"The pandemic meant we had to be more creative in the way we connected with each other. qLegal managed to help more students to help more clients than ever before, with the support of more external partners. Working across locations and time zones, life was largely spent in front of screens, but we were keen not to lose the human side. The stats and stories in this report give a flavour of how this went."

Professor Ian Walden, Director of the Centre for Commercial Law Studies, Queen Mary University of London

qLegal is Queen Mary's award-winning pro bono commercial law clinic providing free legal advice and resources to start-ups and entrepreneurs.

Students provide advice and support to start-ups, under the supervision of external legal and compliance professionals.

Most importantly, students learn by doing.

Clients receive help they could not otherwise access.

External volunteers develop their own skills while helping the next generation of lawyers help the next generation of clients. Everyone wins!
THE LEGAL SUPPORT ECOSYSTEM

qLegal support delivered by students

Self-help legal resources
- UK government and ICO websites
- Articles and blogs online
- Template documents online
- Advice from a network of entrepreneurs

Compliance Mentoring Scheme
7-month mentoring scheme with experienced legal & compliance professionals

Public Legal Education
Interactive legal education workshops

Legal Advisory Programme
1:1 bespoke written legal advice

Consultancy Programme
Discrete consultancy projects for clients involving research and innovation

Externship Programme
1 day a week placement supporting a start-up with legal and business matters

Paid support
Pay a recommended specialist law firm to take care of the final steps for you:
- Formalise your business structure
- Register trade marks
- Prepare commercial contracts
WHAT WE'VE ACHIEVED THIS YEAR

Number of credit-bearing module places doubled

Offered fully interactive training programme accessible remotely

New collaborations including Airbnb and Enterprise Nation

New interdisciplinary collaboration on client-facing work

Highest ever number of students, clients and partners

239 student opportunities offered, up 66% from last year

“We delivered our programmes remotely using a mixture of pre-recorded training videos and interactive online classes. Our students really embraced using new technology.”

Emily Wapples, qLegal Operations Manager
In addition to our work supporting clients, qLegal:

- Received approval of Business Case to expand the team. Three new team members will be recruited for next year.
- Students took over qLegal marketing, writing blog posts on topical issues, and posting on social media.
- Ran weekly online socials with students, cementing team spirit. Quizzes and ‘show and tells’ proved popular!
- Created a playlist shared with students at the qLegal graduation celebration.

Students and staff contributed recipes to the Great qLegal International Cookbook.

Ran our first SKETCH interdisciplinary projects: law, tech, finance and business students solving client problems together.
qLegal students worked alongside students of economics, tech, business and undergrad law, delivering 5 separate projects for clients.

"I did not know what to expect but wow... I want to hire all the teams who pitched. It’s incredible to see this level of innovation and well thought through solutions."

Emma Jones CBE, Founder of Enterprise Nation

qLegal students worked alongside students of economics, tech, business and undergrad law, delivering 5 separate projects for clients.

"The service provided was outstanding. The team provided us with a comprehensive report [...] which made reviewing complex areas of law a far more manageable process. I wouldn’t hesitate in recommending them as a superb partner."

Harry Cloke, Head of Department, Development, Nightline
OUR STUDENTS

“Socially engaging with the qLegal team every Friday in the middle of a global pandemic was refreshing. I’m very glad I got to participate and meet everyone.”

Emmanuel Tukwasibwe, 2020-21 Entrepreneurship Law Clinic Module student

“Having hands-on experience of the English jurisdiction is essential. It has not only given me insight into the UK legal market but has prepared me with the relevant skillset.”

Amritha Bhaskar, 2020-21 Legal Advisory Programme

“In 2020-2021, we offered a record number of opportunities to 200 students, while continuing to offer engaging and interactive learning experiences.”

Eliza Platts-Mills, qLegal Lecturer,
OUR STUDENTS

“qLegal has been one of the best parts of my LLM year, and one of the most fun, educational and inspiring professional experiences I’ve ever had. The qLegal team made it interesting and were supportive every step of the way.”

