



SCHOOL OF  
ADVANCED STUDY  
UNIVERSITY  
OF LONDON

2024



Postgraduate study at the

# Refugee Law Initiative

[rli.sas.ac.uk](https://rli.sas.ac.uk)

World class. Worldwide.

# Join the World Class

**1 Innovative and policy-relevant research**  
Benefit from the Refugee Law Initiative's distinctive refugee law and policy expertise in the UK and globally.

**2 Career opportunities**  
Participate in established academic and practitioner networks and refugee-focused academic events, and engage with international decision-makers and practitioners, policy-makers, academics and students from across the globe.

**3 An enriching scholarly environment**  
Join the Refugee Law Initiative's lively programme of research training and seminars dedicated to interdisciplinary reflection on the refugee and forced migration theme..

**4 An intellectual hub**  
Study in Bloomsbury, the intellectual heart of London, where you will have easy access to world-class libraries and facilities, including Senate House Library, the British Library and the National Archives.

**5 Join the World Class**  
Our graduates are awarded a University of London degree, an internationally recognised mark of quality.

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# The Refugee Law Initiative



**The Refugee Law Initiative (RLI) is a unique academic centre promoting interdisciplinary research, teaching and exchange on law, policy and practice in refugee and displacement contexts.**

As a national focal point for leading and promoting research in this field, the RLI works to integrate the shared interests of refugee law scholars and practitioners, stimulate collaboration between academics and non-academics, and achieve policy impact at the national and international level.

## Research

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Established in 2010 at the School of Advanced Study, University of London, the RLI works in the UK and internationally to promote new interdisciplinary research and facilitate practical impact. As an

internationally recognised centre leading research in the refugee and forced displacement field, the RLI hosts extensive global networks of research affiliates, and senior research associates and practitioners.

The RLI directly supports research in under-served themes and regions through its institutional support for research networks in countries affected by internal displacement, and regularly partners for research with other universities, governments, international agencies and civil society.

## Publication and research dissemination

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The RLI supports publication in the refugee and forced migration field through an accessible range of platforms, including the RLI International Refugee Law book series (Brill), the RLI Working Papers Series, the RLI blog on Refugee Protection and Forced Migration Studies and the Researching Internal Displacement site.

The RLI also helps disseminate research, promote academic exchange and facilitate practitioner engagement through the RLI annual conference, as well as a range of seminar series and other ad hoc events.

## Postgraduate training

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The RLI is a leader in postgraduate education. The accessible MA in Refugee Protection and Forced Migration Studies has grown to be one of the largest postgraduate programmes in the field.

The RLI also convenes open-access popular short courses on refugees and internal displacement, and facilitates high-quality research through specialist postgraduate training on refugee research.

## Refugee Law Clinic

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Since 2020, the RLI has developed and led the successful University of London Intercollegiate Refugee Law Clinic, launched in partnership with nine University of London law schools, Macfarlanes and Clifford Chance law firms and referral partners such as the Refugee Council. The Refugee Law Clinic provides practical clinical legal education through pro bono representation of marginalised appeals rights-exhausted asylum seekers in London.

# The School of Advanced Study



**The School of Advanced Study, University of London, is a unique institution in UK higher education.**

Comprising eight internationally renowned research Institutes and a variety of central academic initiatives, it is located within the Bloomsbury precinct of the University in the intellectual heart of London.

Founded in 1994, the School of Advanced Study is the only institution in the UK that is nationally funded to promote and facilitate research in the humanities. It performs a vital role as a driving force for knowledge sharing across the humanities in the UK and beyond, and receives special funding for this purpose from Research England.

The School works in collaboration with other organisations (notably the Arts and Humanities Research Council and the British Academy) other UK universities, independent research organisations, learned societies and government agencies.

The eight Institutes of the School, many of which have long and distinguished histories of their own, are dedicated to serving the research communities of their disciplines, both nationally and internationally. Together they complement the work of others by offering a broad research base and providing a range of services that far exceed the capacity of any one individual university to support, inspire and advance research activity. The School also enhances

the dissemination of that research beyond that which an individual or their institution could achieve alone.

Underpinning the School's national role is the research and scholarship undertaken by its academic staff. The process of undertaking challenging research in order to extend the boundaries of knowledge across disciplines and in collaboration with researchers from around the world is critical to the School's function as an innovative space for advanced study and its commitment to the highest standards of scholarship.

# Why study with us?

## Doctoral students at the Refugee Law Initiative benefit from the RLI's distinctive refugee law and policy expertise in the UK and globally.

Important career-progression opportunities are available through access to the RLI's established academic and practitioner networks and annual series of refugee-focused academic events.

## Global networks

The RLI hosts extensive global networks of research affiliates, and senior research associates and practitioners, which provide a unique infrastructure for doctoral scholars to pursue innovative, practice-focused research which aims to provide real impact in legal and policy responses to refugee and forced displacement issues.

The RLI's Annual Conference further brings together international decision-makers and practitioners, policy-makers, academics and students from across the globe and serves as a vital conduit for doctoral students' research promotion and networking.

## A scholarly community

As part of this scholarly community, doctoral students also have the opportunity to participate in shared training events and seminars dedicated to interdisciplinary reflection on the refugee and forced migration theme. These include discussion groups and work in progress sessions (in which students present their own research from the second year onwards).

At the RLI, doctoral students are offered valuable publication and editing experience as part of the RLI's International Refugee Law book series (Brill) and Working Papers Series, and benefit from the RLI's specialist doctoral training on refugee research, and the University of London doctoral training programme in legal research methods.

For those working on internal displacement, the RLI hosts a dedicated Internal Displacement Research Programme and runs the Researching Internal Displacement platform online.

