Chair in Law
York Law School (YLS)

Closing Date: 6 February 2022
Interview Date: 23 & 24 February 2022
Ref: 10253
INTRODUCTION

York Law School (YLS) is seeking to appoint a creative and collaborative legal scholar to a Chair in Law. We welcome applications from scholars with research interests in any area of law, but are particularly keen to encourage applications from scholars who work across disciplinary boundaries and have a deep commitment to shaping socially relevant research agendas across the university.

As the only Law School in the UK to base our undergraduate degrees on problem-based learning (PBL), we offer a distinctive and dynamic approach to teaching and learning. Our research strategy has been to build a community of scholars interested in greater disciplinary openness and in working across doctrinal boundaries, with a focus on socially engaged and intellectually creative research. We see ourselves as a hub that draws on legal ideas, methods, and frameworks to address grand research challenges and shape research agendas across the university. Our work has made important contributions to the University’s cross-disciplinary research themes.

We have excellent networks with other disciplines within and beyond the University, and a very strong record of research and impact with a global reach. We also host the Baroness Hale Legal Clinic, which provides free legal advice and forms an important base for our research.

We are looking for a collegial scholar who will have a strong commitment to our distinctive approach to legal research and scholarship, and who will work with us to develop and deepen our networks with other departments, disciplines, and sectors. We are particularly keen to encourage applications from scholars with a commitment to combining their own research agendas with nurturing and supporting other colleagues at YLS.

Professor TT Arvind
Head of School
Main purpose of the role

Chairs at York are expected to advance their subject nationally and internationally and to contribute to maintaining the University as an international centre of excellence for the relevant subject area through research and publication, teaching, networking and consultancy.

Key responsibilities

(Role holders will be required to undertake some or all of the duties below)

To support the research activities of the Department

- To carry out internationally outstanding research and scholarship
- To disseminate this research through monographs, articles in journals of international standing, and other appropriate forms of dissemination, including national and international conference presentations
- To play a leading role in the Department in identifying and securing external funding through research grants and contracts, and in developing collaborative research income-generating activities
- To attract and supervise research students, and, as appropriate, post-doctoral researchers and other support staff
- To support, comply with, and contribute fully to research plans and policies of the Department and the University
- To support and mentor junior academic colleagues in order to promote quality of teaching and research and their career development

To contribute to the efficient management and administration of the Department

- To make an important contribution to the leadership and management of the Department, including supporting early career staff and developing new collaborative initiatives
- To attend Departmental meetings, meetings of the Board of Studies, and other committees and working groups within the Department and University
- To carry out relevant professional duties, commensurate with the Professorial grade
- To undertake specific departmental roles and management functions as may be reasonably required by the Head of Department

JOB DESCRIPTION

At a glance

| Salary | Minimum starting salary £65,961 on the professorial scale |
| Hours of work | 37 per week (flexibility available) |
| Contract type | Open |
| Based at | University of York, Heslington Campus |

To support the teaching objectives of the Department

- To design and be responsible for delivery of modules and teaching programmes for undergraduate and graduate students
- To play a leading role in departmental and interdepartmental curriculum development and quality enhancement
- To coordinate team teaching, as required, including liaison with other staff and with postgraduates who teach
- To design and mark assessments, and give feedback
- To supervise undergraduate and graduate projects and dissertations
- To carry out teaching in Continuing Professional Development
- To undertake pastoral support of students, as a personal supervisor or in another designated role
- To support and promote fully the University and Department teaching quality assurance standards and procedures

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## PERSON SPECIFICATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Qualifications</th>
<th>Essential/Desirable</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PhD in law or a cognate discipline, or equivalent experience</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Membership of professional societies</td>
<td>Desirable</td>
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### Knowledge

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<tr>
<th>Knowledge</th>
<th>Essential/Desirable</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Outstanding and internationally recognised knowledge of relevant subject area</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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### Skills, abilities and competencies

