

SHAPING A
BETTER WORLD
SINCE 1845

14th LSGL Summer School

School of Law, Queen's University Belfast,
Northern Ireland

'Legal Institutions in times of change'

20 - 31 July 2026

Queen's University Belfast

LSGL2026@qub.ac.uk



Law Schools
Global League



**QUEEN'S
UNIVERSITY
BELFAST**

**SCHOOL
OF LAW**

About the School of Law

The School of Law at Queen's, part of the Russell Group, is a leading UK Law School. It provides innovative teaching delivered by world class staff in a beautiful environment. Law has been studied and taught at Queen's since 1845. The School offers students a broad array of teaching and learning experiences designed to cultivate the skills and personal qualities essential for thriving careers in various professions. It is housed in a modern, state-of-the-art building at the heart of the Queen's University campus. It features innovative teaching spaces, such as the Moot Court Room and interactive teaching room, along with dedicated study rooms and social spaces for law students. Adjacent to the University's social hub, Junction Café, on the ground floor, the School forms a central part of the student experience at Queen's.

A welcome from Professor Warren Barr, Head of the School of Law

"A very warm welcome to all delegates of the 14th LSGL Summer School from all of us at the School of Law, Queen's University Belfast. I know you will find our sessions on 'Legal Institutions in times of change' fascinating, thought-provoking, challenging, but also hugely enjoyable. We also have a number of activities planned, which will showcase the city of Belfast and the wider wonders of Northern Ireland... Avante!"

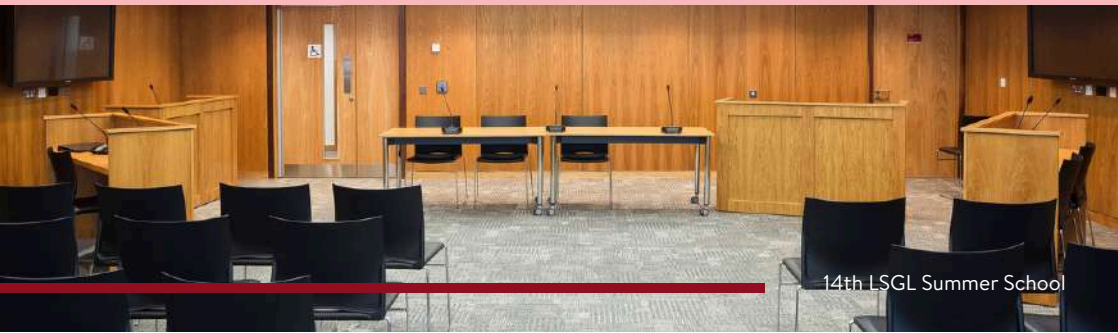


"Legal Institutions in Times of Change"

The environments within which law acts are being reshaped by rapid technological change, economic dislocation, ecological harm, and by the weakening of global and state institutions. These changes pose significant challenges for law. Not only is the practice of law changing, but hitherto settled principles of legality and the rule of law are coming under increasing pressure. The 14th Law Schools Global League (LSGL) Summer School asks how law not only might adapt to these challenges, but assesses law's possible roles in both addressing and perhaps even exacerbating them. What role for law in times of change, we ask, and what future for legal practice and governance? To address these questions the Summer School will look at the theme from two distinct angles.

Firstly, it will focus on technological change and economic innovation, exploring their impact on legal institutions and legal practice. Participants will consider how developments in digitalisation, artificial intelligence, and platform economies are transforming practice across from courts to client services. These create new regulatory challenges as jurisdictions seek for instance to balance efficiency with fundamental rights, or access to justice with the concentration of technological change in larger firms. Attention will be given to the governance of emerging sectors such as fintech and litigation services, and to organisational, ethical, and professional challenges for lawyers operating in a globalised economy. These issues are urgent because technological disruption is not only altering the delivery of legal services but also redefining the frameworks through which economic life is organised.

