

Support for ex-service veterans

Armed forces veterans will be offered free legal support thanks to an innovative scheme from the University of Bristol as part of its commitment to those in the military and their families.

Students from the University's Law School continue to offer pro bono legal support on a range of issues, from housing to employment rights.

Bristol is one of a few higher education institutions in the UK to sign the [Armed Forces Covenant](#), which aims to remove barriers faced by members of the armed forces community in accessing public services.

In addition to offering legal support, the University has committed to being an armed forces-friendly organisation and to offering a degree of flexibility for the partners of those currently serving.

About the Veteran's Law Clinic

The University of Bristol Law Clinic has provided much-needed pro-bono legal advice for the local community on a range of issues including housing and property, landlord and tenant disputes, neighbour and nuisance disputes, employment rights, consumer rights, problems with the police, welfare benefits and social security.

The aim has always been to provide invaluable real-life experience for students while helping people in the face of declining legal aid. In 2024/25, the Law Clinic helped more people in the community than ever before, taking on 400+ cases. This academic year, 350 students are involved.

Following the foundations laid, the Law Clinic will play a key role in fulfilling the University's commitment to the Armed Forces Covenant by ensuring members of the armed forces get the same access to legal support as any other citizen through the launch of a new Veterans Law Clinic.

The Veteran Law Clinic will provide an invaluable service by helping ex-service people with assistance, expertise and support. Regardless of where they live, veterans can get in touch with the Law Clinic and [request help via its website](#).

Students in the Law Clinic have already had an opportunity to hone their skills and knowledge by advising the community's most vulnerable people through projects including Next Link, Bristol Somali Resource Centre, and the Inquest service.

Law Clinic Director, John Peake, added: "The problems of ex-servicemen and women adapting to civilian life are well-recorded and often result in homelessness, unemployment and the consequential health and legal problems. Our students recognise the contribution and sacrifices made by the armed forces personnel and are keen to give something back."