

Recruitment: Refugee Family Reunion Project Fellowship

The Refugee Family Reunion (RFR) Project is an innovative interdisciplinary partnership between King's Legal Clinic, King's Sanctuary Programme, DNA@King's and Refugee Legal Support (RLS).

The RFR Project seeks to establish a new clinic that provides legal and DNA testing assistance to refugees in the UK, helping them reunite with their family members. Additionally, the project will produce research to challenge restrictive laws and policies, advocating for a fair and compassionate safe pathway to sanctuary.

The Fellowship

Why We Need You:

We are looking for two passionate and dedicated students from King's College London to join the Refugee Family Reunion Project as Fellows. This fellowship is open to students from any level of study who have legal experience* and a demonstrable interest in refugee rights.

* Including volunteering with the refugee legal sector or voluntary organisation, direct and familial lived experience, and learned experience.

Key Responsibilities:

- Support the preparation and participate in a Stakeholder Workshop on 17 October 2024, 10-2 pm: Share your perspectives and expertise to identify the key issues affecting refugee family reunification in the UK.
- Feedback on Pilot Clinic: Engage with student volunteers working on the pilot clinic to understand their experience and provide valuable feedback on the design and implementation of the pilot clinic, ensuring it effectively addresses the needs of refugees whilst providing a substantiable and ethical educational experience for King's students.
- Research Contributions: Support research activities that challenge restrictive laws and policies, contribute to the production of reports and publications, and attend King's events. Participate in reflection meetings with students and partners to enhance the learning experience.

Eligibility and Requirements

Essential Qualifications:

- (a) King's College London Students: You must be currently enrolled at King's College London at any level of study (undergraduate, postgraduate, or doctoral).
- (b) Legal Experience: You should have a background in law or experience in legal research, casework, or volunteering in a legal clinic or with a refugee organisation.
- (c) Interest in Refugee Rights: A demonstrable commitment to refugee and human rights issues is essential.

Desirable

- (d) Lived Experience: Students who have personal/familial experience of forced migration, seeking family reunions or being a refugee.
- (e) Volunteering/Work Experience: Experience working or volunteering with organisations focused on refugee rights or human rights advocacy.

Skills & Attributes:

- (a) Project Management: Ability to manage tasks effectively and in a timely manner, with strong organisational skills.
- (b) Communication: Excellent written and verbal communication skills, with the ability to interact empathetically and professionally with clients and stakeholders.
- (c) Teamwork: A collaborative approach, with the ability to work well in a multidisciplinary team.
- (d) Cultural Competency: Sensitivity to the challenges faced by refugees and a commitment to promoting inclusion and diversity.

Time Commitment:

The fellowship will involve up to 115 hours of work, including meetings and preparation, spread over the period from September 2024 to December 2025. Confirmed dates for Term 1 include in-person meetings on 17 September 2024 from 1-4 pm and a personal stakeholder workshop on 17 October 2024 from 10-2 pm, both at Strand Campus. Additional meetings and activities will be scheduled in negotiation with the fellow and the Sanctuary Team, along with the project partners. Please note that activities from September to December 2025 will be limited, primarily involving meetings with an external consultant for project evaluation.

Flexibility:

Key activities, tasks and meetings will be mapped out with the Fellow, though there may be occasions where the fellow is required to be flexible in accommodating short turnaround requests for feedback or short catch-up meetings (online/in person) with prior notice.

Benefits of Joining the RFR Project

Professional Development:

As a fellow, you will gain hands-on experience in a legal, educational and research setting, supporting legal cases that make a tangible difference in the lives of refugees. This fellowship will enhance your legal skills, project management abilities, and understanding of the refugee and immigration systems in the UK. We will provide an external mentor to support the fellows and provide them with the confidence needed to engage as effective stakeholders with academics, King's staff, and lawyers.

Impactful Work:

Your contributions will directly support refugee families in their journey to reunite with loved ones. Additionally, your involvement in research will help influence policies and practices that affect refugees on a broader scale.

Networking Opportunities:

You will work alongside experienced legal professionals, academics, and other students passionate about human rights. This fellowship offers a unique opportunity to build connections within the legal and humanitarian fields.

Recognition and Acknowledgment:

Your efforts will be recognised in project reports, research publications, and at public events. This is an opportunity to build your professional profile and be acknowledged as a contributor to a significant social justice initiative.

Remuneration:

This is a paid fellowship. The student will be awarded £1500 bursary following the completion of the fellowship with RFR Project. Reasonable travel expenses will be reimbursed as per the King's Expenses Policy.

Application Process

How to Apply:

To apply for the fellowship, please submit the following:

- Cover Letter (500 words max): Explain your motivation for applying, how you meet the eligibility criteria, and any relevant experiences (legal, personal, or voluntary) that make you a suitable candidate.
- Curriculum Vitae (CV): Highlight your educational background, legal experience, and any work or volunteering in refugee rights or related fields.

Submission Deadline: Please submit your application by 5 pm on Thursday 12 September 2024 to Sanctuary@kcl.ac.uk

Interview Process:

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to a brief interview on 13 September 2024.

Contact Information

For any questions or further information about the fellowship, please contact:

King's Sanctuary Programme

Email: Sanctuary@kcl.ac.uk

Thank you for your interest in the Refugee Family Reunion Project fellowship. We look forward to receiving your application and potentially working with you to make a meaningful impact in the lives of refugee families.