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The Gold Coast Community Legal Centre has created a working relationship with Bond University.

The Centre aims to make a positive impact on the up and coming legal profession by providing opportunities for law students and graduates to be able to practical experience within a legal environment.

Bond University approached the Gold Coast Community Legal Centre back in 2012 in hope of allowing this relationship to be formed.

Over the years, the relationship has grown and the programs and structures put in place have developed and are successfully creating the desired outcome as students are gaining experience in a community legal centre and learning the values of working within the community.

Bond University has two programs running out of the Centre: Clinical Legal Placement and Bond Community Law Clinic.

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## CLINICAL LEGAL PLACEMENT

Bond University law students have the opportunity to enrol in a subject which places them in our Centre for a 5 week period.

The Gold Coast Community Legal Centre & Advice Bureau has created a program with Bond University where twice a year, students are formally placed in the Centre to gain experience within a community legal centre environment.

This program commenced in 2012 and runs twice a year; in February/March and October/November.

### **About the subject:**

The subject offered by Bond University aims to provide students with an insight into what it is like to work in a community legal centre. The subject introduces students through theory to the practical side of working within the legal profession as a community lawyer.

Students are required to complete a reflection journal at the completion of each day spent at the Centre, reflecting on what they have learnt and insights into the practical aspect of law which they have realised.

### **Placement activities:**

Students then spend 5 days at the Centre, one day a week for a period of 5 weeks. Students participate in many activities including, but not limited to:

- sitting in on reception and carrying out intake duties;
- sitting in on appointments between a solicitor and client;
- conducting client in-takes for solicitors prior to an appointment;



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- completing file notes on appointments observed;
  - drafting forms or letters with clients under the supervision of the solicitor;
  - undertaking research for solicitors who have ongoing casework;
  - attending functions, conferences or events with a solicitor if any such opportunity arises on a day the student is placed;
  - any other task the supervising solicitor deems appropriate.

**Further information:**

If you are a Bond University law student and are interested in finding out more about this subject and participating in this formal placement, please contact the Faculty of Law at Bond University for further information, with attention to be made to Ms Libby Taylor as the contact for this subject.

We would like to acknowledge that Bond University kindly sponsors this partnership with the Gold Coast Community Legal Centre.

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## BOND COMMUNITY LAW CLINIC

The Gold Coast Community Legal Centre has established a Bond Community Law Clinic in conjunction with the Faculty of Law at Bond University.

The Bond Community Law Clinic commenced in June 2015 to allow for students part of this clinic to attend the Gold Coast Community Legal Centre once a week on a fortnightly basis. This clinic was suspended over 2020 and 2021 during the COVID period when the Centre was in and out of lockdown. This clinic structure was reviewed and recommenced a new format in 2022.

**About the clinic:**

The clinic offered by Bond University aims to provide students with an insight into the practical aspect of the law and experience in a legal environment. The clinic is not offered as part of a compulsory or elective subject at Bond University, but is instead an extra aspect of their law degree which students can voluntarily express interest to be a part of.

The Bond Community Law Clinic operates for the duration of the university trimester where students attend the Centre once a week during the Evening Night Clinic. Students are placed in two (2) groups of four (4) students and attend on a fortnightly basis to assist in the evening clinic. Students experience the community centre atmosphere during the evening clinic while assisting solicitors where required under the clinic guidelines.

**Clinic activities:**

Students attend on a fortnightly basis during the duration of the university trimester. Students participate in many activities including, but not limited to:

- researching client matters prior to their appointment with the solicitor;
- setting up the Centre for the evening night clinic operation;
- sitting in on appointments between a solicitor and client;
- conducting client in-takes for solicitors prior to an appointment;
- completing file notes on appointments observed;



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- undertaking research for solicitors as needed;
  - Helping promote the evening clinic to both the community and profession;
  - any other task the supervising solicitor deems appropriate.

We would like to acknowledge that Bond University kindly sponsors this partnership with the Gold Coast Community Legal Centre.

**Further information:**

If you are a Bond University law student and are interested in finding out more about this clinic please contact the Faculty of Law at Bond University for further information, with attention to be made to Ms Francina Cantatore as the contact for this clinic.