

INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED LEGAL STUDIES

STRATEGIC PLAN

2015-2019

(As submitted to the School of Advanced Study in its recent planning, budgeting and allocation process.)

SAS Strategic Ambition1: Research Promotion and Facilitation:

To provide world-class support to individuals, networks and organisations conducting humanities research, nationally and internationally; identify and lead debates that stimulate new agendas and innovate thinking; show creativity in developing research services, resources and research training; and ensure that the social, cultural and economic benefits of humanities research in the UK are publicly recognised.

The institute will meet the objectives set out under **Strategic Ambition 1 for the period 2015 - 2019** as follows

Events & Public Engagement

IALS serves the legal studies community through its diverse range of academic events that include conferences, public lectures, seminars and workshops. We have established ourselves as a nationally recognized forum for legal research and debate through our events programme as well as in our capacity to facilitate other organizations, both legal and within humanities and social sciences more widely. IALS's objective over the next 4 years is to strengthen this important position by developing our own events programme and through further collaborations with legal organizations, HEIs and public service stakeholders. We shall continue to facilitate and host events, grow our already nationally recognized contribution to the areas of legislative studies, financial and economic law and legal education. We intend to develop events in the area of Law and Information Policy, the law of Electronic Evidence, Privacy Law and Individual Rights. Our objective is to respond to current legal issues and play a leading role in the promotion of the discipline. We strive to collaborate with other disciplines, especially in the humanities and social sciences and to engage the non-specialist public with legal issues.

Digital Resources

IALS Digital Resources fall into three broad categories: the provision of legal information resources, of IT services and of audio-visual services to support IALS's other RPF activity. In its provision of legal information resources, IALS creates and maintains over 30 web-databases that facilitate legal research and scholarship in the UK and abroad and are integral to the Institute's role in proving a national collection of legal information. Other information

systems, such as the Institute's own website, blogs and social media sites are all part of the Institute's information resources portfolio. In its provision of computing and IT services for library users, researchers, students and staff at the Institute, IALS Digital Resources Team enable researchers by offering training, consultation, and IT solutions. Furthermore, this service plays an important role supporting research grant applications and other applications for external funding. In its responsibility for managing the audio-visual support for the IALS Conference Office, IALS Digital Resources contribute to the success of the Institutes Events and Public Engagement activities, research training and teaching. IALS is actively involved in innovative legal information delivery, developing and promoting public access to materials capable of supporting legal research on the Internet and making the case for public access to legal information nationally and internationally. Our digital resources are in continuous development and we are committed to extending the reach of digital provision of legal information by delivering specialist legal research tools and niche web services - maximising access to key or hard to find information to facilitate legal research, public understanding, and promote justice and the rule of law. IALS will maintain and update the wide range of digital resources, designed to address the requirements of researchers. IALS will upgrade to new web hosting software and extend cross-searching and integration of resources and press for the Library Management System discovery layer to have the functionality to draw on multiple information sources including these databases. We will continue to host the management, administration and development of the British and Irish Legal Information Institute (BAILII), the premier free legal information website in the UK, heavily used by universities, the general public and practitioners with over 2,000 visitors per day. We will work to increase open access to legal information and nurture new opportunities to place itself at the heart of national HE legal education, by hosting website such as the Legal Education Research Network, and exploring the possibility of hosting and possibly updating the archived website of the UK Centre for Legal Education.

Publishing

The Institute's publishing activities can be divided into four principal categories: the Institute's own publications, appearing under its own imprint; publications appearing under the auspices of the Institute in association with commercial publishers; publications by Institute staff arising from academic activities initiated by it; and other activities, including involvement in editorial work. IALS will continue to maintain and develop links with commercial publishers in areas where the Institute has expertise and interests. IALS will continue to develop its digital publishing outputs both on the SAS Open Journals platform and via SAS-Space, and increase our use of SAS publishing services. We shall review the publications we currently support or have an Institutional association with, with a view to developing new areas of collaboration and engagement.

