

Warwick LinC Summer Internship 2024

Law for Life: Who we are

Law for Life: the Foundation for Public Legal Education is an education and information charity that aims to increase access to justice by providing everyone with an awareness of their legal rights together with the confidence and skills to assert them.

We believe that everyone should understand their legal rights and obligations and know how to gain redress through the legal system. Yet most people struggle to cope with legal issues, and often don't know where to go for help.

Being able to cope with family and housing issues, sorting out employment and benefit matters or difficulties with goods and services is crucial. These issues are the cornerstones of everyday life that can become drivers of poverty and inequality if left unresolved.

We have the expertise, the practical experience, and the tools to work with any organisation that wants to support the legal needs of their service users.

Our strategy and impact

Our vision

Law for Life strives for social justice by legally empowering individuals and communities. We believe everyone should be equipped with the knowledge, confidence and skills needed to deal with the law-related issues they are likely to encounter in the course of their lives.

Our mission

To deliver public legal education and information (PLEI) as a tool for empowering people, securing access to justice and tackling inequality. We will work together with others to identify and promote excellence in its research, design and delivery.

Our aims

- To deliver innovative public legal education and information that tackles social injustice
- To empower others to use public legal education and information
- To demonstrate the value of public legal education and information
- To strengthen organisational sustainability to drive our mission and values

What is unique about our services?

- ✓ We specialise in targeted and tailored education and information that is user centred, empowering and preventative.
- ✓ We deliver award-winning access to justice assistance that brings together on and offline help.
- ✓ We combine research and practice to develop our services as well as sharing evidence about what works.

Why work with Law for Life as a Summer Intern?

- Help Law for Life show how we make a difference to people seeking access to justice by evaluating the impact of our resources
- Carry out literature reviews into legal issues relevant to our work, including welfare benefits, family courts, housing rights and employment.
- Review and contribute to writing academic publications and other policy reports
- Contribute to the development of our Advicenow resources and their dissemination via social media
- Research or monitor changes in the law to help us update our Advicenow guides and tools
- Put into practice your legal research skills and knowledge from your undergraduate degree at Warwick Law School
- Work with a friendly team from wherever you are in the UK

What other Warwick LinC Interns said about their experience at Law for Life:

Law for Life are an amazing charity at the heart of the affordable advice sector and are advocates for social justice. Through this 12-week internship I gained key insight about the affordable advice sector, public legal education and information, litigants in person, non-traditional legal roles, the changing nature of legal roles as well as the importance of funding in this sector. I had the opportunity to work with both the research team and the information team.

I completed various research tasks and was able learn more about the importance of Public Legal Education, how to support Litigant's in Person effectively and how to give legal advice to individuals that do not come from a legal background. Through my work in updating the Advicenow help directory, I was exposed to the many different organisations and charities that work to provide affordable legal advice. Furthermore, I conducted legal research in different areas of law such as employment and family law where I summarised complex legal information into digestible summaries for a variety of readers.

I also undertook an employment feasibility project where I collated data and research to find out the employment issues people were facing after the pandemic and whether Law for Life can assist with this. Additionally, I also had a chance to work on some social media content which was a different experience and allowed me to explore my creative side. One of my last tasks was to look at the effect of Covid-19 on the affordable advice sector by looking at pre- and post-pandemic website traffic figures for different organisations and charities. Through this I was able to provide some solutions to increase engagement with Law for Life and its users.

In conclusion, I had a fantastic time working with everyone on the Law for Life team over the summer, I learnt so much and would love the opportunity to work them again in the future.

Ayo Salami, Warwick LinC Intern 2022

“After studying the Public Legal Education (PLE) module in my final year at university, I grew a deep interest in the barriers in accessing justice and the organisations involved in facilitating greater access to justice. I was elated to discover the internship opportunity by Law for Life where I developed a host of skills. While working with the information team, I liaised with various university law clinics, members of parliament and local Citizens Advice Bureaus (CABs) to advise them on Law for Life’s current offerings and how they can be used to advise people in need. I assisted the research team in collating data to identify the number of people in the UK on benefits and using resources by the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) and how best the organisation could support them with legal guidance. By engaging in this task, I was able to develop my research skills, analytical skills and my knowledge of Microsoft excel. I would recommend that anyone at Warwick undertake this internship as it is a great opportunity to gain insight to different areas of law while developing many skills!

Phoebe Agyarko, Warwick LinC Intern 2023