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**Immigration Law Clinic**

***About the clinic***

The availability of immigration advice and legal aid services in the southwest is very limited. In response to this the university has set up a service for individuals who are unable to afford private representation, but require immigration advice, information or assistance – either for themselves or a family member.

***Aims of the clinic***

1. Provide a specialist advice and immigration service for those who are otherwise unable to afford representation;
2. Develop local capacity and networks to support organisations working with those who require immigration advice.

***Services provided***

The clinic will be a free, by appointment, service. It will be run by trained law students under the supervision of practising solicitors. The service will provide limited advice and information, signposting, and assistance with completing forms. Types of case may include:

* Article 8 family and private life claims
* Refugee Family Reunion
* Registration of children as British citizens
* EU family rights
* Statelessness

Priority will be given to individuals who show a particular vulnerability or urgent need, such as destitution and risk of homelessness.

For information and referrals contact immigrationclinic@exeter.ac.uk

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**Exeter ‘Exceptional Case Funding’ (ECF) Clinic**

***About ECF***

Since the cuts to legal aid that came into effect in 2013, many individuals living locally who previously qualified for legal aid now struggle to access free legal advice. Where people are not automatically entitled to legal aid, they can make an application directly to the Legal Aid Agency for Exceptional Case Funding (ECF).

ECF applications can be complex to draft, as individuals must state the nature of their case, why they are requesting help with their legal fees and why they could not represent themselves. For immigration applications, some applicants do not speak English as their first language, or have limited literacy in English.

The Legal Aid Agency has a duty to provide funding for free legal advice if an applicant has limited means and their human rights would otherwise be breached. However, the take up of ECF has been limited since the scheme was introduced.

***Aims of the clinic***

1. Raise awareness about the availability of ECF for people not automatically entitled to legal aid for immigration matters;
2. Provide support to individuals who require assistance with ECF applications.

***Services provided***

Trained law students will assist with ECF applications under the supervision of clinic staff.

We would also be happy to discuss creating specific referral pathways or setting up in-house support with organisations or legal practices that would benefit from the additional capacity.

For information and referrals contact ECFclinic@exeter.ac.uk