Secondly, it will look at law's role, and especially the rule of law, in the context of social and political change. We examine how constitutional systems and international legal norms respond to challenges posed by polarisation, populism, and geopolitical instability, as well as to crises linked to migration, climate change, and public health. Participants will explore strategies for maintaining judicial independence, democratic accountability, and the protection of fundamental rights when these principles are contested. At a moment when the legitimacy and resilience of legal institutions are under strain worldwide, understanding how law can uphold stability and justice, and where it remains silent, is essential for those who will shape its future.





Summer School Schedule

Week 1: 20 - 24 July 2026

09:00 - 12:00 | Contracting in the Platform Age: Skills for Lawyering in Automated and AI-Enabled Markets

12:00 - 14:00 | Lunch Break

14:00 - 17:00 | Administrative Justice in Times of Change: A Comparative Perspective

Week 2: 27 - 31 July 2026

09:00 - 12:00 | AI and Human Rights

12:00 - 14:00 | Lunch Break

14:00 - 17:00 | Designing the Futures We Want: Law, Work and Institutions

WEEK ONE

09:00 - 12:00

Contracting in the Platform Age: Skills for Lawyering in Automated and AI-Enabled Markets

Contracting in the Platform Age: Skills for Lawyering in Automated and AI-Enabled Markets is an intensive one-week, simulation-based course examining how digitalisation, AI-enabled systems, and platform economies are transforming contracting and legal practice. Using a recurring fact pattern involving a cross-border SME and an automated contracting platform, students explore core private-law questions—formation, consent, attribution, agency, and responsibility—in environments where contractual actions are embedded in automated workflows, standardised terms, and AI-supported interfaces.

Each day focuses on a different institutional or doctrinal challenge: online formation and evidentiary issues; attribution and electronic agents; platform governance and digital content ecosystems; dispute pathways and regulatory levers; and broader questions of accountability, legitimacy, and professional ethics.

Teaching is highly interactive, centred on problem-based learning, small-group work, and practitioner-style outputs such as client advice notes, evidence plans, risk matrices, clause redlines, dispute roadmaps, and a capstone memorandum.

Assessment

The assessment consists of a 2,500–3,000-word final paper submitted after the course, responding to a prompt based on the recurring scenario and comparative materials. The paper is graded on a pass/fail basis according to demonstrated issue-spotting, structured reasoning, engagement with comparative sources, practical clarity, and professional judgement. Daily class participation and formative exercises are required but not graded.





Liam Sunner is a Lecturer (Education) at Queen's University Belfast, where he teaches across company law, EU law, law and technology, and artificial intelligence and the law. His research interests include the regulation of innovation, platform governance, and the intersection of intellectual property, human rights, and digital markets. He has led and contributed to teaching initiatives on responsible technology use in legal education and professional training, with a focus on practical skills, assessment design, and student support. Dr Sunner contributes a law-and-technology perspective, with a background in legal education and developments within the legal profession, in addressing new forms and technological challenges.



Dr Liam Sunner (United Kingdom), School of Law,
Queen's University Belfast



Lucinda Kok is a Lecturer in the Department of Private Law at the University of Pretoria. Her teaching focuses on contract law and intellectual property, and she has developed student-centred, technology-supported approaches to skills training at scale. Her research examines how digitalisation and artificial intelligence reshape private law concepts, particularly contractual consent, attribution, and agency, within the South African and comparative context. Ms Kok contributes a comparative private law perspective, with a background in intellectual property law, and research on how automated and AI-enabled systems challenge private law concepts such as consent, attribution, and agency.

Ms Lucinda Kok (South Africa), Faculty of Law, University of
Pretoria

WEEK ONE

14:00 - 17:00

Administrative Justice in Times of Change: A Comparative Perspective

This course explores how administrative and constitutional law respond to major global challenges, focusing on two case studies where social and political upheaval disrupts administrative justice: forced migration in Australia and climate change judicial review in the UK. Students will examine legislation, case law and policymaking to understand how each jurisdiction resolves disputes and regulates in times of instability.

It investigates how climate change and forced migration intersect, raising broader questions about administrative values, judicial independence, ministerial discretion and access to justice. Both case studies illustrate how polarisation, populism and geopolitical instability shape the day-to-day administration of justice, particularly in politically sensitive areas such as immigration, human rights and environmental governance.

