Law students and voluntary advice work
Pro Bono Scheme at Manchester Law School

Manchester Law School offers law students the opportunity to engage in pro bono work through links with the following partner organisations, such as:

- Business Law Clinic
- Greater Manchester Law Centre (Legal Advocacy Support Project)
- Partners of Prisoners
- Personal Support Unit at Manchester Civil Justice Centre
- Amicus
- Manchester Citizens Advice Bureau
- Shelter
- NJM—(formerly National Centre for Citizenship and the Law)
- Slater & Gordon

The scheme will be advertised to law students in the autumn term and there will be a Law School Pro Bono & Legal Careers Fair (see below). Closing dates for applications will vary depending on the partner organisation.

Manchester Law School Pro Bono and Legal Careers Fair

**Date:** Wednesday 4th October  
**Time:** 1pm—4 pm  
**Place:** North Atrium, Business School Building

This event is in a fair-style format and many of the Law School’s pro bono partners will be attending. Manchester Law School students will have the opportunity to speak individually with the pro bono schemes and find out more about their work and volunteering opportunities.

For further information on pro bono opportunities at Manchester Law School:

E-mail: probono@mmu.ac.uk  
Tel: 0161 247 3046

Other Pro Bono opportunities

A significant number of students express an interest in working as a volunteer in a law centre or Citizen’s Advice Bureau in order to obtain related work experience and to put something back into their local community. Although you may not initially be able to undertake advice work in law centres, you will be involved in related administrative and
reception duties, and in assisting the caseworkers. Meanwhile CABs will train students to be volunteers. This involves diagnostic interviewing & giving initial advice. You will normally be expected to make a regular commitment.

**Law Centres**

Centres provide free initial advice on a variety of legal matters to groups and individuals in the immediate community. Legal issues dealt with may include housing, immigration & asylum and discrimination work. This will vary, as each law centre has a contract to undertake advice & representative work in a certain area.

Greater Manchester currently has two law centres:

- **Bury Law Centre** buryfocus.co.uk/sites/bury-law-centre undertakes housing, immigration & asylum work.
- **Greater Manchester Law Centre** gmlaw.org.uk undertakes welfare benefits, community care advice and housing advice
- **Rochdale Law Centre** rochdalelawcentre.co.uk undertakes employment, discrimination, housing, immigration & asylum advice.

A national list of law centres can be accessed on the Law Centres Federation website lawcentres.org.uk/about-law-centres/law-centres-on-google-maps/alphabetically

**Citizens Advice Bureau**

The majority of those involved in the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) are volunteers. CAB dispenses free advice on a range of issues, including social security, debt, benefits & welfare matters, consumer issues, housing, employment, immigration, discrimination, family, health and community care.

NB. To train as a volunteer, CAB usually require that students are able to give a minimum commitment of 6 hours per week and should be able to commit to at least 6-12 months. You need to be accepted onto the relevant CAB volunteer training programme. The exact volunteer roles available depend on the individual CAB.

Manchester Citizens Advice Bureau currently train volunteers to act as telephone triage interviewers or digital advice coaches, giving advice by telephone. This may give the opportunity to progress to become an adviser later. Find out more at citizensadviceManchester.org.uk.

**Useful resources**

- **Lawworks** lawworks.org.uk
- **Bar Pro Bono Unit** barprobono.org.uk
- **Free Representation Unit** thefru.org.uk
- **The Law Centres Federation** lawcentres.org.uk
- **National Association of Citizens Advice Bureau** citizensadvice.org.uk
- **The CAB Advice Guide** adviceguide.org.uk
Manchester Met Volunteering

The Students’ Union provides students with information, training and support to get involved in volunteering. Opportunities are advertised through a dedicated online volunteering hub. Further details are at theunionmmu.org/your-opportunities/volunteering/

Manchester Community Central

This organisation has a Volunteer Centre, which provides information, advice, & opportunities to residents of Manchester City Council who wish to volunteer. You can register for volunteering opportunities on their website manchestercommunitycentral.org/volunteer-centre- manchester.

Careers & Employability Support

The Careers & Employability Service offers a range of support to Manchester Met students and graduates:

- **Detailed careers guides:** Our full range of careers guides, including information on finding and applying for work and further study opportunities are available on our website: mmu.ac.uk/careers/guides
- **Ask a Careers Question Online:** Get online advice through My Career Hub, ask your question at any time and receive support via email. mmu.ac.uk/careersquestion
- **Careers Consultant Appointments:** Book a 30 minute appointment by calling 0161 247 3483 to discuss working or studying abroad with a Careers & Employability Consultant.
- **Careers Events:** Meet employers and enhance your employability by attending our workshops, employer events and careers fairs. mmu.ac.uk/careers/events

For more information visit mmu.ac.uk/careers.