

Job Description

Job Title	Professor of Law
Department	School of Law and Social Justice
HR Ref No.	RA3054-26
Role Code	FINPROF
Grade	TSR6
Base location	Wheeler Building, Riverside
Reports to	HoS, Ruth Sutton
Direct reports	NA
Date created	10.6.26

Job purpose

To make a significant contribution to the intellectual leadership, research capacity-building, and reputation of the Department/Faculty, including mentoring early career researchers and developing high-performing research teams and environments.

The role holder is required to be a leading authority in legal research, with substantial national and international recognition, demonstrable impact on policy, legal practice or regulation, and a sustained track record of high-quality outputs and research leadership.

The role holder is required to be a leading authority in their subject or profession, with widespread professional and public recognition.

The post is a substantive grade on the executive pay spine but if held in conjunction with a management post on the same scale then the elements of each job description will be agreed with the line manager.

The role holder will provide strategic leadership and internationally recognised excellence in legal research, driving the development, visibility and impact of the Law School's research portfolio. They will make a substantial and sustained contribution to the advancement of legal scholarship, including doctrinal, socio-legal, comparative and interdisciplinary research, enhancing the University's national and international standing.

The role holder will lead the development and delivery of a robust and ambitious research strategy for Law, strengthening performance in external research assessment, increasing research income, enhancing the reputation of the Law School and fostering a vibrant and inclusive research culture.

The University will ensure that professorial titles are awarded on merit. Evidence of exceptionally high academic standing is required, and the University will give consideration both to internal and external criteria including research, professional standing, teaching, and academic leadership. Candidates will be expected to have made a recognised, sustained contribution to their field and/or discipline, and normally to have developed an impressive profile of research and appropriate publications or other outputs of national and international standing in addition to evidence of innovative curriculum development, a distinguished record of teaching, and proven academic and institutional leadership.

Key duties and responsibilities

Main tasks and responsibilities of the role holder

- Provide strategic leadership for research within the Law School, supporting the Head of Department in shaping and delivering research priorities aligned with institutional strategy and external frameworks.
- Lead the development of a cohesive and high-performing legal research environment, including research centres, clusters and thematic groupings.
- Mentor and support academic staff in developing research trajectories, improving output quality and increasing success in competitive funding applications.
- Lead and participate in major collaborative and interdisciplinary research initiatives, within Law and across other disciplines.
- Foster a culture of research excellence, collaboration and inclusivity, supporting staff at all career stages to contribute to a thriving research community.
- Act as an institutional and external leader in shaping legal research agendas, partnerships and networks at national and international level.
- Disseminate complex and conceptually sophisticated legal ideas to a wide range of audiences, including academic, professional, policy and public communities, using appropriate scholarly and non-scholarly media.
- Produce world-leading legal scholarship, including articles in highly ranked journals, monographs, edited collections and other outputs demonstrating originality, significance and rigour.
- Lead the preparation of major research funding applications, articulating ambitious and impactful legal research agendas.
- Provide intellectual and strategic leadership in advancing legal research of international quality, shaping the direction of research within the Law School and contributing to institutional research strategy.
- Identify and lead on emerging and strategically important areas of legal inquiry, including doctrinal, socio-legal and interdisciplinary developments.
- Produce a sustained portfolio of world-leading and internationally excellent research outputs, demonstrating originality, significance and rigour, contributing to REF and other external evaluations.
- Lead the development and application of innovative research methodologies in Law, including doctrinal analysis, empirical legal research, comparative approaches and interdisciplinary methods.
- Secure significant external research funding and lead major research programmes, acting as Principal Investigator, ensuring successful delivery and impact.
- Drive the generation of research impact, ensuring that legal research informs law, policy, judicial reasoning, regulation and professional practice.
- Supervise and develop doctoral researchers (PhD) and contribute to a vibrant and sustainable research environment.
- Identify gaps in national and international legal knowledge and develop ambitious, high-impact research programmes to address them.
- Maintain and enhance a strong international research profile, including editorial roles, grant panel membership, keynote invitations and research leadership positions.
- Inspire and enable colleagues to realise their research potential, contributing to peer review, research assessment and academic leadership.
- Communicate research findings effectively to non-academic stakeholders, including courts, government departments, policymakers, NGOs, professional bodies and industry, contributing to legal reform and practice.
- Undertake and lead high-level negotiations and collaborations with external stakeholders and funding bodies.
- Represent the Law School through keynote lectures, invited talks, and participation in major national and international legal research networks and conferences.
- Provide expert advice and commentary as a recognised authority in Law, including engagement with media and advisory bodies where appropriate.