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<th>Essential/Desirable</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ability to define, lead, manage and attract funds for internationally excellent research, operating across disciplinary boundaries</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proven leadership and managerial skills</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Ability to manage and interact with staff and students at all levels and to contribute to broadening the strategic development of the Department</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Evidence of international collaboration</td>
<td>Desirable</td>
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<td>Evidence of peer review activities</td>
<td>Desirable</td>
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### Experience

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<tr>
<td>International leader in a major research field</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Substantial publication record in leading peer-reviewed journals</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Attraction and effective supervision of postgraduate students</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<tr>
<td>Success in accessing research grants and other external funding</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<tr>
<td>Experience in curriculum development, course design and teaching, learning and assessment methods at UG and PG levels and in encouraging student access and engagement</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Invited presentations at major international conferences</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Effective and sustained involvement in major administrative tasks or positions of responsibility within a department or research unit</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Authorship of books</td>
<td>Desirable</td>
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<td>Editorial duties with journals</td>
<td>Desirable</td>
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<tr>
<td>Activity as an invited examiner at other institutions</td>
<td>Desirable</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation in national teaching initiatives or international equivalents</td>
<td>Desirable</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leadership of research group/theme</td>
<td>Desirable</td>
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**Personal attributes**

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<tr>
<td>Demonstrable capacity for strategic thinking and planning</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Ability to take a lead in key administration functions within the department</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<tr>
<td>Self-motivated, pro-active and innovative</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<tr>
<td>Collaborative ethos</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commitment to supporting colleagues</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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York Law School is a thriving and renowned law school, which is known for its distinctive programmes based on problem-based learning (PBL) and its strong tradition of cross-disciplinary, socially engaged research. YLS has grown from an initial entry of 75 undergraduate students in 2008 to an annual entry of 240. Our postgraduate taught programmes attract over 70 students a year. We also have a vibrant and growing community of postgraduate research students at different stages of their PhDs. In total we have a community of over 700 students and 57 academic staff, which includes an active group of practice-based staff. We are housed in a purpose-built building with a suite of PBL classrooms and a moot court. We host the Baroness Hale Law Clinic, which provides free legal advice in the region and beyond, and also forms an important base for our research.

The School has a very strong international research record. The Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2014 results ranked YLS joint first for the excellence of its research, 4th for its impact and 5th overall in the UK, with 46% of its publications classed as ‘world leading’ (4*) and 34% ‘internationally excellent’ (3*). A key characteristic of the research environment at YLS is its strong multi-disciplinary focus. Since its founding, YLS has combined a commitment to fostering disciplinary excellence with taking on an active role in interdisciplinary leadership across a broad span of research. Openness to a variety of methodologies and disciplines, and serving as a hub to shape research agendas across the university, are key features of all our activities.

The School has retained a particular focus on socially engaged research, and draws on legal ideas, methods, and frameworks to address grand research challenges. We are very well networked with other disciplines. Our Centre for Applied Human Rights is established in partnership with the Politics Department, and we have close collaborative relationships with departments across the University in all three Faculties. Over the past five years, we have worked with twelve other departments at York on 23 joint projects, several of which we led. Further details about our research are available on our website (https://www.york.ac.uk/law/).

Our innovation and attention to the student experience have seen YLS quickly become established as a highly rated law school. We admitted our first intake of undergraduate students in October 2008. A Masters programme in International Corporate and Commercial Law was launched in 2009, followed in 2010 by an LLM in International Human Rights Law. We currently offer three interdisciplinary programmes: an LLM in Legal and Political Theory, an LLM in Art Law (jointly offered with the Department of History of Art), and a B.A. in Law and Criminology (jointly offered with the Department of Sociology).

As the only Law School in the UK to base our undergraduate degrees on problem-based learning (PBL), we offer a distinctive and dynamic approach to teaching and learning. Problem-based and experiential learning are also used on our Masters degrees alongside other forms of learning. We have
recently begun to offer a new LLM (Juris Doctor) degree, which combines the academic study of law with a deep understanding of the law in action. The Baroness Hale Law clinic, which opened its door in January 2011, is embedded into our teaching, and undergraduate students have the option to undertake experiential learning through an optional clinic module.

