



Module Specification

Research & Practice Portfolio

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Research & Practice Portfolio

Module code: UJGT7A-60-M

Level: Level 7

For implementation from: 2023-24

UWE credit rating: 60

ECTS credit rating: 30

Faculty: Faculty of Business & Law

Department: FBL Dept of Law

Partner institutions: None

Delivery locations: Not in use for Modules

Field: Law Postgraduate (Programmes)

Module type: Module

Pre-requisites: None

Excluded combinations: Bar Professional Development 2024-25, Continuing Professional Competence Portfolio 2023-24, Continuing Professional Development Portfolio 2021-22, Professional Conduct and Regulation in Practice 2023-24, Professional Development (Law) 2023-24

Co-requisites: None

Continuing professional development: No

Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements: None

Part 2: Description

Overview: Not applicable

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: Research Methods:

Research Methods 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.

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.

Outline syllabus: The syllabus includes:

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

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).

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

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:

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.

Module Learning outcomes: On successful completion of this module students will achieve the following learning outcomes.

MO1 Be able to critically appraise existing knowledge, research, new evidence and innovations in practice

MO2 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)

MO3 Have further developed their analytical skills to make reasoned creative and original judgements regarding the practical application of law in practice

MO4 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

MO5 Have further developed their intellectual autonomy to become independent learners

MO6 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

Hours to be allocated: 600

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 575 hours

Face-to-face learning = 25 hours

Total = 600

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at [readinglists.uwe.ac.uk](https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/ujgt7a-60-m.html) via the following link <https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/ujgt7a-60-m.html>

Part 4: 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:

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

Assessment components:

Portfolio (First Sit)

Description: Portfolio (12,000-15,000 words)

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5, MO6

Portfolio (Resit)

Description: Portfolio (12,000-15,000 words)

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested:

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Advanced Legal Practice [Sep][FT][Frenchay][2yrs] LLM 2022-23

Bar Training Course [Frenchay] LLM 2022-23

Advanced Legal Practice [Frenchay] LLM 2022-23

Bar Training Course [Sep][PT][Frenchay][3yrs] LLM 2021-22