The Australian case study covers refugee status determination, criminal deportation, judicial review, indefinite detention, politicisation of appointments and the 2024 establishment of the Administrative Review Tribunal. The UK case study analyses climate litigation brought by NGOs, statutory interpretation under the Climate Change Act 2008, and the limits of judicial competence in reviewing complex, value-laden executive decisions.

Across both case studies, students will reflect on how administrative law is stressed by global crises and how legal institutions adapt in response.

Assessment is by 100% in-class exam.





Associate Professor Chantal Bostock is an academic in the Law & Justice group within the School of Global & Public Law at UNSW. She has worked in private practice in Sydney, specialising in migration/refugee law, and as a senior lawyer at the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal (UK) and the Law Commission (UK). She has also worked as a senior lawyer and Tribunal member at the Administrative Appeals Tribunal in Sydney. She currently sits as a lay member of the Medical Council of NSW. Her PhD is entitled The Administrative Appeals Tribunal and Character Assessments for Non-Citizens. Her areas of interest are administrative law, including refugee and migration law.



A/Prof Chantal Bostock (Australia),
School of Global and Public Law,
UNSW Law and Justice



Dr Sonam Gordhan (UK)
Dickson Poon School of Law,
King's College London

Dr Sonam Gordhan is a Lecturer in Environmental Law and a member of the Centre for Climate Law and Governance at The Dickson Poon School of Law, King's College London. She researches and teaches in the field of environmental law, with a particular focus on climate change and adjudicative process. She is co-convenor of the LLB Environmental Law and gives tutorials in Tort Law. Before joining the Law School, Sonam was a Departmental Lecturer at Corpus Christi College and the Faculty of Law, University of Oxford. At Oxford, she convened the undergraduate course in Environmental Law and contributed to BCL teaching on Legal Concepts in Environmental Law. She also ran tutorials in Administrative and Constitutional Law. Sonam completed her PhD at UCL Faculty of Laws, which explored the relationship between adjudicative method and climate change problems. Her work has appeared in the *Modern Law Review* and the *Journal of Environmental Law*.

WEEK TWO

09:00 - 12:00

AI and Human Rights

This course explores the rapidly evolving relationship between artificial intelligence (AI) and human rights, examining how emerging technologies challenge established legal principles, accountability mechanisms, and modes of human rights protection. Across five seminar-based sessions, students investigate key concepts at the intersection of AI and human rights, including the implications of surveillance, automation, and algorithmic decision-making for fundamental rights. The course then considers the growing use of AI in human rights investigations, focusing on both its potential to process large quantities of open-source information and the risks of bias, digital deception, and evidentiary uncertainty.

Further sessions address AI in criminal justice systems, highlighting issues such as algorithmic transparency, facial recognition, and the suitability of international human rights law as a framework for regulating automated decision-making. Students also analyse the harms associated with AI chatbots—particularly risks relating to deception, safety, and societal impacts—and explore emerging regulatory approaches. The final seminar examines how AI affects LGBTQ+ communities, considering issues of discrimination, surveillance, ethical design, and opportunities for positive advocacy. The course is delivered through discussion-based seminars, with students leading conversation on selected materials and participating in group tasks.

Assessment: Students will complete an eight-page written paper on an approved topic related to the course, to be submitted by 8 August 2026.





Academic Teaching Staff



Yvonne McDermott Rees FLSW is Professor of Law at Queen's University Belfast. She is the author of *Fairness in International Criminal Trials* (Oxford University Press, 2016) and *Proving International Crimes* (Oxford University Press, 2024). Yvonne is, from 2022-2027, Principal Investigator (PI) on the TRUE project, a large multidisciplinary project exploring the impact of deepfakes on trust in user-generated evidence. She is also PI on a UKRI-funded project on Chatbots and Violence against Women and Girls. Previously, she led OSR4Rights, a project funded by the UK's Economic and Social Research Council and awarded the ESRC Celebrating Impact Prize 2024, which examined how open-source evidence has transformed human rights fact-finding. Yvonne is a Master of the Bench of the Honourable Society of the Inner Temple, Fellow of the Learned Society of Wales, and Managing Editor of the *Journal of International Criminal Justice*.