Networks / Collaborations

IALS performs an important role nationally as a facilitator of other HEIs, legal organizations and members of the judiciary and the legal profession. We will continue to strengthen this position by developing our relationships and partnerships with stakeholders nationally and internationally, reinforcing the Institute's central position in legal research and the venue of choice for meetings of national organisations such as the Society of Legal Scholars. IALS will continue to support its over 30 existing Networks and Collaboration. In particular, we will continue to provide administrative support to BAILII and the Hamlyn Trust. We intend to develop the Society for Advanced Legal Studies as a fundraising vehicle for the Institute. We shall develop our partnership with UN-Habitat to strengthen our collaboration in the area of Urban Law and expand our provision of PhD studentships and internships in the field.

Library

Focused on service, excellence and innovation, IALS intends that the Library remains de facto the UK's national legal research library, one of the world's outstanding legal research libraries, and one of the few comparable with the great law libraries in the USA. We will continue the formal agreement with the BL which recognises our national role and describes our collections as "a major national resource in support of academic research in their field" and the library as a whole as "a key specialist collection in the fields of foreign, international and comparative law whose holdings complement our own in these areas" and to lead national collaboration among legal research libraries. As a high quality, much valued research library with an international reputation, it will seek to maintain, exploit and preserve the collections covering the whole field of law, maintain a high level of service and expertise, responding to user needs surveyed annually, and enable IALS to generate significant external income to supplement HEFE funding. The Library will maintain its collections onsite and available immediately to researchers. The Library will continue to deliver an integrated service combining all the elements of a modern research library. It will maintain specialist staff expertise which enables us to respond the researcher needs in an era when specialist services and collections are being eroded in universities, to initiate and participate in projects to increase access to research, to be the project partner of choice for others in the field, to create and support a growing number of digital research resources, and to deliver high quality research training in person and online for the national research community and law librarians.

Fellowships

IALS supports fellows in the following categories appointed and reviewed on an annual basis through its Research Committee and Advisory Council: Senior Associate Research, Associate Research and Visiting Fellowship as well as coordinating the stipendiary Inns of Courts Fellowship. Over the past number of years IALS has hosted a number of competitive Commonwealth Professional Fellowships, and we aim to continue this support over the next 4 years. IALS Fellows support the Institute by offering intellectual leadership and helping to raise the Institute's research profile nationally and internationally. Furthermore they help the Institute reach its research promotion and facilitation objectives and widen the scope of the Institute's expertise by drawing on the wider legal research community. Due to the Institute's position at the crossroads of research and practice, Fellows play an important role in representing the Institute's public engagement role.

Institute overall performance targets for this period for SA1

Events & Public Engagement Objectives

- Establish an Annual Lecture and Workshop in Law & Information Policy, with an emphasis on public engagement.
- Hold a series of lectures and seminars in the Centre for Law & Information Policy.

- Develop a research community in the area of Law & Information Policy, by hosting regular discussion fora.
- Collaborate with the Institute of English Studies (IES) on a Conference the Arts and Archives, in collaboration with the Business Archives Council and the National Archives.
- Host the Sir William Dale Annual Lecture
- Develop a Sir William Dale Workshop in Legislative Studies.
- Host research seminars for the European Criminal Law Association (ECLA).
- Host research seminars for the Statute Law Society (SLS).
- Develop existing events in the area of Law and Language.
- Set up a research seminar series with the IoP and the IES on the topic of Language and Law, with a view to developing a research network.
- Host an annual Urban Law Day, supported by UN-Habitat.
- Host the 50th Anniversary of the W G Hart Legal Workshop in 2016.
- Continue to provide subsidized conference, teaching and public lecture facilities for the legal studies community.
- Enhance and improve meeting room space at the Institute, through external fundraising.
- Seek external sponsorship for current events and public lectures.
- Increase number of events e.g. book launches, roundtables, public discussions, with possible income generation.
- Develop the podcasting and video-casting capabilities for IALS events making more use of SAS services.
- Collaborate in arranging the annual BAILII lecture
- Host and facilitate the Annual Hamlyn Trust Seminar in June and Lecture in December
- Host the Annual Inns of Court Fellow's Lecture
- Celebrate the 70th Anniversary of IALS in 2017.
- Develop our involvement in The Being Human Festival.
- Support the Bloomsbury Festival
- Develop our relationship with the Law Schools of the London Colleges in the provision of teaching and training space
- Refocus the W G Hart Legal Workshop to draw expertise from across the colleges of the University and nationally
- Host a John Coffin Lecture in The History of Ideas
- Integrate the events of the Society for Advanced Legal Studies with those of the Institute.
- Hold an Inaugural Lecture for Professor Helen Xanthaki
- Streamline our room-booking processes to ensure more efficient Events Management for our stakeholders
- Continue to support Birkbeck, KCL, LSE, QMUL, SOAS, UCL law students.
- Continue to provide events space to Sotheby's Institute of Art, BIICL, and a range of other UK universities
- Plan a joint conference on Access to Legal Information with National Law University in Dehli, for Autumn 2016

