration, the most important dispute settlement mechanism for international commercial disputes. The module provides a complete introduction to the functioning of arbitration in theory and in practice, and thus will prove tremendously interesting and helpful to students who are expecting to deal with international commercial disputes in their future careers. The content of the module focuses mainly on English arbitration law, but to provide an international dimension to the module, English law is compared and contrasted especially with the UNCITRAL Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration.

Environmental Impact Assessment: Law and Practice

This module will introduce students to EIA as a regulatory tool of environmental management. It will, in particular, look at its ability to improve decision making and prevent undesirable impacts from large scale infrastructure and other development. The module will look at the way in which EIA has been used in the EU and in the UK, and critically evaluate the methods used to give it effect, especially (but not exclusively) through the development planning system and development control. The module will use a case study of a real EIA, using planning documents, to examine the changes in decision making about the environment brought about by EIA as a tool of development planning, and will be of interest to any students working in either environmental law and policy or planning.

The Law of International Credit and Security

This course deals with the various ways in which creditors improve their prospects of being repaid loans they have made to (principally corporate) debtors. The primary focus will be on proprietary security, whether it takes the form of mortgage, charge or pledge. In addition, extensive treatment will be given to quasi security which are not viewed as security traditionally but serve similar functional purpose as security. Priority issues will be considered where disputes among a debtor's creditors are resolved, and the various ways in which creditors may have to give public notice of their interests. Consideration will also be given to proposals for reforming the law. The module is centred on international instruments and conventions promulgated and sponsored by bodies such as the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (Unidroit) and the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) but comparisons will be made with English and American laws and significant civil law systems. The module should benefit all students with an interest in commercial transactions across borders, and their practical implications.

Public Procurement: International Law and Standards

What rules determine how the government conducts its purchasing? What are 'good public procurement rules'? These two very topical and difficult questions lie at the heart of this module. In it, students examine both national and international procurement regulatory regimes, looking at the UNCITRAL Model Law on Procurement, the EU's legal rules, and the Government Procurement Agreement of the WTO. The module also considers current issues such as how procurement rules can prevent or manage corruption, and how procurement can be used to drive social and environmental policy objectives. An increased awareness of public procurement regulation will interest and benefit all commercial lawyers, though it is of particular interest for those seeking to work in international trade law or national government and industry (such as construction, defence, and the utilities sector).

International Criminal Law

This module will provide comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the legal framework of the international criminal responsibility of the individual for serious atrocities such as war crimes and crimes against humanity as mainly developed in the post-World War II era. In this regard, the first part will focus on substantive law, in other words what constitutes an international crime, what is the applicable law and what is the role of State immunities, amnesties and defences for the prosecution of international crimes. The second part will focus predominantly on the international judicial mechanisms for the prosecution of international crimes such as the International Criminal Court, the two ad hoc International Criminal Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda and the Special Court for Sierra Leone. Any student with an interest in modern history, human rights or criminal justice will be particularly interested in undertaking this module.

Contemporary Problems of International Law and International Dispute Settlement

This module will examine in depth some of the most controversial legal issues in contemporary international State relations: the concept of "international community" and "collective interests", the fragmentation of international law, the influence of human rights in the exercise of foreign affairs, the use of nuclear weapons by States, the role of the United Nations in international dispute resolution, humanitarian intervention, self-defence and aggression. The module will critically assess the powers of States to engage in activities that may imperil either the survival of other States, i.e. through the use of nuclear weapons, or threaten the individual, and it will examine some of the contemporary challenges that put the integrity of the international legal system at risk. The module will provide a critical analysis of both State practice and the law and it will enable comprehensive understanding of complex legal disputes in a contemporary context, and will be of particular interest to those who wish to pursue a career as legal or policy advisors in international organisations, NGOs, or the wider public sector.

New Law School Facilities

As part of ongoing refurbishments, which has seen the Law School extend and fully refurbish its Lecture Theatre, the Law School has also inaugurated its brand new purpose built mooting room. The mooting room will become the primary venue for the Law School's successful mooting teams in the years to come.