Professor Yvonne
McDermott Rees (UK),
Queen's University Belfast



Professor Jessica Peake
(USA),
UCLA School of Law

Jessica Peake is the Director of the International and Comparative Law Program at UCLA School of Law and Senior Research Fellow at the UCLA Center for Resilience and Digital Justice. Jess is an expert in international law, human rights, international criminal law and digital investigations. Currently, her work focuses on the intersection of technology and human rights, in particular the impact of AI in a number of different spaces, including armed conflict, the LGBTQ+ community, and the future of work. Jess co-founded the University of California Digital Investigations Network in 2021 and teaches courses on Human Rights and War Crimes Digital Investigations and International Humanitarian Law. In 2026, she is co-chairing the annual meeting of the American Branch of the International Law Association, International Law Weekend for the second time. She holds leadership positions with the American Society of International Law and the International Law Students Association. Jess regularly appears on public media, including the BBC, CBS, NPR, Bloomberg, and Al Jazeera. She was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize in 2023.

WEEK TWO

14:00 - 17:00

Designing the Futures We Want: Law, Work and Institutions

This course explores how rapidly evolving economic models—driven by data extraction, digital platforms, and artificial intelligence—are transforming work, legal professions, institutions, and education. It begins by examining surveillance capitalism and contemporary data-driven economic structures, analysing how law enables and constrains these systems. Building on this foundation, the course investigates shifts in the nature of work, including automation, platform labour, and emerging inequalities, highlighting the regulatory and ethical challenges they generate.

Attention then turns to the legal profession itself, considering how digitalisation and AI reshape professional roles, skills, and responsibilities. The course also addresses growing social tensions such as political polarization, declining trust, and the impact of technological disruption on legal education. Students will consider how universities and law schools can foster resilience, dialogue, and democratic values in times of rapid change. It concludes with a collaborative design-thinking session in which participants propose future-focused solutions for more just, inclusive, and human-centred legal and institutional systems.

Assessment is based on active engagement throughout the week (60%), including participation in discussions, group tasks, and course activities. A final presentation (40%) requires students to apply course concepts through a structured design-thinking exercise, demonstrating critical reflection and creative problem-solving.





Academic Teaching Staff



Marina Feferbaum is an Associate Professor of Law at FGV Direito SP (Brazil), where she is co-Director of the Centre for Teaching and Research in Innovation (CEPI), and where she is also a faculty member for Undergraduate and Professional Master's programs. She coordinates the Pedagogical Innovation Hub at FGV. She conducts faculty training courses throughout Brazil. In 2022, she was an adjunct professor at Fordham University School of Law, invited to teach a course on Artificial Intelligence. She received the 2024 Pedagogical Innovation and Market-Engaged Research Award from the Brazilian Association of Lawtechs and Legaltechs (AB2L). Her research areas include focuses on artificial intelligence, digital governance, and innovation in legal education, with projects spanning academia, public policy, and international collaboration.



Professor Marina Feferbaum
(Brazil), FGV São Paulo Law
School



Professor Natalia Ramirez
Bustamante (Colombia),
Uniandes Law School

Natalia Ramírez Bustamante is an Associate Professor at the Law School of Universidad de los Andes (Colombia) and Director of the Centre for Socio-Legal Research (CIJUS). She holds a J.D. and a B.A. in Philosophy from Universidad de los Andes, an LL.M., and a Doctor of Juridical Science (S.J.D.) from Harvard University. Her research examines employment conditions across diverse occupations, labor regulation, and the intersections between formal and informal work, with a strong and transversal gender perspective. She specializes in action research, qualitative methods, and feminist research methodologies. Natalia is Co-Director of Digna – Trabajo y Género and Country Co-Lead (Colombia) of the international project Care Economies in Context (University of Toronto). She was a member of Colombia's Employment Mission (2020–2021). Her book *Cumplimiento de la Regulación Laboral en Colombia* received the 2022 award for Best Academic Legal Research from Corporación Excelencia en la Justicia.



ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- Please register your interest by completing [this form](#)
- Each member institution will determine which of its own students are eligible
- Applicants must have completed at least one year of legal studies at a member institution (typically an LLB, LLM, JD or PhD programme).
- The modules will be taught in English, and written assignments must be submitted in English.
- Applicants must be proficient in English speaking, reading and writing equivalent to the B2/C1 level.
- Applicants must be nominated by their home institution before applying.
- Home institutions should email LSGL2026@qub.ac.uk with any questions.
- All students will have to register for the whole programme for two weeks and take the four courses offered in the programme.

Application Deadline: 10 May 2026



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Tuition Fees:

Each member institution will be responsible for a €1,000 tuition payment. The member institution will be invoiced directly, regardless of if they send a student. An additional €1000 will be charged for each additional student. All invoices will be sent directly to the member institutions, and not the students. Further details regarding payments and invoicing will be provided shortly.

Credit Value:

Each LSGL member institution will determine if participation in the Summer School is eligible for credit at its institution. Please contact your home institution with any questions about credit transfer. A one-week course will be comprised of 700 minutes of class work. 700 minutes meets the U.S. ABA requirement for a 1-credit course, which is the strictest time-standard for a 1-credit course among LSGL member institutions.

Budgeting:

Belfast is one of the most affordable cities in the UK and Ireland for the student population, and Northern Ireland as a whole has the lowest student living costs in the UK (Save the Student National Student Money Survey 2025). Nevertheless, it is important that you are financially prepared for your visit; you might consider an electronic banking option. We would recommend a budget of around £150 per week for grocery shopping, social activities, and some meals around campus.

Assessment and Certificates:

Students will typically undergo assessment through a final paper for each course, with submission deadlines determined by the course conveners. Assessments will be graded on a pass/fail basis in accordance with the standard LSGL evaluation and grading guidelines. The grading process is expected to be finalised by mid-August. Queen's University Belfast will issue a certificate of participation and a record of results for each student.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Housing:

Attendees will be staying in Elms Village BT9. More information on the specific facilities can be found on the QUB Accommodation section of the QUB website.

The rooms are single occupancy, ensuite rooms with shared kitchen and living space. Most apartments have 11 rooms. Linen (bed sheets, towels) will be changed every 5 days; linen and toiletry packs will be provided in the room. Tea/Coffee making facilities in kitchens. A typical rate for a visitor is £82 per night including tax.

Attendees will also have access to the Treehouse in Elms BT9; This is the main social space for students staying at Elms BT9. We offer games tables, two bookable kitchens to entertain your friends and family, two 85-inch TVs in the TV lounge, a games and karaoke room, outdoor BBQ area and a complimentary self-service coffee bar. The Treehouse is a great space to chill out, grab coffee and make friends.

Visa Requirements:

Check if you need a visa by visiting this website: <https://www.gov.uk/check-uk-visa>. Attendees are also advised to check with the British Consulate in their home country regarding visa requirements before departing for the United Kingdom / Northern Ireland. Please note that visa issuance may take several weeks, so it is important that you start the paperwork as soon as possible.

EU/EEA and Swiss nationals can simply travel to the UK and enter as a Standard Visitor via the electronic gates, i.e. there is no visa application process. Other nationals (visa nationals) will need to apply for the Standard Visitor visa in advance of travel.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Out of hours support:

Counselling & Crisis support

Lifeline: 00 44 808 808 8000 or the Samaritans: 116 123

Hospital:

Dial 999 to request an ambulance

Community and Campus Safety:

If you have been subject to a Criminal Incident (including hate crime, sexual assault, domestic violence etc.)

Please report via the following options:

Police 999 (in an emergency), or 101 (non-emergency)

Report and Support:

Security 24-hour number on 00 44 28 9097 5099.

Queen's Accommodation: accommodation@qub.ac.uk or

Elms Accommodation BT9: 00 44 28 9097 4525



Contact Us:

LSGL Organising Team

LSGL2026@qub.ac.uk

Registration Form



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