



MODULE SPECIFICATION

Part 1: Information			
Module Title	Research & Practice Portfolio		
Module Code	UJGT7A-60-M	Level	Level 7
For implementation from	2020-21		
UWE Credit Rating	60	ECTS Credit Rating	30
Faculty	Faculty of Business & Law	Field	Law Postgraduate (Programmes)
Department	FBL Dept of Law		
Module type:	Standard		
Pre-requisites	None		
Excluded Combinations	Bar Professional Development 2021-22, Continuing Professional Competence Portfolio 2020-21, Continuing Professional Development Portfolio 2018-19, Professional Conduct and Regulation in Practice 2020-21, Professional Development (Law) 2020-21		
Co- requisites	None		
Module Entry requirements	None		

Part 2: Description	
<p>Educational Aims: 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Outline Syllabus: The syllabus includes:</p> <p>Research Methods: 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</p>	

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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

The Research and Practice Portfolio (the Portfolio):

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).

Teaching and Learning Methods: Research Methods:

Research Methods will be taught through a series of learning activities, covering research design, quantitative and qualitative data collection, data analysis, professional reflection 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)

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:

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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.

Contact hours:

Activity:

Scheduled contact: 25 hours

Self-directed study: 575 hours

Total study time: 600 hours

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

Part 3: Assessment

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:
Aims and objectives are clearly stated relevant and intellectually challenging.

The context of the research is clearly explained

A critical appreciation of relevant literature is demonstrated and sources are correctly attributed and referenced

Findings are analysed and discussed discussions integrated with literature review

Appropriate conclusions are reached, which are consistent with research objectives and supported by evidence

Realistic recommendations are made provide persuasive business case and shown awareness of relevant cost and resource implications

The Portfolio professionally presented in, including good use of English

There is evidence of self-critical reflection and review of personal learning from the project

First Sit Components	Final Assessment	Element weighting	Description
Portfolio - Component A	✓	100 %	Portfolio (12,000-15,000 words)
Resit Components	Final Assessment	Element weighting	Description
Portfolio - Component A	✓	100 %	Resubmission of Portfolio (12,000-15,000 words)

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Part 4: Teaching and Learning Methods																	
Learning Outcomes	<p>On successful completion of this module students will achieve the following learning outcomes:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Module Learning Outcomes</th> <th style="text-align: left;">Reference</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Be able to critically appraise existing knowledge, research, new evidence and innovations in practice</td> <td>MO1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>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)</td> <td>MO2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Have further developed their analytical skills to make reasoned creative and original judgements regarding the practical application of law in practice</td> <td>MO3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>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</td> <td>MO4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Have further developed their intellectual autonomy to become independent learners</td> <td>MO5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>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</td> <td>MO6</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Module Learning Outcomes	Reference	Be able to critically appraise existing knowledge, research, new evidence and innovations in practice	MO1	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)	MO2	Have further developed their analytical skills to make reasoned creative and original judgements regarding the practical application of law in practice	MO3	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	MO4	Have further developed their intellectual autonomy to become independent learners	MO5	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	MO6		
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Reading List	<p><i>The reading list for this module can be accessed via the following link:</i></p> <p>https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/ujgt7a-60-m.html</p>																

Part 5: Contributes Towards
<p>This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:</p> <p>Advanced Legal Practice [Sep][FT][Frenchay][1yr] LLM 2020-21</p> <p>Advanced Legal Practice [Sep][PT][Frenchay][2yrs] LLM 2020-21</p> <p>Advanced Legal Practice [Aug][PT][Frenchay][2yrs] LLM 2020-21</p> <p>Advanced Legal Practice [Jan][PT][Frenchay][2yrs] LLM 2020-21</p> <p>Bar Professional Training Studies [Sep][FT][Frenchay][2yrs] LLM 2019-20</p> <p>Bar Professional Training Studies [Sep][PT][Frenchay][3yrs] LLM 2018-19</p>