

An aerial photograph of Manchester, UK, showing a mix of historic and modern architecture. In the foreground, a large, curved, light-colored building with a central circular courtyard and a glass dome is prominent. To its left is a tall, dark stone Gothic church with a pointed spire. The surrounding area is filled with various other buildings, streets, and green spaces.

MANCHESTER
1824

The University of Manchester

Collaborating to create a dynamic external profile Engagement & External Relations Team

The Team (academics & Professional Support)

Director of Engagement & External Relations: Claire McGourlay
Director of Social Responsibility: Phil Drake
Director of Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity: Claire Fox

Engagement & External Relations Manager, Sarah Tiffany-Dodman

Oversight of strategies, with some operational emphasis.
Coordinates and monitors activity (engagement with external stakeholders).
Athena Swan accreditation. Information Governance Guardian.

External Relations Officer, Noémie Rouault (part time)

Conference & events planning (virtual delivery).
Environmental Sustainability. Wellbeing Champion.

External Relations Assistant, Maureen Barlow (part time)

Events organisation and logistics.
Support for other administrative tasks, where required.

Engagement & External Relations Co-ordinator, Sophie Theis

Profile raising – research & news (content & campaigns).
Engages with external stakeholders/internally to deepen public engagement.
Alumni engagement & donor relations.
Proactive development/management - internal communications (improve staff engagement).

Engagement and External Relations Assistant – Holly Wright

Support for profile raising and alumni engagement activities
External engagement through web and social media activity
Support for data capture and progress monitoring
Support for events and other administrative tasks where required



Team website/contact details

<https://www.socialsciences.manchester.ac.uk/connect/engagement-and-external-relations/>

soss.externalrelations@manchester.ac.uk

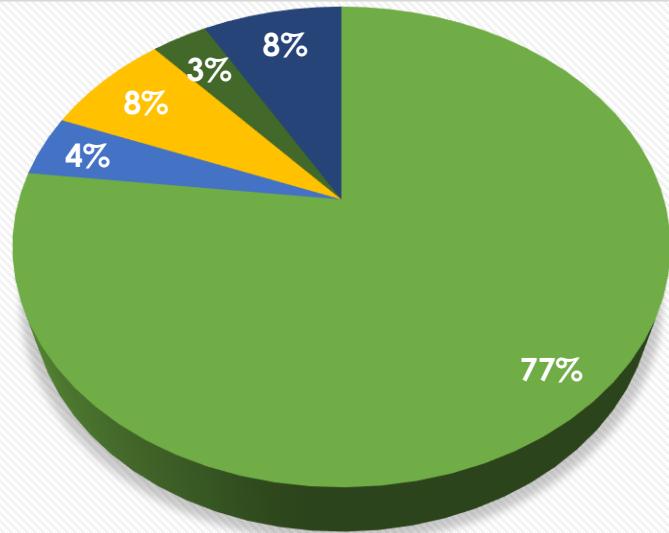
Event Support

- The Engagement & External Relations Team organise annual public lectures and impactful events. Examples:
<https://www.socialsciences.manchester.ac.uk/connect/events/making-a-difference/>
- We produce engagement reports for the events we organise (*next slide*).
- Work with Division for Development & Alumni Relations (DDAR) and the Conversation Officer in Student Recruitment & Admissions – event invites are included in newsletters.
- The team have access to standard Microsoft Teams and Zoom licences, as well as a Zoom Webinar licence.
- Departmental level event support is offered by another team (Resources) via Departmental Administrators. We can support promotion - sharing event info on social media.
- Conferences - need available budget as UoM Conferences & Venues team outsource support. <https://www.conference.manchester.ac.uk/>