Newcastle Law School News

Professor Richard Collier

In May 2011 Richard Collier was a Senior Visiting Scholar at the European Centre of Gender Excellence (GEXcel) Sweden, Linköping University, presenting papers at the conference 'Men and Masculinities: Transnationalising Flows, Technologies, Institutions, Theory' and at the Department of Social Work. In June Richard presented his research at the European University Institute, Florence at the workshop 'The European Family: New Challenges to Old Paradigms'. Richard's recent book *Men, Law and Gender: Rethinking The 'Man of Law'* has just been republished as paperback (2011). In November 2011 was a Visiting Professor Fellow at the Faculty of Law, University of New South Wales, and Visiting Scholar at the College of Law, Australian National University. He has also recently presented papers on his research at the Universities of Edinburgh and Sunderland.

Dr Elena Katselli – Keynote Speech

Dr Katselli has been invited to give a keynote speech at the "London International Human Rights Congress 2011 - Immigration and Integration in an Age of Austerity : Challenges and Opportunities" (London: International Conference 22-25 November 2011). Dr Katselli's speech is entitled 'Latest legal developments on the rights of internally displaced people in an era of integration and austerity'. More information about the participants can be found in the following link:

http://www.culturaldiplomacy.org/gphr/index.php?en_bihrc-2011_speakers

Dr Ludivine Petetin – PhD Success

Lecturer Ludivine Petetin has successfully defended her PhD thesis titled 'The Regulation of Modern Agricultural Biotechnology in EU, US and WTO Law' at Leeds Law School.

Newcastle Law School News

Newcastle Human Rights Research Group

Newcastle Human Rights Research Group has recently been awarded £3,330 by the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences for the purpose of organising a number of human rights-related events in the academic year 2011-12. In particular, the funding will enable the Group to organise a one-day symposium entitled 'After Bin Laden: Counter-Terrorism Co-operation under International Law', a seminar series on Inter-Generational Justice and a series of round-table discussions.

Newcastle Human Rights Research Group is a NIASSH member (Newcastle Institute of Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities) and recently joined AHRI (Association of Human Rights Institutes), an international network of human rights institutes funded by the European Union under the COST programme. The Group, whose director is Dr Tom Frost, is based at Newcastle Law School. Its aim is 'to raise the intellectual awareness within and outside the University about the promotion and respect of human rights. The Group aspires to contribute to contemporary discussions on the threats and challenges to human rights as a legal discipline while engaging in dialogue between supporters and sceptics alike about the concept of human rights, its history and development, why it is needed (if at all), its aims and objectives and to give the opportunity to question and challenge these developments.'

Dr Ludivine Petetin – Presentation

Dr Ludivine Petetin acted as UK joint rapporteur to Commission III on the development of agricultural law in the EU, in the Member States and in the WTO at the 26th European Congress and Colloquium of Rural Law (CEDR) at the annual conference in Bucharest, Romania on 21-24 September.

Newcastle Law School Environmental Regulation Research Group

Newcastle Law School Environmental Regulation Research Group hosted a one day conference titled 'A Sustainable Countryside? Regulating New Technologies for Food Farming and Ecology' on September 21st 2011.

The conference addressed important issues in developing – and then implementing – a vision for a 'sustainable' countryside and for sustainable rural communities.

Key note speakers addressed several overarching themes including what is a 'sustainable' countryside? How do we balance the demands of making the changes in land use required by climate change adaptation and mitigation, while also ensuring food security? And how do we reconcile these objectives with the continuing protection of biodiversity and precious landscapes?

The three panel themes addressed key challenges for the future regulation and governance of our countryside: (i) climate change policy and its implementation, (ii) new technologies in the energy sector, including farm-based energy production, and (iii) new technologies in food production.

Dr Ole W Pedersen

Dr Ole W Pedersen was invited to address a group of European legal practitioners and civil servants on the topic of 'Recent Jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights in the Area of Environmental Law' at a workshop hosted by the Academy of European Law (ERA) at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg on 29-30 November.