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# **J.A.L. STERLING POSTGRADUATE BURSARY IN COPYRIGHT LAW**

# **The Worshipful Company of Stationers and Newspaper Makers with the British Literary and Artistic Copyright Association**

## in cooperation with

## the Centre for Commercial Law Studies, Queen Mary University of London,

## the Dickson Poon School of Law, King’s College London, and

## the Faculty of Laws, University College, London

## Closing Date: midnight BST 15 August 2025

**Background**

The British Literary & Artistic Copyright Association, BLACA, is the UK national group of the International Literary and Artistic Association (ALAI) founded in Paris in 1878 under the Presidency of Victor Hugo. It provides a British forum for the examination of matters affecting authors’ rights and neighbouring rights. The full designation of the Stationers' Company is The City of London Livery Company for the Communication and Content Industries. Through its Charitable Foundation the Company supports selected postgraduate courses that are related to a range of trades from paper, print, publishing, packaging, office products, newspapers, broadcasting and online media. The BLACA-Stationers' Company Professor Sterling postgraduate bursary award scheme is designed in line with the institutional aims and objectives of the two organisations. It aims to benefit candidates in the relevant cohort who can show commitment to developing professional and transferrable skills in the content industries.

**Nature and Eligibility**

The award consists of a bursary from the Stationers' Foundation fund of up to £9,000 payable as a contribution towards the tuition fees of the successful applicant(s). The award is only eligible in the following cases:

* the successful student will be enrolled during the academic year 2025 - 2026, resident in the UK, classified as paying UK tuition fees. They should hold an unconditional offer for a qualifying course
* the bursary is available for students enrolled for:
  + the LL.M. in Intellectual Property Law, at Queen Mary University of London (QMUL);
  + either the Masters of Laws (LL.M.) in Intellectual Property and Information Law, or Master of Arts (MA) in UK, EU and US Copyright Law at King’s College London (KCL); OR
  + LL.M. in Intellectual Property Law at University College London (UCL).
* students must take the requisite minimum number of credits in specified modules as set out in Schedule A below.

The award is only eligible to the above students - no other type of programme will be considered. Payment direct to the college will occur upon confirmation from QMUL, KCL or UCL that the student has elected to read the requisite minimum of credits in the specified modules.

**Criteria and Application procedure**

The following criteria will be taken into consideration:

* academic merit,
* financial need,
* the quality of the application, and
* the applicant’s interest in becoming an active member of the Stationers' Company.

Short-listed candidates will be required to provide documentary evidence to substantiate their financial needs and to give information about other sources that will support their participation in the chosen course.

Applicants should submit their application, on the form available here, to their relevant College administrator listed by midnight BST on 15 August 2025. The information required by the form includes Curriculum Vitae information, evidence of financial need (examples are given) and a short statement of motivation (maximum 600 words).

*College selectors*

* Queen Mary University of London (QMUK) – Professor Uma Suthersanen, [u.suthersanen@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:u.suthersanen@qmul.ac.uk)
* King’s College London (KCL) – Dr James Parish, [james.parish@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:james.parish@kcl.ac.uk)
* University College London (UCL) – Please send to both Dr Alina Trapova, [a.trapova@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:a.trapova@ucl.ac.uk) **and** Jane Ha, [llm-admissions@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:llm-admissions@ucl.ac.uk) with the title ‘BLACA-Stationers Bursary’

**Interview**

Shortlisted applicants will be invited for interview in September 2025. Interviews may be conducted remotely or in person in London. The interview panel will include representatives of the Stationers’ Company, BLACA’s Executive Committee and the Schools of Law of QMUL, KCL, and the Faculty of Laws UCL.

**Offer and acceptance**

There is no obligation on BLACA and The Stationers’ Company to make any award in the absence of a suitable candidate. Offers will be made within 14 days of interview and will be deemed to have been refused if not accepted within a further 14 days.

**Mentor**

The bursary holder will be part of the mentor scheme whereby we endeavour to identify a senior member of the legal profession or copyright industry, who will be available for discussions and advice on current issues in copyright law.

**Expectations from the Award holder**

*Stationer’s Company*

Bursary holders will be invited to relevant events during their postgraduate year. On successful completion of their programme, Bursary Recipients will be offered the Freedom of the Stationers’ Company and will be expected to participate in the life of the Company. Payment of the annual membership fee will be waived for the first three years.

*BLACA*

As a Bursary award holder, the student will be an automatic member of BLACA’s student mailing list for the year of their studies. The Award recipient will be announced over BLACA’s social media. We hope that students will also take part in a post-award interview to be made available for future applicants.

For interviews with the past holders of the award, see <https://www.blaca.org/bursary>.

**SCHEDULE A:  CHOICE OF SUBJECTS**

**QUEEN MARY UNIVERSITY OF LONDON (QMUL)**

Students must elect a minimum of 90 credits in the copyright-related modules listed below (students can of course elect more of the listed modules):

LL.M Taught Modules:

* International and Comparative Copyright Law (30 credits)
* Music Industry Contracts (15 credits)
* Intellectual Property and the Creative Industries (30 credits)
* Global Intellectual Property Law (30 credits)
* IP protection in the Software Sector (30 credits)
* EU Digital Copyright Law (15 credits)
* IP Law in the Era of Artificial Intelligence (15 credits)
* Dissertation (on an agreed copyright topic with Prof. Suthersanen) (30 credits)

**KING’S COLLEGE LONDON (KCL)**

Students enrolled on the Master of Laws (LL.M.) in Intellectual Property and Information Law will need to take a minimum of 90 credits in copyright related modules as stated below:

* International and Comparative Copyright Law (30 credits)
* Copyright and the Music Industry in the Digital Era (15 credits)
* Commercialisation of IP (15 credits)
* A 10,000 word dissertation (on a copyright law focussed topic) (45 credits)
* A 15,000 word dissertation (on a copyright law focussed topic) (60 credits)

Students enrolled on the Master of Arts (MA) in UK, EU and US Copyright Law will be deemed to satisfy the minimum number of credits required.

**UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON (UCL)**

Students must elect a minimum of 90 credits in the copyright-related modules listed below (students can of course elect more of the listed modules):

LL.M Taught Modules:

* Law of Copyright and Related Rights (45 credits)
* Research essay (on a copyright law focussed topic) (45 credits)