

Welcome to the School of Law!

Congratulations again on obtaining a place at The University of Manchester, and choosing to embark upon a postgraduate degree with us.

The School of Law at The University of Manchester has been providing legal education of the highest quality for over 140 years. It is ranked as one of the UK's leading law schools, and is consistently regarded as among the best in the world.

But study at the School of Law is not just about the study of law and legal education. We are also home to centres of Criminology and Social Ethics and Policy, including Healthcare Ethics and Law. We are a truly interdisciplinary institution, which seeks to set aside the traditional boundaries that in the past may have prevented scholars from multiple disciplines from working with each other. We work across these traditional disciplines, stimulating change across our core fields. As a consequence, our academic staff has an outstanding reputation for the quality of the research they produce, and their engagement with policy makers, and NGOs.

In addition to our commitment to our research, we are also committed to nurturing young scholars to allow them to develop into tomorrow's policy makers, leaders and academics. Our research-driven approach to teaching ensures that you are exposed to the latest ideas, often before they are disseminated to the rest of the world. Being a postgraduate student at The University of Manchester's School of Law is a truly stimulating and rewarding experience.

In addition to our people, The University of Manchester has made significant investments to ensure that its staff and students have the facilities necessary to produce first-class research. We have invested in over 10,000 computers contained in dedicated computer labs. Our library is one of the largest in the United Kingdom, it holds over 4 million items. (Indeed, our library holdings are so extensive that academics and students from other institutions will visit us to use our collection.) We have the largest holding of electronic journals in the United Kingdom. We have access to the electronic databases that you will need in your research and studies. You will have access to the resources you need to do your research.

During welcome week you will meet your academic advisor, a member of the teaching staff. He or she is there to guide you through your programme, to give you any advice you might need. He or she should be your first point of contact, please feel free to contact your academic advisor. Studying in the UK (or in Manchester) may not be like your previous institutions, and you may not be certain of the procedures or standards here. Your academic advisor is here to help with this; and if he or she can't answer your question, they'll find out who can.

You will also be provided with a Programme Handbook, entitled "Making the Most of Your Postgraduate Studies" during Welcome Week. Please read this carefully. It lists the various modules (courses) which you must or may take. It lists other programme specific information, and—very importantly—provides you with the important rules and regulations which govern your studies.

Likewise, each of your instructors will provide a course handbook which gives course unit specific information, such as readings, lecture and seminar topics, and course requirements. Please read these carefully as well. And if you have any questions, or if something is not clear, please ask. We are all here to help.

Finally, in addition to being the home of a world-class university, Manchester is a world-class city. It is a fantastic place in which to live. There are numerous cultural opportunities at your doorstep. (For instance, the newly renovated Whitworth Art Gallery is only a 10-minute walk down Oxford Road from the School, and the Manchester Museum is across the street. Admission to both is free, by the way.) Take advantage of these and other opportunities. Education is not just about books; nor are educational opportunities found exclusively inside the walls of university buildings.

It is my role, as the Director of Postgraduate Taught Programmes, to ensure that a culture of quality learning and teaching exists in the Law School. Given the calibre of our academic and support staff, this part of my job is easy. But the Law School will not rest on its laurels; we will continue to improve on our excellence to ensure that you will be provided with a world-class education.

I hope that you will have a successful and rewarding year at the School of Law.

With best wishes,

Dr Bruce Wardhaugh

Senior Lecture in Competition Law, and
Director Postgraduate (Taught) Programmes