Digital Resources Objectives

IALS will continue to maintain and host the following digital resources:

- IALS Website
- FLARE - Foreign Legal Research website (hosted by IALS)
- SALS - Society for Advanced Legal Studies website (hosted by IALS)
- IALS Facebook
- IALS Twitter
- The IALS Blog
- BAILII - British and Irish Legal Information Institute (full-text online legislation and case law hosted by BAILII at IALS)
- CaLIM - Current Awareness for Legal Information Managers Database (hosted by IALS)
- CLRT - Current Legal Research Topics Database of PhD candidates and topics of research in UK universities (hosted by IALS)
- Database of Electronic Signature Legislation (hosted by IALS)
- Eagle-i - Internet Portal for Law (hosted by IALS)
- FIT - FLARE Index to Treaties (hosted by IALS)
- FLAG - Foreign Law Guide Database (hosted by IALS)
- IALS Archives (hosted by IALS)
- IALS Bulletin - archive (hosted by IALS)
- IALS Digital Collections
- IALS Electronic Law Library (hosted by IALS)
- IALS Research Guides (hosted by IALS)
- IALS Other databases in development
(LawCAST db; Legal Research in UK db; Privy Council Decision Documents Directory; REcCE Research Centre Locator; SKILLS Sources + Know-how in Legal Literacy Skills)
(hosted by IALS)
- Redevelop the Internet for Law - interactive online tutorial for LawPort.
- Legislative Drafters International online forum (IALS blogger account)
- Legislative Drafting Clinic (hosted by IALS)
- IALS Libguides series of online legal research and resource guides
- Legal Biography collection in SAS-Space
- Host the Legal Education Research Network website
- Explore the possibility of hosting the archived UKCLE database and updating parts of it

- Partner in a bid by LLMC Digital to the Mellon Foundation for a grant to digitise the papers of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council

Publishing Objectives

- Develop Print-on-demand capability for IALS conference proceedings.
- Maintain publication of IALS's journal *Amicus Curiae - Journal of Institute of Advanced Legal Studies and Society for Advanced Legal Studies* hosted by IALS and the SAS Online Journals Platform.
- Support the *European Journal of Law Reform*
- Relaunch and develop the W G Hart Legal Workshop Series with SAS Publishing
- Publish the Annual Inns of Court Fellow's Lecture on SAS Space
- Support and scope future development of the *IALS Student Law Review*, hosted by IALS and the SAS Online Journals Platform.
- Continue to support the *Digital Evidence and Electronic Signature Law Review*, hosted by IALS and the SAS Online Journals Platform
- Explore developing the Society for Advanced Legal Studies working papers series.
- Support *The Theory and Practice of Legislation*.

Networks and Collaborations Objectives

- Support more than 30 Networks and Collaborations we have with other organisations.
- Develop Networks with other organizations focusing on Law and Information Policy, including the Free Access to Law Movement, and University of Winchester's Centre for Information Rights.
- Develop further the collaboration between the Centre for Law and Information Policy and the IES research project on the Ministry of Information.
- Develop opportunities arising from the Censorship conference with IES and Senate House Library.
- Develop the Institute's brand over the next 18 months to facilitate our ability to join international networks and further raise the Institute's profile.
- Further develop the Institute's collaboration with the Institute for Latin American Studies and the Institute of Modern Language Research in the area of Caribbean Studies, to develop the major collections at IALS.
- Explore opportunities with the Institute for Historical Research to develop IALS's historical North American Collections.
- Build upon the Institute's research expertise in legal information to collaboration with organizations interested in preserving and archiving legal records at risk.
- Explore collaboration opportunities with the Foreign & Commonwealth Office
- Support the IALS Legislative Drafting Clinic.

