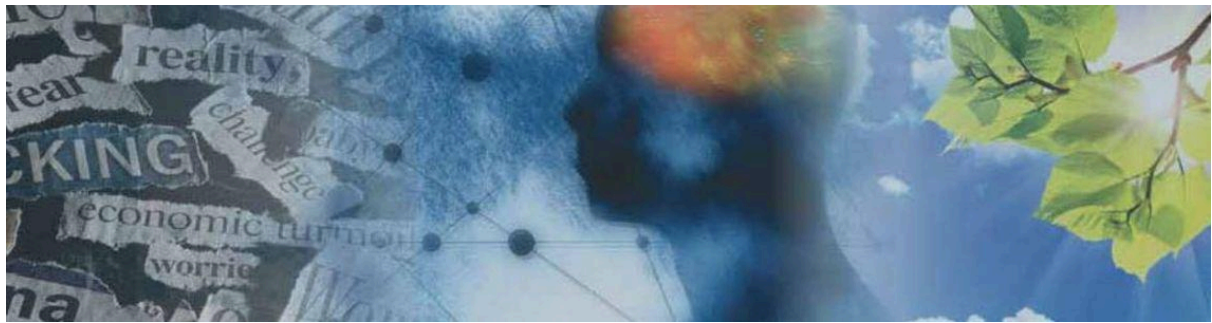


## Information Sheet: IBA Guidelines for Wellbeing in Legal Education



### **What are the IBA Guidelines for Wellbeing in Legal Education?**

The [International Bar Association's Guidelines for Wellbeing in Legal Education](#) ('the Guidelines') are a set of ten guidelines designed to enhance the wellbeing of both students and staff across all forms of legal education. The Guidelines are published by the [International Bar Association's Professional Wellbeing Commission](#).

### **Which types of legal education do the Guidelines apply to?**

The Guidelines are intended to apply across all forms of legal education, including the teaching of law within tertiary and higher education and both academic and vocational courses. They can also be used by providers of continuing professional development opportunities within legal practice. They are designed to apply globally, with legal education providers operationalising them to meet their individual needs in their specific local context.

### **Which aspects of legal education do the Guidelines focus upon?**

The Guidelines take a holistic view of legal education to promote evidence-based sustainable change drawing upon a wide range of existing research. They cover learning and teaching, policy and procedure, interpersonal relationships and communication and staff training and support. They emphasise the need for awareness of intersectionality and the promotion of inclusion. This involves identifying and challenging existing systemic problems. The Guidelines highlight the importance of internal and external dialogue, and the need to assess and evaluate the efficacy of relevant initiatives and changes. They require legal education providers to challenge the stigma around wellbeing which can still exist and to acknowledge the importance of, and actively promote, wellbeing in legal education.

### **What does adopting the Guidelines entail?**

It is intended that the Guidelines are adopted at the level of a whole legal education provider where possible (although individuals may also use them to inform their own work). Adopting the Guidelines is not intended to imply that all the Guidelines are currently being met. Instead, it signifies a commitment to full implementation within the constraints and opportunities provided by that individual legal education provider's institutional and wider position. Legal education providers can choose to work towards adoption of some of the Guidelines where it is not currently feasible to adopt the full set.

## **What support is available to legal education providers wishing to adopt the Guidelines?**

The Guidelines are accompanied by detailed Explanatory Notes which assist in their implementation. The authors of the Guidelines (Dr Emma Jones, Professor Caroline Strevens, Professor Rachael Field and Dr Colin James) have also developed a number of supporting documents, for example, a detailed survey to obtain baseline data prior to implementation of the Guidelines. Anyone wishing for more details on these should email IBA Wellbeing Commissioner Dr Emma Jones at [emma.j.jones@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:emma.j.jones@sheffield.ac.uk).

## **What role can other legal organisations take in promoting the Guidelines?**

All legal organisations with an interest in legal education are encouraged to formally support the Guidelines and promote them to legal education providers within their networks. This may involve formally adopting or endorsing the Guidelines, sharing the Guidelines on their websites, or otherwise raising awareness and understanding of the Guidelines' content.

## **What is the next step?**

The Guidelines are publicly available. They can be adopted and endorsed by legal education providers or other bodies at any time simply by following the provider or body's usual processes.

The Guidelines authors have a group of Early Adopter legal education providers from across the globe who are working more intensively on adoption. This includes providers in Australia, Brazil, England, India, Jamaica, New Zealand, Pakistan, Poland, Scotland, the United Arab Emirates and Wales. They also have an International Advisory Board, including academics, lawyers and representatives from key stakeholders, which provides strategic oversight of the project. If you would like any further information on these, please email Dr Emma Jones at [emma.j.jones@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:emma.j.jones@sheffield.ac.uk).

## **Accessing the Guidelines**

The Guidelines document (including the Explanatory Notes) is available via the IBA's website: [International Bar Association's Guidelines for Wellbeing in Legal Education](#).