**DURHAM LAW SCHOOL**

**VISITING SCHOLARS PROGRAMME**

**(Revised 2025)**

Introduction

1. Durham Law School welcomes applications to its Visiting Scholars Programme. The School is widely acknowledged to be one of the leading Law Schools in the UK and is a recognised centre of international excellence in legal scholarship and research. [Academic staff in the Law School](https://www.durham.ac.uk/departments/academic/law/about-us/staff/academic-staff/) conduct research individually and via a number of [research centres and clusters](https://www.durham.ac.uk/departments/academic/law/research/groups/).
2. The aim of the Visiting Scholars Programme is to enable visitors to conduct programmes of research within Durham Law School, to enrich Durham Law School’s research environment to the benefit of staff and/or students through the active participation of visiting scholars in the academic life of the Law School (see further para 14); and to further develop and promote external research links with other universities, institutions and practitioners in the United Kingdom and overseas.

Eligibility

1. The Visiting Scholar Programme is open to established academics at any career stage working in any UK or overseas university or research institution. We also welcome applications from UK or overseas-based practitioners who wish to conduct research in the Law School**. N.b., applications from postgraduate research students should be made via the Visiting Researcher Scheme**. (For more information about this scheme, please contact [law.researchofficer@durham.ac.uk](mailto:law.researchofficer@durham.ac.uk).) We will not normally consider applications from scholars looking for a post-doctoral position following the completion of their PhD.
2. Research visits may be for a period from one week to one year, though we give preference to applications for visits of up to three months. In planning their visit, applicants should take note of the university’s [term dates](https://www.durham.ac.uk/academic-dates/), as academic staff may be less available and there is likely to be less activity (seminars, workshops, etc) outside of those dates.
3. **Preference will be given to applicants working in the area of one of our research centres or clusters**. However, consideration will also be given to applications outwith those areas, where the applicant has a particular desire to work closely with a member of our academic staff. See further paras 16-17 below.
4. **Preference will also be given to applicants from partner or prospective partner institutions.**In such cases, the application should clearly outline how the proposed visit will contribute to the development of broader collaborative initiatives between the Law School and the partner or prospective partner institution.
5. We welcome and encourage applications from those who are currently underrepresented in Durham Law School, including people with disabilities and from racially minoritised ethnic groups.
6. Applicants will be required to satisfy us that they have sufficiently strong English-language skills to be able to participate in the life of the Law School.

Entitlements

1. The academic visitor will receive:

* A university card and IT account;
* Use of shared office space within the Law School;
* The sponsorship of a member of the Durham Law School academic staff, who will meet with the visitor and provide guidance and advice when they first arrive in Durham, introduce them other members of the academic staff, and facilitate their integration into the academic life of the Law School (see further paras 16–17 below). N.b., it will be up to the visitor to arrange the initial meeting with their sponsor;
* Full access to Durham University library and all library services, including access to electronic holdings, databases and journals. Induction to the library and/or electronic resources can be arranged on request.
* Permission to attend lectures, seminars, discussion groups and/or any other events run by the Law School or by research centres/clusters (by arrangement). The visitor's email address will be added to the law staff mailing list, so that he or she is notified of any Law School events that may be of interest or relevance.

1. The School does not provide Visiting Scholars with computer equipment. Visitors are therefore welcome to bring their own laptops with them and will be able to access wireless internet throughout the university estate. However, all laptops must have suitable and regularly updated anti-virus software, and must have up-to-date critical updates for Windows.
2. The Law School does not charge a fee for Visiting Scholars. However, nor does it provide financial support for travel, accommodation or subsistence. Applicants must therefore ensure that they have access to sufficient funds to cover the full cost of their visit.
3. Visiting Scholars are responsible for ensuring that they have the correct travel documentation, including visas. Durham Law School can supply an official letter confirming acceptance as Visiting Scholar that can be used to support any application for a visa for the purpose of the visit, but cannot otherwise assist with such applications.
4. It is the responsibility of the Visiting Scholar to ensure that they have somewhere to stay during their time in Durham. The Law School cannot assist with helping Visitors to find accommodation, and prospective visitors should be advised that accommodation in Durham city centre can be very expensive and is in high demand especially during the summer months. The University’s [Accommodations and Allocations Office](https://www.durham.ac.uk/colleges-and-student-experience/colleges/the-accommodation-and-allocations-office/) may be able to help with booking short-term accommodation in one of the University’s colleges, or with finding longer-term accommodation. Alternatively, [Durham City Tourism Information](http://www.thisisdurham.com/) has details of local B&Bs, as well as hotels.
5. Visiting Scholars may identify themselves as ‘Visiting Scholar, Durham Law School’ during their period at the School.

Requirements

1. **Visiting Scholars are required to contribute to the academic life of the Law School during their visit.**  As well as attendance at and participation in Law School events, this typically takes the form of delivering a seminar on their research as part of the Law School staff seminar series or via one of the research centres or clusters. However, Visitors may contribute in other ways, for instance by helping to organise an event, developing a joint publication or funding bid with Law School staff, delivering guest teaching to undergraduate or postgraduate students, or, in the case of visitors from partner or prospective partner institutions, developing broader collaborative  initiatives.  The nature of the contribution should be discussed in advance with the prospective academic sponsor and detailed on the application form.

Application Process

1. The starting point in applying to be a Visiting Scholar is the **identification of a suitable academic sponsor.** Where the applicant wishes to be associated with a particular research centre or cluster, they should approach the relevant centre/cluster director, who will assist with identifying a member of the centre/cluster who is willing and able to sponsor the visit. Otherwise, the applicant may approach an individual member of the academic staff directly.
2. Once an academic sponsor has been identified, applicants should ask the sponsor for a brief statement of support (c.250 words). The sponsor should indicate clearly that they are familiar with the applicant's work and support the application, and that they undertake to act as the applicant's sponsor during their research stay. Sponsors should also indicate how they will promote the active participation of the Visiting Scholar at Durham, and how the Visitor will contribute to the academic life of the Law School (see para 13 above). **No application will be considered without a statement of support from a sponsor.**
3. Applications can be made at any point during the academic year, but should be made **at least six weeks before the anticipated start date of the visit**. Please see para 4 above if you intend to visit outwith term time.
4. Applications must include the following documents:
   1. A completed ‘Visiting Scholars Application Form’;
   2. A letter of support from the prospective sponsor – see para 16;
   3. A curriculum vitae, including a list of publications.
5. The completed application form and accompanying documents must be sent by email to [law.researchofficer@durham.ac.uk](mailto:law.researchofficer@durham.ac.uk).
6. Applicants will be informed by email whether their application has been accepted. Given the large number of applications we receive each year, not all will be successful.
7. Successful applicants will receive a formal confirmation of their visiting status and the dates of the visit, along with practical information relating to the visit.

Post-Visit Report

1. Visitors are required to provide a short (500 words max) written report within one month of the end of their visit (to be sent to [law.researchofficer@durham.ac.uk](mailto:law.researchofficer@durham.ac.uk)) detailing their activities during their time in Durham.