

Lawyers Without Borders Student Division at UCL: **An Introduction**

Who are Lawyers Without Borders?

Lawyers Without Borders is an internationally-renowned organisation that works with law firms, governments, and NGOs throughout the world. Entering our fourth year as a Student Division at UCL, we are part of an established international network of volunteer judges, lawyers and law students from all over the world who work on Rule of Law projects, access to justice initiatives, and promoting pro bono service.

For more information, please see our website:

<http://www.lawyerswithoutborders.org/>

What is the Lawyers Without Borders Student Division at UCL?

The LWOB Student Division at UCL is made up of a group of specially selected students who are interested in promoting human rights within the university. Our aims as set by LWOB are:

LWOB's Chief Governing Principles

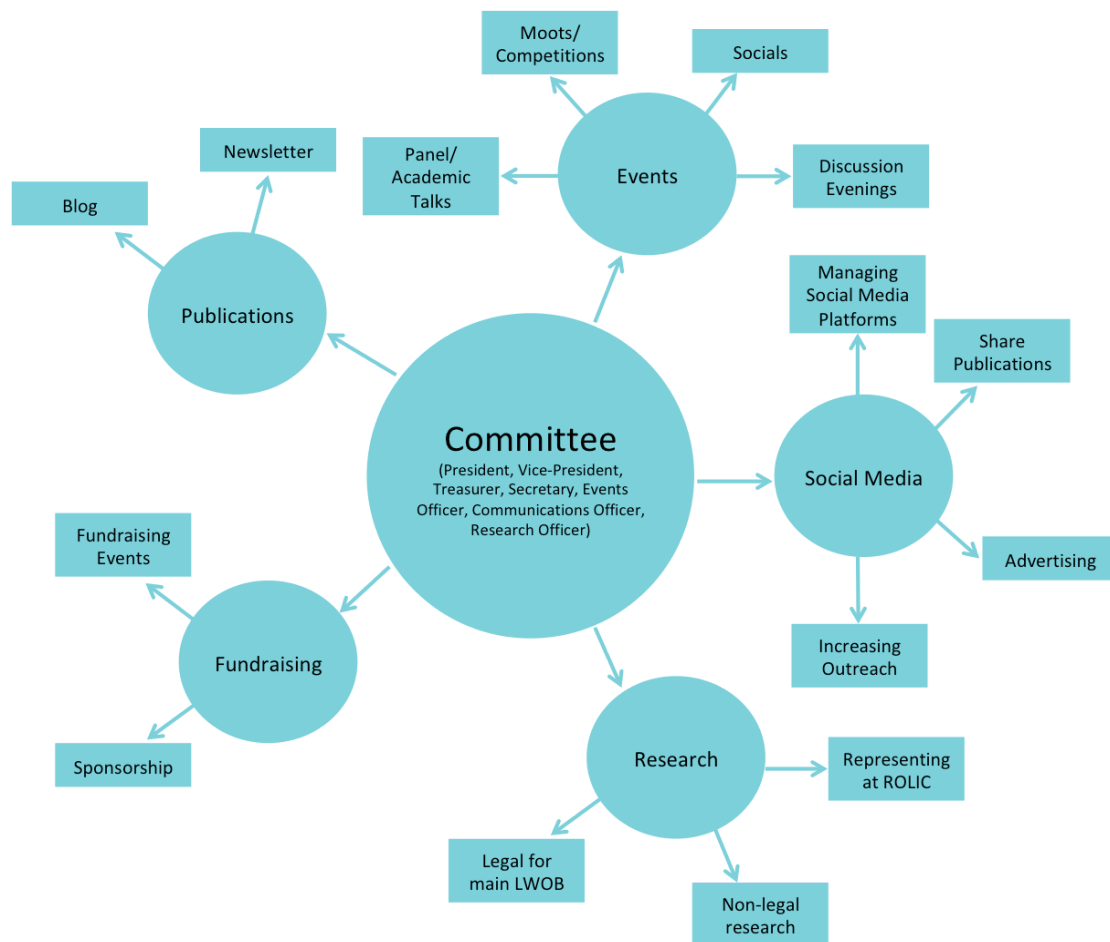
- 1. To foster a deep culture of pro bono amongst students before they enter the profession.*
- 2. To provide opportunities for students to engage in Rule of Law oriented activities.*

To achieve these aims, the Division embarks on a wide range of human rights related projects from event organisation and fundraising through raising social media awareness and journalism to research. We are open to applications **from law, non-law, undergraduate and postgraduate students alike** who are interested in human rights and International Law — this is an opportunity to share, develop and build on experience.

The LWOB Student Division at UCL is affiliated with the UCL Centre for Access to Justice (CAJ) at the Faculty of Laws as a student-led project. The CAJ oversees the Student Division, providing administrative support, and ensuring that Student Division and its members adhere to UCL's policies and standards.

The Core Division: Structure

The core division is made up of five 'subgroups' (see below), each of which is responsible for its own direction and activities, with oversight from the Committee. The subgroup teams will, of course, cross over and support each other, but the individuals in each will focus on their specific role within the Division. This Core Division is also accompanied by a group of affiliated students who act in a more general way to support the division, and are not part of a subgroup or the committee.