- To continuously influence and inspire colleagues and students through the role-holder's activities in the key area.
- To be an active member of relevant University committees.
- Lead and develop internal and external networks to foster collaboration, share ideas and promote the subject e.g. lead collaborative partnerships with other educational institutions or other bodies
- Participate in institutional decision making and governance
- Act as an ambassador to promote the work of the Division in the subject area both nationally and internationally.
- Contribute to the management of quality, audit and other external assessment
- Develop links with external contacts such as other educational and research funding bodies, employer, professional bodies and other providers of funding and research initiatives to generate income.
- Lead and work with others as part of a research or project team, ensuring staff are suitably qualified to work within the area.
- Take responsibility for the operational planning and organisation of projects; co-ordinating the relevant staff and managing the project.
- To make significant and sustained contributions to the management of the subject area, including planning and resource allocation, policy development and improvement of procedures.
- Plan and deliver research, consultancy or similar programmes and ensure that resources are available and efficiently deployed.
- Act as principal investigator and project leader
- Contribute to the organising and deployment of resources within own areas of responsibility, and actively contribute to the overall management of the department in areas such as budget management and business planning.
- In the context of the role-holder's teaching duties, to make independent decisions on the content of individual lectures and marking for student assessment purposes, and to provide advice to colleagues on such matters.
- To act as a module leader or course leader as required.
- To develop and deliver modules/courses in line with the University's and School's approach to teaching and learning.
- To make collaborative decisions with course teams on the content of taught and research courses at under-graduate and/or postgraduate levels.
- To provide advice on issues (such as research methodology, assessment, industrial strategy) which will impact on students, staff and the wider community.

This job description outlines the main duties and responsibilities of the post when held as the substantive grade. The holder may be required to undertake other duties and responsibilities, commensurate with the grade of the post, properly directed by the line manager. These variations will not change the general character of the post or level of responsibility entailed.

This job description is a guide to the work the role holder will be required to undertake. It may be amended from time to time, to meet changing circumstances, by mutual agreement. It is expected the job description will be reviewed regularly by the role holder and the line manager during the Performance and Development Planning meeting. Where appropriate an agreed amended job description will be produced by Human Resources.

- In addition to the above, undertake such duties as may reasonably be requested and that are commensurate with the nature and grade of the post.

General duties

- To uphold and comply with all University's policies and procedures, including those relating to:
 - Equality, diversity and inclusion
 - Health and safety
 - Data protection and IT security
 - Safeguarding
 - Sustainability
- To support the creation of a culture that is highly performance focused and built on a foundation of fairness, diversity, belonging and inclusivity.

Person Specification

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The person specification details the qualifications, skills, experience or other attributes needed to perform the job.

Essential criteria are those, without which, a candidate would not be able to do the job. Applicants who do not clearly demonstrate in their application that they possess the essential criteria will normally be rejected at the shortlisting stage.

Desirable criteria are those that would be useful for the candidate to possess and will be considered when more than one applicant meets the essential requirements.