Library Objectives

- Continue with our bilateral agreement with the British Library to maintain the national role of IALS's Library.
- Respond to the needs of our stakeholders and develop our collections to support the global community of legal researchers.
- Increase the extensive research training provided by library staff.
- Develop research-training materials for LawPort, to be hosted the School's online training platform SASPort.
- Hold IALS Roadshows and enhance the research-training element of the Roadshows to create online research training packages to be used on LawPort.
- Chair the FLARE consortium (British Library, Oxford, Cambridge and SOAS) leading national collaborative collection development, including the collaborative creation of digital research tools such as the FLAG database of holdings of foreign comparative and international law and the Flare Index to Treaties.
- Extend electronic coverage including electronic books while maintaining role of library as library of last resort.
- Nurture specialist law library expertise through graduate trainee posts, a post-library school training programme, hosting training workshops, hosting visits of overseas law librarians, offering a Visiting Fellowship in Law Librarianship and supporting applicants for a Commonwealth Professional Fellowship.
- With the support of the University's Property and Facilities Management Department, improve the working environment of the library for researchers by providing more flexible space, more capacity for readers, group study rooms equipped with technology for teamwork, a rare book/archive reading room, better study carrels for visiting scholars.
- IALS's Library will work closely with other SAS Libraries and SHL and help to coordinate strategy by convening a regular SAS Librarians Meeting inviting SHL Librarian.
- Continue to promote SAS / SHL interdisciplinary initiatives through involvement in joint exhibitions and collection mapping exercises across SAS libraries. Increased use of IALS Library collections by legal historians.
- Continue work with other SAS libraries and SHL to explore the possibilities of enhancing remote access to electronic resources for readers of SAS libraries involving the technical configuration of the new Library Management System.
- Review the Library's Distance Services Section.
- Continue on a project basis small-scale reclassification to modernise existing scheme including addressing 'information law'.
- Hold an Annual Survey of Academic Law Libraries in the UK and Ireland in collaboration with the Society of Legal Scholars and the British and Irish Association of Law Libraries.
- Continue to play a major role as a clearing-house for research material / private libraries to enhance IALS Library and supply appropriate materials to overseas libraries.

Fellowship Objectives

- Promote and support the annual Inns of Court Fellowship Scheme
- Support national and international legal researchers by offering and Visiting Fellowships through an annual competition.
- Explore funding opportunities for a small stipendiary visiting fellowship in Information Law.
- Develop the Fellowship profiles on the Institute website as part of the website refresh in 2015.
- Offer modest stipendiaries to fellows working jointly between the IALS library and the Centre for Law and Information Policy, funded by the Howard Drake Bequest.
- Cooperate with the School of Advanced Study in its review of fellowships across the School.
- Explore funding opportunities for fellowships via Leverhulme, and provide training to staff in assisting applicants.
- Explore creating a visiting research student summer programme.
- Identify potential candidates for Commonwealth Professional Fellowships

Strategic Ambition 2: SAS Research Quality

To produce and disseminate exemplary internationally recognised research to underpin the School's research promotion and facilitation mission.

The institute will meet the objectives set out under **Strategic Ambition 2 for the next four years as follows**

IALS has a proven capacity to undertake research projects and a successful track record of attracting research grants from both RCUK and European sources. The Institute currently has acknowledged expertise in the following areas: legal education; the legal profession; legal services provision; access to justice; legal ethics; company law; financial services law; public law; European law (including European integration and EU accession); EU criminal law; international law; comparative law; legislative drafting; legal skills; and law reform. IALS's research outputs mainly emanates from its research centres: The Sir William Dale Centre for Legislative Studies and the Centre for Corporate and Financial Law. In 2015 IALS launched its latest research centre, the Centre for Law and Information Policy. Over the next four years, we intend to develop the research output of these centres, as well as develop the Institute's research activities in Legal Education.

Institute overall performance targets for this period for SA2

- Continue our very successful partnership with the British and Irish Legal Information Institute (BAILII) by hosting their operation at IALS.
- Expand our existing partnership with the Centre for European Constitutional Law (CECL) in Athens and build on our already successful collaboration with European Commission research grants.
- Begin an interdisciplinary research project (funding depending) with The Warburg Institute on the use of art in legislation.
- Develop a joint funding application to the EU with the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge on Criminal Law
- Develop on the collaboration with UN Habitat to explore funding opportunities in Urban Law.
- Scope, with the Institutes of English Studies and Philosophy potential research streams in Law and Language.
- Coordinate with European partners on EU grant application in Corporate Law.
- Explore early career schemes and the Nuffield Foundation Law in Society scheme to support the research output of the Centre for Law and Information Policy
- Collaborate on a research project with Universities of Westminster and Essex on court access and information – proposal to be drafted in 2015.
- Develop a major research project on Legislative Drafting.
- With the Institute of Latin American Studies and IMLR, facilitate research in Caribbean Studies.
- Develop a potential research bid with the IHR to develop our North American Collections
- Apply to the AHRC to fund a project on the digitization of legal records at risk
- Explore with IHR the possibility of developing a network approach to continuing the long-running research project on the history of arbitration