YLS has sought to establish a key set of values which inform all our work. These are:

- The starting principle is that YLS is a learning community in which staff and students are active participants.
- We have developed a concept of departmental citizenship, and the language of citizenship is used in dealings with staff and students.
- Trust and respect are the important foundation of our relationships.
- We consider that a collaborative approach to all our work and dealings is a good thing. This is reflected in our approaches to both teaching and research.
- YLS is a learning organisation. In YLS critical reflection – collective and individual - on our values, principles, processes and performance is normal.
- We attempt to foster a culture of respectful informality, in which the importance of learning and the value of all members of the YLS community are given serious recognition, but in which unnecessary hierarchical relationships are minimised where possible.
OUR COMMITMENT TO EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Founded on the principles of excellence, equality and opportunity for all, the University is proud to create an environment that attracts staff and students from all over the world. What we gain from diversity is immeasurable.

Our **Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy**, which was developed in partnership with our staff and student communities, describes our commitment to create a culture where everyone can contribute to university life, knowledge and growth.

We want to create a working, learning, social and living environment that will enable all staff and students to achieve their full potential. Our strategy sets out an ambitious set of objectives to succeed in our commitment, but we have a challenging journey ahead. We recognise that we are not truly representative of our communities locally, nationally and internationally. We would like to pay particular focus to gender parity across all levels, particularly in senior roles; the recruitment, retention and success of a more ethnically diverse staff and student community; an accessible and inclusive campus and ensuring that the values and behaviours we expect from everyone embrace inclusive responsibility and leadership.

**Opportunity for all**
Our outreach programmes and widening participation work have made us one of the most socially diverse universities among our peers. The York Students in Schools (YSIS) programme has been providing a helping hand in the city's classrooms for 25 years, placing around 700 students with local schools every year. It recently introduced a new English and Mathematics tutoring scheme.

A report by The Reform Research Trust in September 2017 ranked York second out of 29 high-tariff institutions for our track record in increasing access for disadvantaged students from 2011/12 to 2015/16.

**Wellbeing and support**
Students are encouraged to balance their studies with activities and interests to give them a healthier and more rounded student experience. We have invested heavily in support of physical health with new and improved sports facilities, and in mental health through our Open Door counselling and crisis team which now opens in the evenings during term time. We have also developed a support network of staff trained in Mental Health First Aid. University staff have access to wellbeing help and support, and can access advice through our site. Further information on our health and wellbeing support can be found at [https://www.york.ac.uk/staff/support/](https://www.york.ac.uk/staff/support/).
THE UNIVERSITY

We are a world-class institution, focused on creating an environment of excellence in which all our students, staff and researchers can thrive. Our Research Strategy encompasses our vision that York should provide a home for some of the best research in the world. ([https://www.york.ac.uk/research/](https://www.york.ac.uk/research/))

We are a high-performing member of the Russell Group, ranked 16th in the Guardian's Best University UK Universities 2021 League Table, and 30th in the Complete University Guide 2020. We have been awarded TEF Gold for our research-led teaching which provides "consistently outstanding outcomes for students from all backgrounds".

Our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy speaks to the core of our values. We hold 16 awards from Athena SWAN, recognising the advancement of gender equality: representation, progression and success for all.

At the heart of the region

The University is deeply embedded in the local community of North Yorkshire. Our values and commitment to the public good have never been more important. We are a hub for sharing knowledge, inspiring collaboration and enriching lives.

In 2021 we were shortlisted for Times Higher Education’s University of the Year Award in recognition to the University’s response to the Covid pandemic [The Year We Came Together - Our Covid-19 response](https://www.york.ac.uk/_published/press/2020/the-year-we-came-together-our-covid-19-response).”

