Monash Faculty of Law has joined together with Hepatitis Victoria to offer three students a unique opportunity to gain valuable work experience, and to undertake valuable research with real-world impact. The placement opportunity will ultimately be able to be credited towards your degree.

The organisation:

Hepatitis Victoria is the peak not-for-profit community organisation working across Victoria for people affected by, or at risk of, viral hepatitis. We offer a number of programs and support facilities for individuals and organisations, for both those affected by viral hepatitis and those providing services to people living with viral hepatitis.

Almost 500,000 people in Australia, or 2% of the population, live with chronic viral hepatitis (hepatitis B and C). 15,000 Australians are diagnosed with viral hepatitis each year - around the same number diagnosed with breast cancer. As such viral hepatitis is a significant health issue in Australia, as well as globally. Many new infections (for example of hepatitis C) are associated with injecting drug use.

Hepatitis Victoria has a vision of a Victorian community where there are no new infections of viral hepatitis and where those with hepatitis maximise their health and wellbeing. Hepatitis Victoria believes that it is impossible to achieve this vision, where stigmatising and discriminating attitudes and behaviours are enacted towards people with viral hepatitis.

Hepatitis, stigma, discrimination and the law:

Research demonstrates that stigma and discrimination, in regards to viral hepatitis (both B and C), has a significant impact on people’s health and wellbeing. Stigma and discrimination can affect not only how a person feels within themselves, but also compromise, or even prevent, access to social support, health services, schools, workplaces, and financial security. Hepatitis Victoria is currently reviewing ways to expand our responses to these issues. As such, placement activity will be centred on gaining a comprehensive understanding of the relevant legal avenues in responding to discrimination (in regards to Hepatitis B and C), in areas such as health services,
employment and immigration. This will include developing knowledge of relevant acts, complaint bodies and associated processes, and then translating this information into accessible guides for the public.

**The opportunity:**

Hepatitis Victoria is seeking three students to complete this placement. The placement will consist of 80 hours, at one 8 hour day a week, for 10 weeks, commencing on 24th April and finishing on 30th June 2017. There is some flexibility, too, for students who wish to complete their work in a shorter timeframe (i.e. Hepatitis Victoria can accommodate students who wish to do 2 days per week for 5 weeks).

Successful applicants should be able to attend the offices of Hepatitis Victoria on either Mondays or Fridays, from approx. 9-5pm, to complete the placement. Students will be provided with an appropriate workspace, an orientation to the sector, and regular supervision. Hepatitis Victoria is open to an arrangement in which students conduct research from an external location (e.g. at their home). This is an opportunity to gain professional experience in the not for profit sector, and do work that will improve people’s lives.

For more information about Hepatitis Victoria and viral hepatitis, please visit [https://www.hepvic.org.au](https://www.hepvic.org.au)

**Assessment:**

Students selected for the placement must subsequently apply to enrol in LAW4173 “Research Unit A”. More information about this unit can be found in the Law Handbook:

[http://monash.edu/pubs/2017handbooks/units/LAW4173.html](http://monash.edu/pubs/2017handbooks/units/LAW4173.html)

In consultation with their nominated supervisor, students must develop a research topic that emerges out of their work at Hepatitis Victoria. The student’s topic might address some area of drug law reform, public health law, anti-discrimination legislation or similar. The student will complete and submit a 5000-6000 word research paper for assessment.

**How to apply:**

Students should apply through email addressed to: Dr Kate Seear

Kate.Seear@monash.edu

Students should send a copy of their CV and academic transcript, together with a short cover letter outlining the reasons for their interest in the placement, and details of any relevant professional experience.

Applications are due to Dr Seear by 5pm on Wednesday 19th April 2017. All queries regarding the placement opportunity should be sent to Dr Kate Seear.