# Research Fellow in Law

**About the Role**

We are seeking to appoint a highly motivated Research Fellow to work in the Centre for Protecting Women Online funded by Research England. The successful candidate will work closely with Professor Olga Jurasz, Director of the Centre for Protecting Women Online, who is based in the Law School and who leads the Centre’s cross-disciplinary research team. We are looking for a dynamic Research Fellow who would seek to play an active part in building a strong, open and innovative research culture in the Centre. The Research Fellow will use their research knowledge, skills and experience to contribute to the design and delivery of an ambitious research programme within the Law & Policy work stream. This includes (but is not limited to) initiating and leading on research projects, applying for external research funding, supervising PhD students, producing high quality outputs, working collaboratively with non-academic partners and stakeholders.

**Key Responsibilities**

The person appointed will be expected to contribute to research and administration within the Centre for Protecting Women Online. This following is not intended as a comprehensive list of duties expected of the post holder or a restrictive definition of the post but is rather a guide.

* Initiate and build collaborations with external partners and researchers.
* Liaise and work collaboratively with external partners and researchers.
* Initiate and lead on research projects from start to completion.
* Lead on applications for external research funding relevant to the Law & Policy stream.
* Contribute to the day-to-day operation of the Law & Policy stream within the Centre, under the direction of the Centre’s Director.
* Take a lead role in dissemination of research carried out within the Law & Policy stream of the Centre (including writing academic and non-academic publications; presentation of research findings at conferences and events; communicating research to non-academic and lay audiences via media).
* Working with the Centre’s Director and Work Stream lead to meet the strategic objectives set out in the Centre’s plan.
* Proactively engage in knowledge exchange and impact-related activities.
* Supervise PhD students.

**Skills and Experience**

**Essential:**

* A PhD in law or socio-legal studies in a subject relevant to the Centre’s work within the Law & Policy stream.
* Knowledge and understanding of the current law and policy landscape concerning women’s online safety.
* Substantial relevant experience of conducting research in collaboration with non-academic partners and/ or working with non-academic partners.
* Good understanding of the opportunities and challenges associated with partnership working within a research environment.
* Understanding of research funding landscape and a strong track record of applying for research funding.
* Experience of designing and delivering knowledge exchange and impact activities.
* Ability to build and maintain professional contacts and participate in internal and external networks.
* A good publication record reflective of career stage.
* Ability to develop a high-quality publication record that is REF returnable and relevant to the work of the Law & Policy stream.
* Ability to communicate complex information clearly, including to non-academic audiences and the general public.
* Evidence of high standard of writing skills, including academic and stakeholder focused publications.
* Evidence of an ability to produce work of high quality and within competing deadlines.
* Ability to contribute to broader management and administrative processes.
* Ability to coordinate a number of collaborative research projects.
* Willingness to work as part of the team, including with Visiting Fellows and non-academic partners.
* Computer literacy and ICT competence.
* A commitment to, and understanding of, equal opportunities policies and practices.
* Willingness and ability to work occasional evenings and weekends.

**Desirable:**

* Experience of working in a cross-disciplinary or cross-sectoral research / project team.
* Experience of managing research projects.
* Experience of PhD supervision.
* An upper second degree in law (or higher).

**Additional Information**

**About the Unit**

The Faculty of Business and Law is one of the four faculties of The Open University. It brings together two Schools – [The Open University Business School](http://www.open.ac.uk/business-school/) and [The Open University Law School](http://www.open.ac.uk/law/) – and has a strong reputation as a high-quality and innovative provider of management and legal education. Our courses and qualifications are studied by a wide range of people from all backgrounds – we are proud of our strong social mission; to be open to people, places, methods and ideas. We promote social justice and social mobility via genuine access to university education for all.

The Faculty employs around 130 academic staff, two thirds of whom are based at The Open University’s Milton Keynes campus and one third in the OU’s regional offices, aligned to the Faculty’s three Student Support Teams. The regional academics manage the Faculty’s 700 Associate Lecturers. Around 80 academic-related and administrative members of staff support the Faculty.

We are committed to developing our staff to achieve their full potential and offer a range of formal and informal training and development opportunities to support individual and Faculty objectives.

**About the Centre**

The Centre for Protecting Women Online is funded by a £7.7 million grant from Research England. It will be a vehicle for understanding and addressing challenges posed to women’s safety online through a novel, interdisciplinary and ambitious research agenda. This will be combined with cross-sectoral, collaborative outputs and interventions which inform law, policy, technology development and practice to reduce online harms suffered by women and girls; minimise anti-social behaviours online whilst promoting pro-social behaviours and help build tech/ software that helps ensure accountability, credibility and helps facilitate justice. The work of the Centre will be delivered through a management and five interwoven Work Streams. Professor Jurasz leads on the Law & Policy stream.

*The Open University is committed to equality, diversity and inclusion which is reflected in our mission to be open to people, places, methods and ideas. We aim to foster a diverse and inclusive environment so that all in our OU community can reach their potential.  We recognise that different people bring different perspectives, ideas, knowledge, and culture, and that this difference brings great strength.  We strive to recruit, retain and develop the careers of a diverse pool of students and staff, and particularly encourage applications from all underrepresented groups. We also aspire to make The Open University a supportive workplace for all through our policies, services and staff networks.*