The Committee

President – The head of the division, chairing all committee and division meetings, as well as corresponding with the CAJ, the LWOB charity, and other LWOB Student Divisions across the UK. The President will meet with the CAJ at least once a month and communicate with the CAJ through monthly reports. It is the President's responsibility to ensure the overall smooth running of the Division and its consistent compliance with LWOB's formal requirements.

Vice-President – Works directly with the President, providing assistance, guidance, and oversight. Deputises the President when they are unavailable and assists them in ensuring all administrative requirements from LWOB are met.

Secretary (Head of Publications) – Responsible for general administration. They are expected to write the minutes of each meeting, send out all official emails of the division, and manage and edit the Division's weekly blog and annual journal.

Treasurer (Head of Fundraising)– Oversight of funding and expenditure. The treasurer will be expected to update the committee regularly on the financial state of the division and ensure that all subgroups have a solid financial basis.

Communications (Head of Social Media) – Responsible for overall social media and outreach. The chief responsibility of the Communications Officer is to promote LWOB online.

Events Officer (Head of Events) – Responsible for oversight of LWOB debates, moots, panel discussions, etc. Specifically, they will be tasked with contacting external speakers for panel events; liaising and co-hosting events with LWOB Student Divisions in other universities; managing logistics with CAJ and hosting event functions. As the Events team is also heavily integrated into the entire Division's operations, the Head of Events should communicate often with other subgroups.

Research Officer (Head of Research) – Obtaining and managing research tasks from the main LWOB charity. Managing the Research team in assisting the other subgroups (as described below in the Research section) and managing the team's individual research tasks. Preparing the UCL team for the annual Rule of Law Innovation Challenge (ROLIC), working closely with team members and mentors.

The Subgroups

The leadership of the subgroups is delegated to the respective heads of each group, but as a Committee member, it is the responsibility of each subgroup leader to report back to the Committee and keep its members up-to-date with their activities. The subgroups will regularly meet up between themselves and the reports of these meetings communicated to the Committee. Subgroups' achievements will also be shared with the whole Division.

Publications

Our Publications Team will be responsible for providing articles for our weekly blog and producing an annual human rights journal. Its aim is to inform readers of the major human rights news and keep up-to-date with international and domestic news. The team will have freedom over which exact topics they cover and the methods they use to inform the readers (such as articles or interviews).

Skills needed: excellent writing and communication skills, attention to detail, an interest in journalism and an awareness of global human rights issues.

For examples of our work produced over the past year see our blog and journal:

Blog: <https://lawyerswithoutbordersucl.wordpress.com/>

Journal: https://issuu.com/lwobucl/docs/report_2

Social Media

Our Social Media Team will be responsible for the upkeep of our Facebook and Instagram handles. They must consistently update these pages with relevant human rights-news, sharing our events, boosting the Blog, and expanding reach to gain more attention. The Social Media team is also generally responsible for promoting events, which might include designing posters and engineering a creative online presence in cooperation with the Publications team, so a good grasp of graphic design would also be of particular use, though not required.

Skills needed: social media experience, awareness of multiple news outlets, efficiency, communication

Fundraising

Our Fundraising Team will be responsible for both contacting and engaging with potential sponsors and organising fundraising events. As this team develops, we can host specific fundraising events in conjunction with particular human rights issues, as well as raising money for LWOB as a whole. This team will be in extensive contact other subgroups, providing a financial basis for their activities.

Skills needed: creativity, experience hosting fundraising events, organisation.

Events

The Events Team has a fundamental role within the Division. They will be tasked with organizing all of our events, with the underlying intention of further promoting and raising awareness on human rights issues. This involves devising unique event ideas that are both engaging and relevant, as well as executing them into successful functions. Events should aim to cater to an array of demographics, and should be accessible to students from all degree backgrounds. With this in mind, it should be noted that our main purpose is to raise awareness on human rights issues. Therefore events do not necessarily have to be strictly academic in nature, and can range from creative workshops to pub quiz socials.

Skills needed: communication skills both within and outside of the organization, creativity, interest in or passion for at least one major human rights issue, ability to work in a team, efficiency. Prior experience in organizing or hosting events is recommended but not necessary.

Research

The Research Team will support both the main LWOB charity and our Division through a mixture of legal and non-legal research. Consequently, the team will be in extensive contact with LWOB. When they do not receive tasks from the main charity, they will advise other subgroups, such as the Social Media team on optimising the reach of their advertising, the Publications team by fact-checking or researching for their articles, and the Events and Fundraising team by exploring potential partners. If time, the team will also produce independent research, e.g. by creating awareness campaigns or fact sheets concerning human rights issues for distribution around UCL. Importantly, the Research Team will also represent our Student Division in LWOB's annual intercollegiate Rule of Law Innovation Challenge (ROLIC), where they will produce a creative product to directly combat an international rule of law issue. If chosen, the product will be directly incorporated into LWOB's global projects.

Skills needed: experience in legal or non-legal research, ability to work independently, good organisational and time management skills and a genuine long-standing interest in human rights. Experience in research as a paralegal, legal assistant, or LLM student is desirable but not required.