



Visitors Program (PARSONS) Information for Visitors

The Faculty of Law, University of Sydney has some funds available each year raised from our continuing legal education work over the years. It enables us to support a scheme to encourage scholars from other universities to spend a relatively brief period at the Faculty. The scheme is named after Emeritus Professor Ross Waite Parsons, in acknowledgment of his work in fostering and contributing to the continuing legal education program in the Law School over many years.

The Faculty believes that the presence of visitors can inject new ideas and serve as a catalyst to discussion within our subject areas. As the objective of the visitorships is to facilitate interaction between the visitor and our students or between the visitor and our own staff, visitors are expected to be scholars of reasonably high standing. Preference is given to first-time visitors and overseas visitors.

Duration and Benefits

Visits are generally short-term. The norm is between 4-10 days. Visits of up to four weeks may be available especially where the visitor might make a substantial contribution in our teaching programs. Longer visits may be possible on a similar basis depending on available funding.

The amount provided to visitors' amounts to a modest contribution to their expenses. Normally, the amount will not exceed \$1000. Payment to visitors will be made on a retrospective basis, according to the period spent at the Law School. Exceptions may be made in special cases where the dates are precise and the visitor needs access to \$Aus during the visit.

While visitors are encouraged to undertake their own research with a minimum of formal commitments, we expect the visitor to make a substantial contribution to the academic life of the Law School. Consequently, while we understand that visitors will often wish to spend a limited amount of time visiting colleagues in other law schools, or visiting legal practitioners and government departments in connection with their research, we nonetheless expect that visitors will spend the greater part of their time in the law school during the entire period of the visit. We generally ask the visitor to lead a Faculty Seminar on a topic of general interest and to be available for discussion with students and staff. Visitors may also be asked to join in some classes and participate in the discussion in class. If the visitor formally takes the class we would usually pay the visitor the part-time teaching rate.

Because of these expectations we do not usually support visitorships out of teaching time. A special case may be made where the proposed visitor's interaction with a group of staff would be extremely beneficial to those staff even without the more formal seminar or class presentations. Visits outside teaching time may also be accommodated where the visitor could contribute to a Continuing Legal Education seminar.

Facilities for Visitors

Library

- Visitors are given full use of the library with academic privileges (including use of the academic photocopier in the library). A temporary card is provided for the period of the visit.
- We can provide access to LEXIS and on-line searching, however, visitors must pay for this themselves. Visitors may have an account in their home countries in which case we advise visitors to make arrangements with LEXIS prior to the visit to the Law School.
- Other facilities in the library include CD-ROMs and the on-line library catalogue.

Accommodation in the Law School

- We are constrained by the physical limitations of our downtown building. Therefore, we cannot make promises about rooms. Our academic staff naturally has first call on available office space. However, we endeavour to provide visitors, who are here more than a week, access to an office. Also the sponsorship process for applications (which is referred to below) ensures that there is someone who will look after the visitor.
- In most cases an office is available. Where this is not possible, we attempt to secure a library carrel for the period of the visit.

Accommodation in Sydney

- Neither the Faculty nor the academic sponsor is responsible for arranging accommodation in Sydney for visitors. Visitors are provided a list of the University Colleges and a general tourist information number for accommodation in Sydney and contact numbers for childcare support, but arrangements are the responsibility of the visitor personally. Academic sponsors may in some cases be able to provide greater assistance.

Staff activities

- Visitors are welcome to join in the weekly staff morning tea at 11.00 am on Tuesday mornings in the Staff Common Room. Self-help facilities for tea and coffee are available and this provides a good opportunity to meet other members of the academic staff informally. On Thursdays during our teaching time we hold a Faculty Seminar, many of which feature our visitors, and all visitors are most welcome to attend these. A sandwich lunch is provided prior to the seminar.

Application Process

- 1 Parsons' visitorships are, as a rule, sponsored visitorships. Proposals for the sponsoring of visits are made through members of the academic staff in the Faculty. Sponsors are required to submit applications for visitorships to the Faculty Coordinator and are required to provide the following information:
 - the proposed time of the visit
 - the proposed seminar topic for a Faculty Seminar and/or other contribution to teaching or other seminar activities
 - an assessment of the contribution that the visitor could make to the Faculty during the proposed visit
 - applications also must include a CV of the proposed visitor
- 2 In exceptional circumstances, we will also consider applications for Parsons Visitorships from candidates themselves, and not only from their sponsors. If you wish to be considered, please send your CV and a letter indicating the proposed date, the seminar topic, and a general description of your scholarly interests to Dr Isabel Karpin (i.karpin@usyd.edu.au).