Across the University, we are mobilising our knowledge, our people and our resources to tackle the immediate and long-term challenges. The new University Strategy 2030, ([A University for Public Good](https://www.york.ac.uk/about/mission-strategies/vision-for-york/)) was launched at the end of 2021, outlining our vision and strategy for the next decade. Further information on the new strategy can be found on the following webpages; [https://www.york.ac.uk/about/mission-strategies/vision-for-york/](https://www.york.ac.uk/about/mission-strategies/vision-for-york/).
Attractive workplace

Centred around the picturesque village of Heslington on the edge of the city of York, our colleges are set in an attractive landscaped campus. York enjoys a safe, friendly atmosphere with facilities including bars, shops, theatres and concert halls all within easy walking distance.

The University has undergone an unprecedented period of expansion and renewal since 2000. We have invested in twenty new buildings on the original campus and have completed the first and second phases of a £750m campus expansion. Our investment in new colleges, teaching and learning spaces, laboratories, research facilities and a new sports village mean there has never been a better time to join us.

During this period of change we’ve worked hard to retain our friendly, informal and collegiate atmosphere, which is important to our core values of inclusivity and interdisciplinarity.

We have a thriving international community and are committed to providing staff moving to York with as much support as possible through our Relocation Package and Welcome Officers.

The University is committed to promoting a diverse and inclusive community - a place where we can all be ourselves and succeed on merit. We offer a range of family friendly, inclusive employment policies, flexible working arrangements, staff engagement forums, campus facilities and services to support staff from different backgrounds.

For further information please visit our employee benefit pages.
THE CITY AND THE REGION

The City of York

Internationally acclaimed for its rich heritage and historic architecture, York's bustling streets are filled with visitors from all over the world. Within its medieval walls you will find the iconic gothic Minster, Clifford's Tower and the Shambles - just a few of the many attractions.

But York isn't just a great place to visit - it's also a great place to live and work. While nourishing a vibrant cosmopolitan atmosphere, York still maintains the friendly sense of community unique to a small city.

Visit www.visityork.org for more information on the city of York

Shopping, culture and entertainment

York boasts specialist and unique boutiques but also all the high street stores on its busy shopping streets. Alongside them you will find cinemas, theatres, an opera house, art galleries, a vast range of restaurants, live music venues and clubs. York is particularly renowned for its multitude of pubs and bars, from the modern to the medieval.

Housing and schools

Whether you choose to live close to the city, in one of the surrounding villages or further afield, you will find a wide range of housing within comfortable distance of York and the University. For families, the area has a range of excellent schools both in the state and independent sector.

Great location

York is one of Britain's best-connected cities. Halfway between London and Edinburgh on the East Coast mainline, on intercity trains you can reach London King's Cross in less than two hours and Edinburgh in two and a half hours. York is also well served by road links, and it is easily accessible from the A1, M1 and the M62.

For those travelling from overseas, Manchester Airport is two hours away and Heathrow Airport just three and a half. Flights from nearby Leeds Bradford Airport provide easy access to mainland Europe. By Eurostar from London St Pancras, Paris is just over six hours away.

Yorkshire

The Lonely Planet guide recently declared Yorkshire the third best region in the world to visit. There is something to cater to every taste, whether it be the rugged landscapes of the Moors or the Dales, the picturesque seaside towns of Scarborough and Robin Hoods Bay, the gothic architecture of Whitby or the vibrancy of cosmopolitan Leeds.
Apply online

- Go to https://jobs.york.ac.uk
- Find this job using reference 10253
- Complete the online application form

You will need to submit your completed application by midnight (local UK time) on 6 February 2022.

Interviews will take place on the afternoon of the 23 February 2022 and morning of the 24 February 2022. Shortlisted candidates will be required to attend on both days.

What will I need?

We will ask you for details of:

- Your CV
- A letter describing how you meet the requirements of the job
- A statement of your research and teaching intentions

You will also need details of three academic referees (one International) and one Employment referee.

Help and assistance

Direct any informal queries to Prof TT Arvind (t.t.arvind@york.ac.uk)

If you have any questions about your application, contact the HR Services team:

recruitment@york.ac.uk
+44 (0)1904 324835