Pauliina Ketonen, 2020-21 Public Legal Education Student

“I have been impressed with the quality of the students’ work. Dealing with a client is a very good and enriching experience for them because they can get a feel for how it really is in practice.”

Robin Somerville, Barrister, Judge and Mediator
OUR VOLUNTEERS

“I like the idea of using my legal skills, giving back, helping start-ups and in particular helping students in doing their pro-bono work and recognising their efforts and empowering them.”

Puja Modha, Partner at Aria Grace Law

“The areas of law that we practice in are very dynamic. When we advise clients, our aim is to future-proof our advice to the extent that we can. To do so, we need to keep ahead of new developments and in tune with what could happen in the future. Working with a university just gives you that edge.”

Emma Burnett, Head of Data Protection, CMS UK

165 volunteering opportunities offered in 2020-21
“We are in a few accelerator programmes and this was one of the most useful, extensive, and well-rounded pieces of legal support we have received!”

Elizabeth Yu, Co-Founder at Onsee (formerly Pelation)

“We created a product to help young musicians learn to play jazz during lockdown, and we wanted to know if we could protect it. As a charity, we do not have extensive financial resources to enquire about the law, and qLegal’s pro bono law clinic really appealed to us. It meant we could access legal support from future lawyers supervised by experienced solicitors. It was reassuring to me that we would get a high-quality answer, which we did!”

Nigel Tully MBE, National Youth Jazz Orchestra
**OUR CLIENTS**

- **66** Advice letters sent
- **17** Legal workshops delivered
- **5** Clients received tailored consultancy services

"Coming from an under-privileged minority group, qLegal gave me the confidence to move forward with my business. The advice I received has removed my fear of legal matters. It was explained in such a clear and concise manner. All my concerns were answered and I now have a full set of solutions."

Anonymous clinic client

qLegal partners with Hatch, the London based incubator supporting female founders.

- **31** Start-ups received in-house support
- **18** Online resources published
- **32** Mentoring pairs
“I have always had a great passion for Legal Design and qLegal helped me develop it even more. I am now the co-founder of Legal Design Arc, a start-up focusing on Design thinking application in law.”

Gunjan Saxena, 2019-20 Legal Design Programme

“qLegal projects remove silos as law students work with students from other disciplines to solve client problems, mirroring the world of work.”

Karen Watton, qLegal Director

“qLegal taught me how to maintain effective and long-lasting relationships”.

Kamila Gomolka, 2019-20 Future Clients Programme
OUR ALUMNI

“I was awarded a paid traineeship and joined the European Intellectual Property Office in Alicante after my LLM. This was undoubtedly thanks to the experience I had on the Externship with qLegal. I am a grateful and proud alumni!”

Salvatore Marcenaro, 2020-21 Externship Project Programme

“qLegal isn’t just a clinic, it invests a lot in its students. It is a massive family, and to be a part of it is hugely beneficial. I have managed to make lifetime connections as a result. qLegal helped me secure my present role within the Civil Service. My experience helped me navigate my career path post-graduation.”

Daniel Harvey, 2019-20 Legal Advisory Programme

“This year, it’s been particularly heart-warming to see students’ eagerness to volunteer as part of our first Marketing Editorial Board and help promote our services online.”

Clemence Tanzi, qLegal Teaching Fellow
Thank you

We wouldn't be able to do our work without the support of all our individual volunteers who have made such a difference, our Partners and Advisory Board. Please take a look at the fantastic organisations that support us. We would like to thank you all for your continued support.

This year, we welcomed five new partners: Tak Matsuda (Crest Legal), Sophie Cole (Capita), Puja Modha (Aria Grace Law), Paul Maalo (Wiggin) and members of the legal and compliance team at Visa.

To find out more, or to get involved (we’d love to hear from you), please get in touch: www.qlegal.qmul.ac.uk/