

Birmingham Law School
College of Arts and Law
Visiting Scholar Application Form

PLEASE EMAIL THIS FORM IN MICROSOFT WORD FORMAT PLUS A BRIEF CV IN ENGLISH WHICH SHOULD NOT EXCEED TWO PAGES TO ROB DOOLAN AT R.DOOLAN@BHAM.AC.UK

Name	<i>First name Surname</i>	
Address	<i>Full postal address, either institution or home</i>	
e-mail	<i>Email Address</i>	
Title and Position Held	<i>Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss/Dr/Professor etc.</i>	
Current Institution	<i>Name of current institution</i>	
Qualifications	<i>Qualification titles, levels, institutions, years</i>	
Dates of Proposed Visit <i>(Please include both start and end dates for the visit)</i>	Start Date: <i>Full date</i>	End Date: <i>Full date</i>
Are you an EU Citizen? <i>(If not what is your country of residence)</i>	Yes / No <i>Indicate yes or no and in not give the name of the country of residence</i>	
Please state which member of staff at Birmingham Law School will be your academic host for your visit (you must have the agreement of a member of staff in advance of applying and s/he will be asked to complete a supporting statement prior to your application being considered by the school's research committee).		
<i>Name of a member of the department</i>		

Summary of Proposed Research Activities

(Please include brief details of purpose and methodology of research, facilities likely to be required and any likely publications)

The contingency of same-sex relations disregards the so-called natural kinship bonds based on blood line; an issue that is rarely reflected in mainstream legal texts on wills and inheritance. *Therefore it is important to look at lesbian and gay care and support relations as meaningful and significant social formations in the analysis of sexuality in the legal arena. Will-writing and other organizing of inheritance is an important site*

for reflection of an ideal of autonomy of the modern individual as it offers the ultimate right to define and recognize (within certain limits) one's intimate relations.

I would like to use this unique research visit opportunity to discuss will-writing and inheritance practices in the queer community. My research is based on interviews, small field work and an online survey with self-identifying queer informants in Finland. One aim of my project is to focus on the methodological challenges and possibilities of interviews in the context of queer kinship and will-writing: what kind of knowledge of queer lives in the legal context can be generated via this technique?

I would be happy with an access to the Library and University facilities, and an access to a "hot desk" in a shared facility, if possible. A reasonable access to the College's IT and photocopying facilities would be appreciated. I plan to offer an article draft for the Social & Legal Studies based on my research – I would like to prepare this draft during and immediately after my visit to Birmingham Law School.

Please provide a statement about how you intend to contribute to the life of the Law School and the wider College of Arts and Law during your visit (e.g. staff seminars/lectures/joint research projects/proposed outputs). This must not exceed 500 words

I am prepared to give a staff seminar on lesbian care and support relations in a small town (and possibly also in a rural environment) based on my fieldwork, which is a part of my current research project titled "Queer(ing) Wills and Inheritance Law in Finland".

It would be really interesting and potentially highly productive in terms of scientific output to discuss my empirical work with the research community in Arts and Law at the Birmingham Law School.

Other potential points of interest/discussion:

- How to carry on a survey on wills & inheritance among sexually marginalized groups in the society?
- How to modify the survey questions and how to reach potential respondents?
- How to analyze the survey results?

Birmingham Law School Guidelines

Birmingham Law School invites applications to our Visiting Scholars scheme. The scheme is open to academics at other institutions wishing to undertake research within the School and take part in the academic life of the University of Birmingham.

- Individuals are considered for inclusion in the scheme on a case by case basis on their academic merits and on the basis of the contribution to our research community.
- There are three fixed application dates each year. Usually held in January, May and October.
- Applications are determined by the Law School Research Committee and the College Director of Research and Knowledge Transfer.
- Factors which will be considered in determining the application will include the reasons for the application and the strength of the applicant's academic profile.
- In addition to making a prima facie case, applicants must have secured the agreement of a member of the Law School staff to act as a sponsor for their visit
- The title of Visiting Scholar will apply for the fixed duration of their association with the Law School to be determined on a case by case basis in relation to each application.
- Visiting Scholars will be given Honorary status for the duration of their stay, enabling access to the Library and University facilities.
- Visiting Scholars will be given access to a "hot desk" in a shared facility, where this is possible. Where such access is provided, Visiting Scholars are only to use the Room for office and academic research purposes only during the usual opening hours of the building.
- Visiting Scholars will also be given reasonable access to the College's IT and photocopying facilities (at the absolute discretion of the College).
- Any applicants who are not citizens of the European Union must ensure that they satisfy any visa/immigration requirements. Successful applicants who are not EU citizens will be forwarded to the College Quality Manager, who will ensure compliance with the relevant UKBA requirements. A visa assessment check has to be done by the International Student Advisory Service, and no invitation letter can be sent directly by the School until the visa assessment has been completed. If the individual is an EEA National then once the College Quality Manager has confirmed this with the visitor, the School will issue an invitation letter. If the individual needs a visa, the College Quality Manager will produce a letter of invitation. The School will confirm any other details with the visitor once the visa letter is ready.