SAS Strategic Ambition 3: Enabling the next generation

To enhance and deliver doctoral research training, and outstanding taught postgraduate programmes leading to University of London degrees.

SA3.1- Delivering doctoral research training.

The institute will meet the objectives set out **under Strategic Ambition 3 – delivering doctoral research training, for the next 4 years as follows**

IALS provides doctoral research training in three main ways: the supervision of students undertaking research degrees at the Institute, the provision of methodological and subject specific research training and training in the use of library resources, including the digital resources. IALS will endeavor to continue to support 50 and 70 research students, though the supervision of full time staff and contracted subject specific supervisors. We will continue to draw on colleagues in other SAS institutes to provide subject expertise that we don't have at IALS. We intend to seek further opportunities to increase funding opportunities for students wishing to study at IALS, including participating in a SAS wide bid to secure ESRC studentships via the next round of block grant partnership negotiations.

Institute overall performance targets for this period for SA3

- Maintain level of research degrees students at IALS
- Award first PhD studentship and internship programme, sponsored by UN-Habitat
- Seek further funding from UN-Habitat to secure studentships for coming years.
- Continue to hold Research Methodology Course and explore possibility of running it on an biannual basis
- Develop a fundraising strategy for studentships in the field of Law and Information Policy
- Collaborate with the London Law Schools to provide joint-supervision
- Continue to host National PhD Training days
- Continue to provide training to researchers in the use of library and digital resources.
- Develop a research training module in Law for Non-Law Students.
- Host the national Socio-Legal Training Day in collaboration with the SLSA and BL

SA3: Enabling the next generation

SA3.2 Delivering outstanding taught postgraduate programme.

The institute will meet the objectives set out under **Strategic Ambition 3- delivering outstanding taught postgraduate programme for the next 4 years** (800 words)

IALS will continue to maintain its very successful programme of taught postgraduate degrees and short courses. IALS serves its stakeholders needs by providing taught programmes of international reputation and professional training that is recognized by governments and international organizations. IALS will continue its highly regarded LLM in Advanced Legislative Studies (ALS) both in its classroom based delivery and its distance learning option. Furthermore, we shall continue to hold our Annual Summer Legislative Drafting Course, which acts as an important pathway for students into the LLM programme. We intend to develop LLM in International Corporate Governance, Financial Regulation and Economic Law (ICGFREL) during 2015-16 to include a distance learning option. This option will run alongside the classroom based option and will provide financial sustainability to the existing taught programme. We intend this new course to launch in 2016. The Institute decided to no longer offer its MA in Taxation from 2015-16 and will provide full support for completing students in 2015-16 and beyond. We intend to develop new courses in Law and Information Policy as well as Diplomatic Law, broadening the scope of the Institute's teaching provision and developing important new networks and research opportunities.

Institute overall performance targets for this period for SA3

- Establish a distance learning element of the LLM in ICGFREL with the UoL International Programmes.
- Develop a new compulsory core Research Methods Module for all taught programme at the Institute.
- Develop a short course in Law & Information Policy and scope the potential for an LLM programme in the subject.
- Scope and develop a new LLM programme in Diplomatic Law, with a view to beginning in 2017.
- Prepare an Erasmus bid for a collaborative LLM with partners at LUISS Guido Carli University of Rome and the Parliamentary Law Institute of Madrid-Complutense.
- Explore options to ensure the sustainability for the Certificate in Arbitration course, including possible partnership options.
- Develop the new Electronic Evidence Course in the coming years (launching summer 2015)
- Explore the demand for a short course in Compliance and Financial Regulations.
- Explore and develop a distance learning Certificate in Law Librarianship, in collaboration with the National Law University in Delhi, India.