## Doctoral Centre

In addition, the dedicated Doctoral Centre at the School of Advanced Study supports researchers in the humanities in the School, across the UK, and internationally. It provides a freely-accessible and wide-ranging programme of research training in skills for humanities researchers of all sorts and wherever they may be located.

It also co-ordinates and facilitates paid-for short courses and summer schools run by the institutes and other centres and departments at the School. Internally, it oversees the academic experience of MPhil and PhD students in the School and provides expertise and support in learning technology for all teaching and learning across the School.

## Be at the heart of a global city

The Institute is located in the heart of Bloomsbury in central London. Our location ensures that you will be able to enjoy everything the city has to offer, from the world-class resources of neighbouring institutions, such as the British Museum and the British Library, to shops, restaurants, parks, clubs and theatres. London is regularly named the best university city in the world for its welcoming attitude, diversity and vibrant, student-friendly culture.

# PhD study at the RLI



**The Refugee Law Initiative is a leading interdisciplinary academic centre in the UK concentrating on international refugee law, policy and practice.**

As a PhD student at the RLI, you would be studying at a national focal point for leading and promoting cutting edge research in these fields.

With guidance from our expert supervisors, you'll carry out extensive independent research culminating in a thesis of up to 100,000 words. This research presents the opportunity to gain expertise in your area of interest while also honing a range of transferable skills. On completing

this course, you'll be well prepared for specialist career paths both within academia and beyond.

## Programme structure

The degree can be taken full time over three years (or a maximum of four) or part time over five years (or a maximum of six), with entry in either October or January.

You'll initially be registered for our MPhil and then, providing your progress has been satisfactory, be upgraded to our PhD.

The primary activity of the PhD is the writing of a thesis of up to 100,000 words. There is no formal coursework, but you will be expected to participate

in regular seminars on 'Work in Progress' and to present a paper every year from your second year onwards.

In your first year you are required to attend a weekly class on 'Techniques of Scholarship'. You are also encouraged to participate in the regular seminars held at the RLI during the academic year.

After submission of the thesis, you will attend an oral examination conducted by an internal examiner, from the University of London, and an external examiner, normally from another British university. Graduates are awarded a University of London degree.

# Supervisors: areas of interest

## Professor David Cantor

Professor of Refugee Protection  
and Forced Migration Studies

[david.cantor@sas.ac.uk](mailto:david.cantor@sas.ac.uk)

- Refugee and human rights law at the international and national levels
- Protection practice in displacement contexts
- Refugees fleeing war
- Disasters, environment and mobility
- Refugee protection in Latin America
- Internal displacement
- Criminality as a driver of displacement

## Professor Sarah Singer

Professor of Refugee Law

[sarah.singer@sas.ac.uk](mailto:sarah.singer@sas.ac.uk)

- Refugee law and rights in domestic and international law
- Undesirable but unreturnable migrants
- Asylum, criminality and terrorism
- Detention and reception conditions for asylum seekers and refugees
- Humanitarian accountability in displacement situations

## Dr Nicholas Maple

Lecturer in Refugee Studies

[nicholas.maple@sas.ac.uk](mailto:nicholas.maple@sas.ac.uk)

- Accessing protection and solutions in Africa
- The Global Refugee Regime
- Refugee Camps and Urban Displacement





# Entry requirements



**We would normally expect candidates for the doctoral programme to hold the equivalent of a UK first or second-class undergraduate degree and a distinction-level master's degree.**

They would usually be in subjects relevant to the proposed field of doctoral research. However, we will consider applications from candidates who do not meet the formal academic requirements but who offer alternative qualifications and/or relevant experience.

English is the language of instruction and you will be required to demonstrate an appropriate level of proficiency.

For more information on entry requirements, visit: [sas.ac.uk/postgraduate-study/applying/entry-requirements](https://sas.ac.uk/postgraduate-study/applying/entry-requirements)

## Applications

Before submitting an application, you are advised to contact a member of the Refugee Law Initiative academic staff who has interests in your proposed field of study to discuss your proposal.

Your application to the School will require you to submit a research proposal, so it is advised to have one drafted ahead of contacting RLI academic staff and submitting your formal application.

For the current application deadline information and modes of study, please visit: [bit.ly/PhD\\_RLI\\_SAS](https://bit.ly/PhD_RLI_SAS)

# Further information



## Fees

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For up-to-date fees and funding opportunities, visit: [sas.ac.uk/postgraduate-study/fees-and-funding](https://sas.ac.uk/postgraduate-study/fees-and-funding)  
Please note, fees are subject to annual uplift.

## Funding opportunities

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Our students fund their studies in a variety of ways including scholarships, bursaries and fellowships, as well as government loans and postgraduate loans.

The School of Advanced Study also offers a range of bursaries and studentships for applicants on our degrees, including Institute and course specific scholarships. For further information visit: [sas.ac.uk/postgraduate-study/fees-and-funding/tuition-fees](https://sas.ac.uk/postgraduate-study/fees-and-funding/tuition-fees)

The University of London reserves the right to alter or withdraw courses and amend other details without prior notice. For up-to-date fees and funding opportunities, please visit: [sas.ac.uk/postgraduate-study/fees-and-funding](https://sas.ac.uk/postgraduate-study/fees-and-funding)

## Accommodation

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Full-time students and part-time students with disabilities may apply for accommodation in one of the University of London's award-winning intercollegiate Halls of Residence. Our Registry office will send you housing information after you have been offered a place.

To learn more about accommodation options, please visit: [halls.london.ac.uk/our-accommodation](https://halls.london.ac.uk/our-accommodation)



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London WC1E 7HU  
United Kingdom

Online enquiries: [sid.london.ac.uk](http://sid.london.ac.uk)

Telephone enquiries: +44 (0)20 7862 8360



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