Innocence Project Webinar

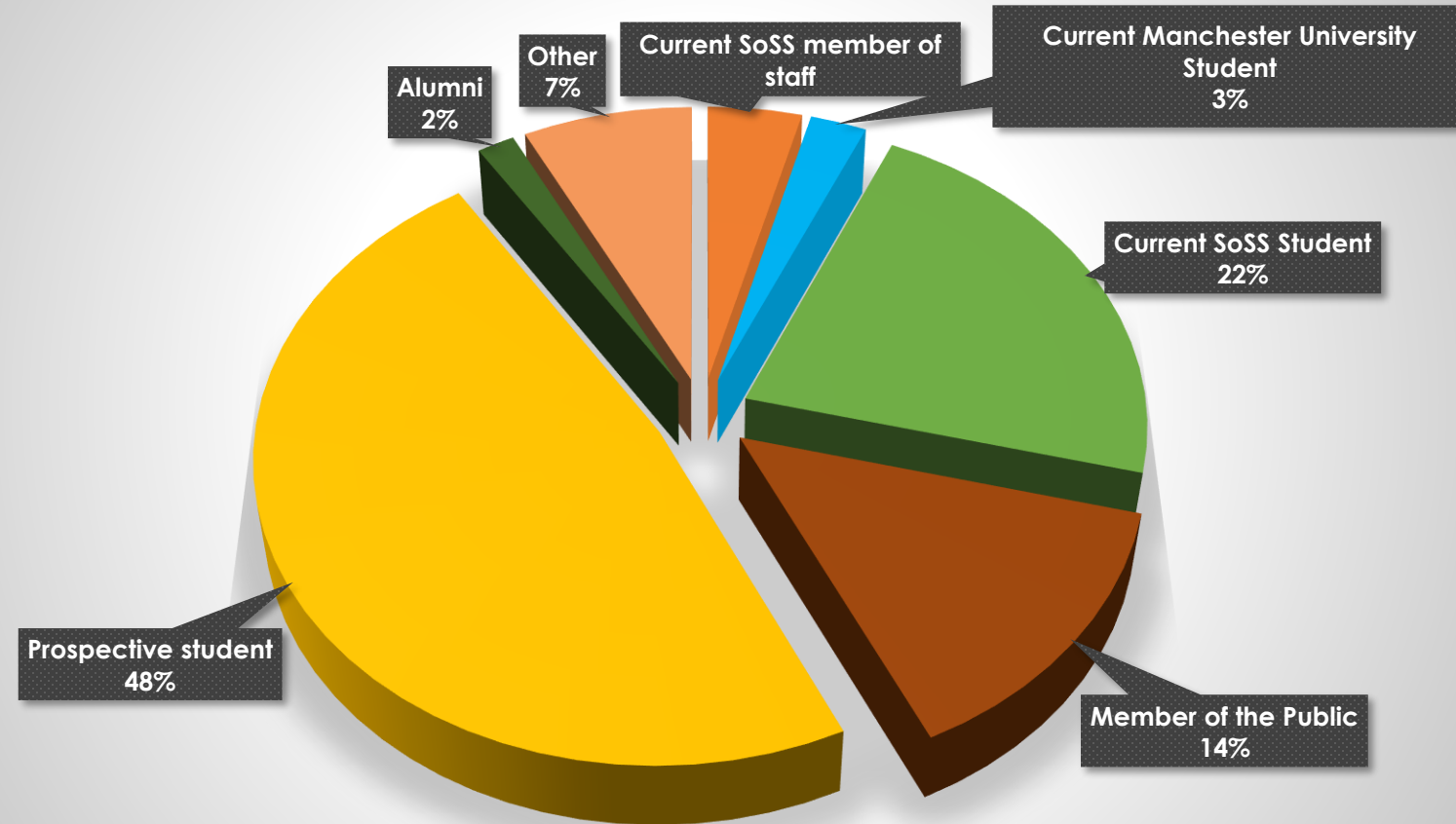
Dr Eithne Quinn

'CPS know the justice ain't right, but the jury don't'



■ UK ■ US/Canada ■ Europe ■ China ■ Rest of the World

121 registrations



Communications & Engagement

The team lead on communications and engagement, both externally and internally within the School, Faculty and University.

- Press Releases – If you have a story of interest to news outlets, we'll work with the Media Relations Office to share it. Eg, we worked with an academic in law to share [new research regarding victim's rights](#)
- Social Media Communications – we run Twitter, Facebook, Linkedin & Instagram accounts for the School. Please tag us into work related posts!
- Research Communications – working with Communications & Marketing colleagues across the University/Faculty on media campaigns designed to raise the profile of our research. For example, Social Science stories for the [Coronavirus Response campaign](#)
- Internal Communications – we can help send out internal communications with the School, Faculty and University as a whole.

Alumni Engagement

- Engaging final year leavers with their alumni community.
- Involving alumni in events.
 - we have invited alumni to attend student careers events as panel speakers.
 - co-ordinating specific events to enable reconnection with School/departments.
- Creating opportunities for alumni to remain involved with our School through volunteering or donor opportunities.
- Alumni profiles for School website.



