



Establishing a Start-up Law Clinic in a Law School

[10 Practical Tips]

1. Set at most three primary **learning objectives** and build a clinic around these objectives.
2. Weigh the costs and benefits of **positioning** a clinic within, or outside, a programme.
3. Remember the **broad range** for positioning clinics, from extracurricular to doctoral programmes.
4. Student **recruitment** is a smooth process: students will be enthusiastic and motivated about joining a start-up law clinic.
5. Remember the **broad range** of advice-delivery models, from face-to-face advice with clients to producing policy documents.
6. **Assessment** and **evaluation** is not a major headache. Ensuring students engage in **ongoing self-assessment** (e.g. personal portfolios) makes assessment easier.
7. Academic **credit** and **grading** can be simple: students are enthusiastic about working in clinics, even for less credits, and many clinics adopt a simple pass/fail award.
8. Involve **external partners**, such as law firms, in a range of learning activities, tailored to their expertise and resources.
9. Nothing wrong with **niche**: research shows start-ups have to deal with a range of issues, but there are staple ones (e.g. data protection, intellectual property rights, consumer law). Consider which domains fit your students best and focus on those.
10. Try and not let **risk-aversion** dominate: students can do more than we think.