



British Institute of  
International and  
Comparative Law

# Director of the British Institute of International and Comparative Law

## Background

1. The British Institute of International and Comparative Law (BIICL) is one of the leading independent research centres for international and comparative law, and the rule of law, in the world. Our research, events, training and publications are grounded in deep scholarly knowledge and strong practical experience that can be applied to many situations. We continue to make an impact on law and policy around the world.
2. The Trustees of BIICL seek to appoint an exceptional candidate to lead this unique and influential organisation. The BIICL Director provides intellectual leadership, research activity, skilled management, strategic and financial direction, and engagement with senior external people nationally and internationally.
3. BIICL conducts research and activities around the world across the broad range of public international law, private international law, comparative law and the rule of law. The Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law is a constituent part of BIICL. Other areas covered include competition law, European law, human rights law, international investment law, and product liability law. Our research often crosses traditional boundaries of law, so as to integrate private and public international law, and engages with national, European and comparative law, and Brexit issues. This research, whether externally funded or not, is normally published in full. BIICL also publishes the *International and Comparative Law Quarterly* (ICLQ), one of the top law journals in the world.
4. The person appointed will work with a dedicated, motivated and knowledgeable team of about 40 people in a highly regarded independent body. BIICL is located in central London, in the same building as the Institute for Advanced Legal Studies, which has one of the best law libraries in the UK. It is very close to several leading universities and to most of the legal profession's head offices. BIICL is a membership body, though its activities are usually open to all to attend. Its members and participants form a broad network, which includes judges, legal practitioners (barristers and solicitors), government officials, in-house counsel, international institution officials, staff from non-governmental organisations, academics, students and others. As a charity, BIICL's work also supports a public benefit mission.
5. This is an exciting opportunity to hold a unique post in one of the most respected independent legal research institutes in the world. It is one of the highest profile international law positions in the UK.

## Job Description

6. The BIICL Director's main responsibilities, with support from other staff, especially the BIICL Deputy Director, include:
  - Leadership of BIICL in its research, events, training, publications and other activities;



- Overall responsibility for the strategic management of BIICL, including the selection of research projects, events and training areas, finances and external engagement;
- Management of BIICL's staff and others connected with BIICL and, where relevant, directly supervising their work;
- Undertaking research to a very high quality and publishing it in respected, peer-reviewed journals, books and other locations;
- Obtaining substantial research and related project funding;
- Co-General Editor of the *ICLQ*, including management of its publication and reviewing submissions;
- Engaging closely with those in legal practice, including law firms, barristers, government officials, judges, legal counsel in corporations, civil society, and international organisations;
- Being a public advocate for BIICL and effectively representing and communicating its work to a wide audience;
- Obtaining core and other funding from a wide range of sources to ensure that its work is supported;
- Engaging with potential and existing donors, with support from the Development Director and others, as appropriate; and
- Working effectively with the BIICL Trustees to set the strategic vision and direction for the organisation.

## Person Specification

7. The successful applicant will have the following mix of experience, skills and attributes:
  - An impressive record as a leader with strategic vision, with experience of leading teams of highly motivated and professional researchers being desirable;
  - Experience of interacting appropriately with respected legal practitioners, academics, and others worldwide, and with external organisations;
  - An extensive track record of internationally regarded and very high quality research in one of BIICL's main areas (public international law, private international law and comparative law), as well as an appreciation of the broader areas of law included within BIICL's expertise, including the rule of law;
  - Relevant practical expertise in, and understanding of, one of the main areas of BIICL research, with experience of legal practice being desirable;
  - An ability and willingness to work effectively with a Board of Trustees, with experience of board-level engagement in the university or charity sector being desirable;
  - Excellent communication and advocacy skills, with the ability to express ideas and concepts clearly and coherently to diverse audiences and to engage in public debate;
  - Research leadership and co-ordination, with extensive experience in obtaining and managing research and related funding;
  - Experience in supervising and mentoring staff, and assisting in their career development, as well as delegating appropriately and effectively;
  - Experience of financial planning and the effective management of resources; and



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## Director of the British Institute of International and Comparative Law Job description and person specification

- An ability and willingness to work collaboratively and collegially, and to deal effectively with administrative responsibilities;

### Further Particulars

8. This is a full-time post for a five-year period, which may be renewed. Secondments from other institutions will be considered.
9. A salary package of up to £125,000pa is expected, depending on qualifications and experience.
10. It is hoped that the person appointed will commence on or before January 2018.

### Application process

11. The deadline for applications is **Monday 24 July 2017**.
12. Applicants should send the following by email to [institutedirector@biicl.org](mailto:institutedirector@biicl.org)
  - A completed BIICL application cover form (available at [www.biicl.org/vacancies](http://www.biicl.org/vacancies)) including the names and addresses of three referees (two of whom can be contacted prior to interview);
  - A full curriculum vitae; and
  - A covering letter setting out their reasons for applying and how they consider that they meet the person specification for this post.
13. Informal enquiries may be addressed to the Deputy Director of BIICL, Patricia Ambrose, at [p.ambrose@biicl.org](mailto:p.ambrose@biicl.org).
14. It is expected that interviews will take place in September 2017.
15. To be considered for this role, applicants must currently have the right to work in the UK or will have the right to work in the UK by the date of commencement of employment.
16. Applicants are encouraged to find out more about BIICL and its members of staff and activities at: <http://www.biicl.org>.

British Institute of International and Comparative Law  
17 Russell Square  
London WC1B 5JP  
Tel: +44 (0)20 7862 5167; Fax: +44 (0)20 7862 5152  
[www.biicl.org](http://www.biicl.org)