

**LAW 379 / 380: Women's Legal Clinic Externship and Reflections**  
**Peter A. Allard School of Law, UBC**

**Rise Women's Legal Centre Questionnaire - 2019-2020**

This questionnaire is designed to help potential applicants to the Rise clinical externship program understand the clinical environment at Rise and our approach to working with clients who may have experienced family violence. Please contact Vandana Sood [[vsood@womenslegalcentre.ca](mailto:vsood@womenslegalcentre.ca)] or Kim Hawkins [[khawkins@womenslegalcentre.ca](mailto:khawkins@womenslegalcentre.ca)] if you have any questions or concerns about our work at Rise.

Please provide your answers to the questionnaire below in lieu of a cover letter and upload to the online clinic/externship application.

Here is some information on Rise and how we approach this work:

- While legal services at Rise are limited to self-identified women, we welcome applications from all law students including students with all gender identities and sexual orientations, Indigenous students, students with disabilities, and others with the skills, lived experience and knowledge to productively engage with diverse communities.
- Rise is a full-time, full-term 15 credit clinical program where students are responsible for all aspects of client and file management. Due to workload, students are generally not permitted to register in any other courses during their clinical term. Rise alumni have described their clinical experience as rewarding, yet fairly intense.
- Students are expected to be at Rise from 9am-5pm, Mondays-Thursdays.
- \*\*During the three week orientation session, students are expected to be at Rise from 9am-5pm, Mondays-Fridays.
- Rise staff will supervise and support your work, but you are expected to exercise autonomy, sound judgment and initiative.
- At Rise, we provide services to all who identify themselves as women and who are seeking legal assistance with their family law matters. Rise clients come from all walks of life and represent the diversity of women's experiences. We are especially attentive to the harms associated with gender-based violence, as many Rise clients are survivors of violence in intimate relationships, sexual assault, or childhood sexual abuse.
- We work from the perspective that women are their own best experts. We provide legal advice and share available options with clients, but the choice of which option to pursue is ultimately that of the client.
- Our approach to this work is collaborative and non-judgmental. We listen to clients, validate their experiences, help them explore available options, and provide them with legal advice, information and connection to community resources as necessary.
- We work from an intersectional feminist, anti-oppression, and decolonizing perspective.
- We understand that violence against women is an outcome of multiple and intersecting factors, including racism, sexism, colonization, homophobia, transphobia, ableism, classism, and others.
- We commit to understanding and interrogating our own assumptions in order to be better advocates and allies.







6. Please use this space to add any further comments which you feel may be helpful to you or to us. As we encourage applications from students with diverse backgrounds and experiences, applicants are welcome to self-identify membership in equity-seeking groups as they feel comfortable and willing.