ACADEMIC SERVICES

MODULE SPECIFICATION

Part 1: Basic Data						
Module Title	Research and Practice Portfolio					
Module Code	UJGT7A-60-M		Level	M	Version	2
UWE Credit Rating	60	ECTS Credit Rating	30	WBL module?	No	
Owning Faculty	Business and Law		Field	Law Postgraduate		
Department	Law : BILP		Module Type	Project		
Contributes towards	Masters in Advanced Legal Practice Masters in Bar Professional Training Studies					
Pre-requisites	None		Co- requisites	None		
Excluded Combinations	UJGUPU-45-M UJXTRC-15-M UJXTRD-15-M		Module Entry requirements	None		
First CAP Approval Date	September 2008		Valid from	September 2008		
Revision CAP Approval Date	15 December 2016		Revised with effect from	September 2017		

Part 2: Learning and Teaching	
Learning Outcomes	On successful completion of this module, students will - Be able to critically appraise existing knowledge, research, new evidence and innovations in practice - Have developed and reflected on their knowledge and understanding from their studies on the PG Diploma in Legal Practice/PG Diploma Bar Professional Training Course (and previous legal studies) in the context of particular issue(s) which they have encountered in a work based environment (whether legal or law related) - Have further developed their analytical skills to make reasoned creative and original judgements regarding the practical application of law in practice - Be able to deal with complex and specialised legal norms, independently explore the current limits of legal knowledge and critically evaluate current research/advanced scholarship in the relevant practice area - Have further developed their intellectual autonomy to become independent learners - Have developed their ability to critically reflect on their own professional practice and manage their process of lifelong learning and professional development as a lawyer in practice
Syllabus Outline	**Research Methods**

The Research Methods element is designed to build upon and enhance the student's existing research skills (from prior legal study and legal employment). Students will have already developed research techniques and skills at an earlier stage of his/her legal education and, where appropriate, in practice.

Students will

- Refresh and develop more significant and sophisticated techniques in conducting detailed legal research using an extensive range of resources (including practitioner sources)

- Plan research, define objectives, choosing an appropriate methodological approach, research design and project management

- Conduct a literature search, including utilisation of Internet resources; to identify and explore literature relevant to a research project, and access sources of information and guidance, including professional practice within organisations.

- Undertake a process of detailed legal research, including the use of the latest research techniques in information retrieval to obtain, apply and present data.

- Conduct, assess, apply and record legal research in a practitioner context, adopting an appropriate methodology for research and analysis.

- Apply knowledge, critical thinking and problem solving skills to their research.

- Apply a creative and reflective approach to enquiry and research processes.

- Analyse the relevance of information acquired through research activities and apply the information to a client's circumstances

- Project and time manage a process of organisation based research; enhancing their data presentation and report writing skills

2. The Research and Practice Portfolio (the Portfolio)

Students will produce a portfolio which will comprise or reflect valuable know-how in a practitioner context providing evidence of the student's expertise in or knowledge of the relevant practice area. They will draw on their own practical and professional experience, some or all of which may be initiated and generated in connection with work for the student's clients.

Students will

- Identify and justify a legal issue which is of strategic relevance to an organisation as a chosen topic of research

- Develop the chosen topic of research (approved in a Proposal) into a properly conceived, constructed and concluded Portfolio

- Manage research over a prolonged period of time involving both theoretical and practical issues, demonstrating project management and organisational skills.

- Design a research strategy appropriate for the investigation of the Portfolio topic

- Apply appropriate research methodologies in the production of the Portfolio:

- Make a persuasive business case for appropriately developed and justified recommendations based on the research.

The Portfolio consists of the practical implementation of the theory and practices of research learned. It will consist of a self-generated portfolio of work that will

	demonstrate evidence of relevant research and engagement with existing knowledge and practice in the chosen practice area (as specified in the approved Proposal).
Contact Hours	

Activity	Hours
Scheduled contact	25
Self-directed study	575
Total study time	**600**

The contact time will generally be delivered during the Research Methods Programme and supervision sessions with the student's supervisor

Teaching and Learning Methods	**Research Methods**

Research Methods

Research Methods will be taught through a series of four interactive workshops, covering research design, quantitative and qualitative data collection, data analysis and writing up the research. The indicative content of the Research Methods course of study is:

- Information retrieval using paper-based and electronic sources and the analysis of information gathered.

- Legal research techniques (including an introduction to research methodologies and theories, and to qualitative and quantitative research).

- The application, composition and presentation of legal research (including presentation of summaries of relevant current law), particularly in the context of the presentation of the Portfolio.

- Introduction to reflective learning (with particular reference to legal practice and the role of reflective learning in the preparation and completion of the Portfolio).

