

## **JOINT MEDIA RELEASE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH AND THE NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND**

5 August 2019

### **Edinburgh LLM student wins the 2019 Colin Donald Environmental Law Award**

Gemma Hayes, a student on the LLM in Global Environment and Climate Change Law at Edinburgh Law School, has won the 2019 Colin Donald Environmental Law Award.

This award is co-sponsored by the conservation charity the National Trust for Scotland and the University of Glasgow. It is named after Colin Donald who, at the time of his death in 2006, was a Vice-President of the National Trust for Scotland, having also had a long career with Glasgow-based law firm McGrigor Donald and also gave service to many good causes including the Sir William Burrell Trust.

The competition is judged on the submission of essays on any topic of environmental law written by students as part of their studies at a Scottish university.

Gemma won the award with the submission of an essay on the relationship between the European Convention on Human Rights and environmental protection.

In her essay, Gemma argued for the adoption of an amendment or an additional protocol to the European Convention on Human Rights, which would enshrine a right to a healthy environment in order to compensate for gaps in the existing jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights and also to ensure that the European human rights system keeps pace with other international developments.

Gemma will receive a cash prize and the winner of the Award is also traditionally offered a placement with the National Trust for Scotland's legal department.

Stephen Small, the National Trust for Scotland's Solicitor and Secretary said:

“It was a difficult choice give the quality of all of the entries submitted, but Gemma’s essay shone through with its excellent structure and logical points of argument. She has a great future ahead of her.”

**- ENDS -**

National Trust for Scotland Press Office. Contact Jim Whyteside on 0131 458 0241/ 07889 456779.

## **IMAGES:**

### **Editor’s Notes:**

The National Trust for Scotland is the charity that celebrates and protects Scotland’s heritage. It relies on the support of its members and donors to carry out its important work of caring for the natural and built heritage of Scotland for everyone to enjoy.

From coastlines to castles, art to architecture, wildlife to wildernesses, the National Trust for Scotland exists to protect the national and natural treasures we all love. Visit today. Enter your postcode at [www.nts.org.uk](http://www.nts.org.uk).

Edinburgh Law School is situated in the heart of Edinburgh’s legal centre, minutes from both the highest Law Courts in Scotland and the Scottish Parliament. The City of Edinburgh has been a major centre for Law since the Middle Ages, and for over 300 years the School has trained generations of the world’s finest legal minds, sustaining a history of fine legal scholarship and education.

Today the School is larger and more diverse than ever. With a dynamic, outward-looking and research active ethos, Edinburgh Law School attracts the brightest and most promising young scholars from all fields and from around the world. In the most recent Research Excellence Framework (REF 2014) the Law School was ranked 1<sup>st</sup> in Scotland and 4<sup>th</sup> in the UK based on its breadth and quality of research. The School is also currently ranked in the top 30\* Law Schools in the world.

The School has a body of 103 active research and teaching staff, and 48 professional service staff. Our student body joins us from 67 countries worldwide making up a cohort of 935 undergraduates, 720 taught postgraduates and 120 research postgraduates. We offer degrees programmes across a wide range of legal and criminological disciplines at all levels of higher education, including a range of online postgraduate study options.

Edinburgh Law School is located in the stunning, historic Old College. This important landmark has been recently reimagined with a £35million

refurbishment, creating state-of-the-art facilities fit for a 21st century, world-class law school, whilst maintaining and celebrating the building's architectural features.

\* *QS World University Rankings by subject 2019*

IMAGES - <https://www.flickr.com/gp/133918740@N04/4ii1dn>

