



Advanced Professional Practice

Advanced Professional Practice (APP) involves small specialised clinics and are all staffed either by volunteer supervisors or supported by external bodies. This unit is generally open to students who have completed Professional Practice to an acceptable level and who wish to specialise in a particular area of socio-legal service.

APP is a 'shell' unit, intended to contain a number of specialised clinics which may operate for a period and then, if necessary, close, should social conditions, law or client needs change. APP typically enrolls about 20 students per semester.

These units enable students to enrol in one of four clinics:

- 1. Joint Sexual Assault Clinic, in conjunction with the South-East Centre Against Sexual Assault (SECASA) at Springvale Monash Legal Service** – This clinic offers legal services to victims of sexual assault. This clinic works with highly vulnerable clients and requires students to demonstrate sensitivity to victims of crime. The clinical session takes place on a Monday night weekly at Springvale Monash Legal Service
- 2. Human Rights Clinic, in conjunction with the Castan Centre for Human Rights at Holding Redlich, Solicitors** - litigation involving human rights dimensions. Students work under the supervision of a Holdings' partner in general civil litigation on behalf of plaintiffs, with a Human Rights bias. Attendance is required one day a week and may include further attendances for follow up work.
- 3. Criminal Defence Clinic, in conjunction with Rob Stary and Associates.** Students work on cases for defendants in anti-terrorism and other serious criminal law cases. Attendance is required one day a week and may include further attendances for follow up work.

4. Commercial Law Clinic, in conjunction with Moores Legal, solicitors. The students are involved in commercial legal work for "not-for-profit" organizations, working with solicitors from Moores Legal for welfare organisations, charities, educational institutions and churches in various commercial areas. Immediate casework supervision is provided by the law firm and academic coordination by a member of faculty staff. Attendance is required one day a week and may include further attendances for follow up work.

How to apply:

In order to apply for this unit, students must receive the endorsement of their Professional Practice supervisor to apply. This endorsement must be completed and signed on the application form.

A decision as to whether a student will be able to undertake this unit will be based on the following factors:

- The students' performance in Professional Practice, especially their interviewing abilities and the endorsement of the Professional Practice supervisor.
- How close the student is to completing their degree. Preference is given to students who would be completing Advanced Professional Practice towards the end of their degree.
- How many hours of paid work the student is doing. If a student is doing more than 20 hours per week of paid work, then it normally they would not be accepted into the unit.
- How many other units are being taken with the clinic. If the student is doing more than three other units as well as the clinic, normally they would not be accepted into the unit.
- The reasons the student set out on the form for wishing to undertake the unit

In some of the clinics, the law firm providing the placement will want to interview the applicant before deciding to grant them a place.

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