Seminars and practical activities enable students to make sense and experience first-hand the challenges understanding planning, designing, implementing, analysing and writing up their own research

Students will complete a research Proposal (not assessed) which will form the basis of preliminary discussions about the research. This is expected to include

- Title & Practice Area:

- Format: - type of content / document(s)

- Rationale: - a brief outline of the reason for the choice of topic and the practice benefits to be derived from the product of the Portfolio

- Parameters:

  - detailed outline and parameters of the topics covered by (and the extent of coverage of such topics) in the Portfolio

  - detailed description of the document(s) to be produced

- Research Methodology

- Key sources to be used (legislation, case law and journals, articles, practitioner works and academic sources)

Portfolio

The Portfolio will comprise between 12,000 and 15,000 words in total. It will consist of a portfolio of know-how within an area of practice.

	Process
	During the completion of the Portfolio, primary support will be given by the student's supervisor who acts as an adviser and mentor to the student, providing a contact point when ideas need to be explored or problems discussed. The supervisor will also provide written feedback on drafts of the students work
	In addition, student support will also be available from the Module Leader. They will be involved in preliminary discussions with students over initial topic ideas and their viability, the development of a preliminary research proposal, choice of appropriate project supervisors and matters of access. The module leader will monitor the progress of students and take action when required
	On the basis of the Proposal, the student will be assigned a Supervisor. The Supervisor may recommend alterations to the Proposal.
	This is largely a project of self-study. The Supervisor will provide assistance and guidance for the student. The role of the Supervisor is to comment on the student's proposals and ideas (including research methodologies; sources found and to be used; the content of the developing work, and the final presentation of the Portfolio).
	It is expected that students and supervisors will meet on at least four formal occasions.
Key Information Sets Information	Key Information Sets (KIS) are produced at programme level for all programmes that this module contributes to, which is a requirement set by HESA/HEFCE. KIS are comparable sets of standardised information about undergraduate courses allowing prospective students to compare and contrast between programmes they are interested in applying for.

Key Information Set - Module data

Number of credits for this module				60	

Hours to be allocated	Scheduled learning and teaching study hours	Independent study hours	Placement study hours	Allocated Hours	
600	25	575	0	600	✅

The table below indicates as a percentage the total assessment of the module which constitutes a -

Written Exam: Unseen written exam, open book written exam, In-class test
Coursework: Written assignment or essay, report, dissertation, portfolio, project
Practical Exam: Oral Assessment and/or presentation, practical skills assessment, practical exam

Please note that this is the total of various types of assessment and will not necessarily reflect the component and module weightings in the Assessment section of this module description:

		Total assessment of the module:				
		Written exam assessment percentage			0%	
		Coursework assessment percentage			100%	
		Practical exam assessment percentage			0%	
					100%	

Reading Strategy	No set text is applicable to this module but specific reading guidance may be made available for individual student's Portfolio. Students are expected to develop a Reading strategy in line with the research topic for their Portfolio. This should enable them to evaluate the existing literature relevant to the chosen issue Students are encouraged to make full use of the resources available through membership of the University. These include electronic journals and a wide variety of e-support resources available through web sites and information gateways. They are also expected to use non-University sources such as professional literature available in or through their workplace and/or relevant professional bodies.
Indicative Reading List	**Indicative Sources**: **1. Research Methods** All the paper-based and electronic sources available to UWE students at or via the University's Library and/or the LPC/BVC Resource Room. **2. Portfolio** Those primary sources (statutory and case law), practitioner works, professional journals and academic works referred to in the Proposal, together with other appropriate and relevant materials referred to by the student in the Portfolio.

Part 3: Assessment	
Assessment Strategy	Students will be required to develop and submit an Applied Thematic Research Portfolio in an area of legal (or law related) practice of between 12,000 and 15,000 words, which will be assessed against the following criteria 1. Aims and objectives are clearly stated relevant and intellectually challenging 2. The context of the research is clearly explained 3. A critical appreciation of relevant literature is demonstrated and sources are correctly attributed and referenced 4. Findings are analysed and discussed discussions integrated with literature review 5. Appropriate conclusions are reached, which are consistent with research objectives and supported by evidence 6. Realistic recommendations are made provide persuasive business case and shown awareness of relevant cost and resource implications 7. The Portfolio professionally presented in, including good use of English 8. There is evidence of self-critical reflection and review of personal learning from the project

Identify final assessment component and element	A1	
	A:	**B**:
% weighting between components A and B (Standard modules only)	**100%**	**0%**

First Sit

Component A (controlled conditions) **Description of each element**	**Element weighting**
1. Portfolio (12,000-15,000 words)	100%
Component B **Description of each element**	**Element weighting**
NA	

Resit (further attendance at taught classes is not required)

Component A (controlled conditions) **Description of each element**	**Element weighting**
1. Resubmission of Portfolio (12,000-15,000 words)	100%
Component B **Description of each element**	**Element weighting**
NA	

If a student is permitted a retake of the module under the University Regulations and Procedures, the assessment will be that indicated by the Module Description at the time that retake commences.