



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

**Professor of Legal Professions,
School of Law, Faculty of Social Sciences**



Salary: Grade 10 (within professorial range)

Reporting to: Head of School

Reference: ESLLW1216

Closing date: 5 September 2024

Location: Main Leeds Campus (with scope for hybrid working)

We are open to discussing flexible working arrangements

Overview of the role

Are you an outstanding individual with passion and enthusiasm about your research and teaching in the field of legal professions, broadly construed? Do you want to be part of a thriving law school in a Russell Group University? Are you an experienced academic leader looking for a challenging senior leadership position?

The School of Law at Leeds is a successful, dynamic law school strongly committed to achieving excellence in both student education and research. We ranked 4th overall in the UK for the quality of its research in REF 2021 and 1st for the impact of its research on society and have continued to invest to strengthen further our research centres. We are equally proud to deliver some of the best results for student satisfaction and employability and student education lies at the heart of all we do.

We are looking to appoint a Professor in the field of legal professions, to lead research and teaching in this field and to make a material contribution to the School's Legal Professions Research Group (LPRG).

Situated in the Centre for Innovation and Research into Legal Education, the Legal Professions Research Group (LPRG) is a collaborative initiative spanning multiple academic disciplines, aimed at developing world-leading, interdisciplinary research on legal professions, legal professionalism, legal ethics and legal education's links with professional formation. The membership of the group is diverse, encompassing a broad span of legal practice from corporate law to criminal law, regulatory to human rights law, and social justice. Its agenda is shaped by engagement with both academic communities and practitioners, professional bodies, and policy makers. Launched in December 2023, the LPRG has already established affiliations with legal professions scholars from across the world and built links with the profession.

You will be expected to enhance the School's research and teaching activities and culture, working with colleagues to build its international profile and standing. This appointment to a major role in a dynamic and growing School of Law offers considerable potential for personal initiative and fulfilment.



Main duties and responsibilities

- Promoting the area of legal profession broadly construed within the School, University, nationally and internationally, winning prestige for both the area of law and the University; and consolidating links with practitioners and policy makers;
- Establishing and leading a world-class research programme achieving sustained high levels of research funding individually and/or in collaboration with others and maintaining high quality research outputs in leading internationally recognised publications;
- Inspiring students through research-led teaching on undergraduate and postgraduate taught courses, taking a lead role or be fully involved in the planning and development of modules and programmes, including quality assurance and enhancement, and achieving high standards of student feedback;
- Representing the University externally, developing and maintaining networks and promoting links with Research Councils and external organisations;
- Attracting high quality postgraduate research students to the University and providing them with excellent supervision which supports timely completion and subsequent employability;
- Playing a significant role in the design, development, planning and review of modules and programmes within the subject area as required;
- Contributing significantly to the overall work of the University representing the School and Faculty on appropriate committees and groups;
- Contributing effectively to the management and administrative processes of the School, Faculty and University;
- Managing or leading major initiatives or areas of work (as either sustained or one-off projects) which facilitate School, Faculty or University performance or business;
- Being involved in the recruitment, management and development of staff and act as a mentor to more junior colleagues;
- Providing academic support for the Head of School and Faculty.

These duties provide a framework for the role and should not be regarded as a definitive list. Other reasonable duties may be required consistent with the grade of the post.



Qualifications and skills

- An undergraduate degree in law or degree in another relevant subject;
- A postgraduate degree in law or a cognate discipline or professional qualification or equivalent;
- The ability to lead research programmes of the type that will contribute to the research, innovation and impact agendas at national and international levels;
- A clear research agenda that enhances and contributes to growing the national and international profile and standing of the Legal Professions Research Group and the Centre for Innovation and Research in Legal Education;
- An excellent track record of research outputs, meeting international standards of academic excellence, including a significant quantity that would meet the standard of 3* and 4* REF equivalent published research;
- The ability to develop international links with other leading research groups or centres and/or evidence of effective engagement with and influencing national and international research agendas;
- A successful record of obtaining external research funding with the potential for obtaining further funding in the future;
- The ability to work across subject areas, linking appropriately with other disciplines and research groups and lead significant components of multidisciplinary initiatives;
- An understanding of the principles of research-led teaching and a track record of integrating research with learning and teaching to deliver an excellent student experience, and the ability to lead the development of a portfolio of modules or courses;
- A track record of sustained delivery of ambitious and imaginative academic leadership both by own work and through the encouragement and stimulation of colleagues;
- A track record of effective team working and collaborative development;
- The willingness and capacity to take on a significant role in the School's development with the ability to think laterally, to be imaginative and to anticipate trends and opportunities;
- Excellent organisational and communication skills.



Contact information

To explore the post further or for any queries you may have, please contact:

Professor Louise Ellison, Head of School

Email: l.e.ellison@leeds.ac.uk

or **Professor Hilary Sommerlad, Director of LPRG**

Email: h.a.k.sommerlad@leeds.ac.uk

How to apply

You should apply for this role online; more guidance can be found on our [How to Apply](#) information page. Applications should be submitted by 23.59 (UK time) on the advertised closing date.

Your application should include:

- A **statement** addressing the criteria and evidencing how you believe your existing knowledge and experience equips you to carry out the role;
- Your **curriculum vitae** giving full details of qualifications and experience.

Additional information

Working at Leeds

We are a campus-based community and regular interaction with campus is an expectation of all roles in line with academic and service needs and the requirements of the role. We are also open to discussing flexible working arrangements. To find out more about the benefits of working at the University and what it is like to live and work in the Leeds area visit our [Working at Leeds](#) information page.

Our University

As an international research-intensive university, we welcome students and staff from all walks of life. We foster an inclusive environment where all can flourish and prosper, and we are proud of our strong commitment to student education. Within the Faculty of Social Sciences we are dedicated to diversifying our community and we welcome the unique contributions that individuals can bring, and particularly encourage applications from, but not limited to Black, Asian, people who belong to a minority



ethnic community; people who identify as LGBT+; and disabled people. Candidates will always be selected based on merit and ability.

Information for disabled candidates

Information for disabled candidates, impairments or health conditions, including requesting alternative formats, can be found on our [Accessibility](#) information page or by getting in touch with us at hr@leeds.ac.uk.

Criminal Record Information

Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974

A criminal record check is not required for this position. However, all applicants will be required to declare if they have any 'unspent' criminal offences, including those pending.

Any offer of appointment will be in accordance with our Criminal Records policy. You can find out more about required checks and declarations in our [Criminal Records](#) information page.