Methods of assessment:

A = Application Form, **I** = Interview/Assessment Tests, **P** = Pre-Employment Checks

Selection Criteria	Essential (E) or Desirable (D)	Assessed via
QUALIFICATIONS		
A good first degree and a postgraduate degree at Doctorate level or equivalent professional experience in a relevant specialism.	E	A
Membership of appropriate academic and professional networks	E	A
Evidence of national professional standing (e.g. Nationally recognised Fellowship or similar nationally recognised accolade or national /international professional body/subject association position)	E	A
Postgraduate HE teaching qualification or Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy	E	A
Senior Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy	D	A
KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE		
Evidence of Research Leadership in a HE environment	E	A&I
Substantial national and international reputation as a leading authority within a field of Law	E	A&I
Demonstrable research impact on law, policy, regulation, professional practice or judicial decision-making	E	A&I
Proven experience of developing and leading successful research strategies, contributing to institutional and disciplinary priorities	E	A&I
Track record of securing significant external research funding, including leadership as Principal Investigator on major grants	E	A&I
Experience in building and leading high-performing research teams, centres, or thematic groupings	E	A&I
Demonstrated contribution to research capacity-building, including mentoring early career researchers and developing others' research trajectories	E	A&I
Extensive experience in doctoral supervision to successful completion	E	A
Experience of contributing to research assessment exercises and enhancing institutional research performance	E	A&I
Experience of developing innovative research programmes addressing emerging or strategically important areas of legal inquiry	D	A&I
Established role in the wider academic and professional community, including editorial positions, grant panels, advisory roles or leadership in research networks	E	A&I

Sustained record of world-leading and internationally excellent legal research, evidenced through high-quality publications	E	A&I
Demonstrable evidence of impact in research activity	E	A&I
Possess in-depth understanding or own specialism to enable the development of new knowledge, innovation and understanding within the field	E	A&I
Possess a thorough understanding of institutional management systems and the wider higher education environment, including equal opportunities issues	E	A&I
SKILLS AND PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES		
Effective interpersonal skills to interact with, engage and inspire students, staff and others.	E	I
The ability to conduct high quality work in a relevant specialism.	E	I
Ability to provide strategic intellectual leadership in legal research within the Law School	E	I
Highly developed research leadership capability, including inspiring, mentoring and developing colleagues at all career stages	E	I
High level of professional credibility and integrity, with the ability to command respect across academic, professional and public domains	E	I
Effective decision-making and problem-solving skills, including within complex academic and organisational contexts	E	I
Strong commitment to fostering an inclusive, collaborative and high-performing research culture	E	I
Proven ability to develop compelling research funding proposals and articulate ambitious, high-impact research agendas, translating academic work into real-world influence and outcomes	E	I
Strong organisational and project management skills, including leading large-scale research programmes and managing resources effectively	E	I

UNIVERSITY OF CHESTER
FACULTY OF ARTS, HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCE
SCHOOL OF LAW AND SOCIAL JUSTICE
PROFESSOR OF LAW
FULL-TIME - PERMANENT

SALARY SCALE

TSR6, points 44 – 46, £58,225 - £61,759 per annum.

HOLIDAY ENTITLEMENT

35 days per annum. In the annual leave year in which employment commences annual leave entitlement will accrue on a pro-rata basis. Two extra statutory days during the Christmas period.

MEDICAL EXAMINATION

The successful candidate will be required to complete an Occupational Health Questionnaire and may also be required to undergo a medical examination.

ESSENTIAL CERTIFICATES

Short-listed candidates will be asked to bring to interview, proof of qualification as outlined on the Job Description and Person Specification provided. Upon appointment, copies of essential certificates will be required by Human Resources.

PENSION SCHEME

All academic staff will be enrolled in the Teachers' Pension Scheme from their first day of employment, in accordance with the scheme rules. If staff do not wish to remain a member of the scheme, they will be entitled to opt out after enrolment.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

The University has a policy of equal opportunity aimed at treating all applicants for employment fairly.

SMOKING POLICY

The University operates a No-Smoking policy.

PROBATIONARY PERIOD

A twelve months' probationary period applies to all Academic posts.