Justice Hub

Developing Law students' employability skills and providing access to justice for vulnerable people

The challenge

For the most vulnerable people in Greater Manchester and further afield, cuts to legal aid have meant that they have nowhere left to go for legal advice. This means that people cannot effectively claim and enforce their legal rights. Problems can escalate and lead to profound consequences for individuals, such as homelessness, high levels of debt, being prevented from seeing their children, or being separated from their families. This has a significant human cost for the individuals themselves, and a wider cost to society as other services have to take the strain of supporting people whose problems have spiralled out of control.

With increasing demands from law firms for students with a range of experience and employability skills, there is a crucial need for students to gain clinical legal education. This can ensure they are amongst the strongest candidates when applying for training contracts. However, students from poorer socio-economic backgrounds often lack the contacts that can open doors to a law career, leading to a lack of diversity and social mobility in the legal sector, with the highest proportion of senior positions being filled by people from more affluent backgrounds.



“The Legal Advice Centre made me feel that my case was in the hands of the knowledgeable people who could help me. I think the service they give is amazing.”

Our approach

At The University of Manchester, our students get the best possible start to their legal careers with a wealth of opportunities to explore various arms of the law via our Justice Hub network.

Our law students are provided with holistic, autonomous and reflective experiences, helping them to develop their values, ethics and civic engagement. Our Justice Hub epitomises this approach and consists of a range of projects to enable a transformational impact on a local and global scale.

The Justice Hub provides students with the best possible start to their legal careers via our award-winning Legal Advice Centre (LAC). Students are given the opportunity to provide free legal advice to members of the public who are not able to access this advice elsewhere.

At the LAC students are introduced to the practical application of the law and to using legal knowledge in real life situations. We seek to ensure that our students are trained to deliver at a high standard in terms of their professional ethics, legal research and interview skills. They learn how to carry out legal work on a similar basis to a solicitors' firm. They also work closely with practising solicitors and barristers and gain an insight into the life of a lawyer. This taste of legal casework makes a crucial contribution to their future career prospects.

Within the Justice Hub we are also working with international partners on the California Innocence Project, helping secure freedom for prisoners who have been wrongfully convicted of serious crimes, and who in some cases are facing death sentences.

The University of Manchester is the only Russell Group University to include social responsibility as one of its strategic priorities. The work of the Justice Hub is an important part of this commitment.



How you can support us

Legal Advice Centre

We are seeking philanthropic support to provide talented law students with the opportunity to take part in summer placements at our Legal Advice Centre. This would enable students to receive a full, in-depth experience of advising clients from disadvantaged backgrounds on a daily basis during the summer break. It would also mean we can run a full programme of clinics for clients who have suffered from legal aid cuts and are currently having to face the court system without legal representation, whilst facing opponents who have instructed barristers.

California Innocence Project

We are seeking support to provide students with the exciting opportunity to travel to the United States for a period of 6-8 weeks to take part in the California Innocence Project. Students would be given the experience of providing legal support to wrongly convicted prisoners, which could ultimately lead to their release.

“Volunteering at whilst at University has given me invaluable experience for my future career and makes me truly appreciate how important pro bono services in the legal industry are.”

Gemma Rogerson
Third year Law student



Philanthropic opportunities

- A gift of £15,120 (or £12,096 if you're happy for us to claim Gift Aid) would enable 4 students to take up a 12 week summer placement at our Legal Advice Centre and work under the supervision of a qualified lawyer to provide crucial legal advice to clients from disadvantaged backgrounds.
- A gift of £7,560 (or £6,048 if you're happy for us to claim Gift Aid) would enable 2 students to take up a 12 week summer placement at our Legal Advice Centre and work under the supervision of a qualified lawyer to provide crucial legal advice to clients from disadvantaged backgrounds.
- A gift of £15,000 (or £12,000 if you're happy for us to claim Gift Aid) would enable three students to travel to California and provide life-changing legal help to wrongly convicted prisoners on Death Row.
- A gift of £7,500 (or £6,000 if you're happy for us to claim Gift Aid) would enable three students to travel to California and provide life-changing legal help to wrongly convicted prisoners on Death Row.

We have exciting ambitions for developing the Justice Hub over the coming years and would be delighted to work with philanthropic partners who share our vision of making legal aid available to as many people as possible. Together with colleagues Professor Christopher Thornhill (Head of Law) and the team at the Justice Hub (headed by its Director, Philip Drake), we would be delighted to discuss this opportunity further with you and welcome you to Manchester to see the Hub first-hand.

Connect with us

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@uomsoss

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