



MODULE SPECIFICATION

Code: UJUTAF-30-3

Title: Law in Action

Version: 3

Level: 3

UWE credit rating: 30

ECTS credit rating: 15

Module type: Project

Owning Faculty: FBL

Field: Law Undergraduate

Faculty Committee approval: QMAC

Date: July 2011

Valid from: 1 September 2007
(Revised for September 2011)

Discontinued from:

Contributes towards: LLB

Pre-requisites: Land Law, Law of Torts, EU Law, Contract Law, Criminal Law, Legal Methods & Systems, Public Law

Co-requisites: None

Excluded combinations: None

Aim of module

This project module is designed to meet the needs of enhancing student's personal employability by providing students with an opportunity to apply their knowledge and skills and as part of a team find out what it's really like working in their chosen field of law. They will undertake a placement undertaking practical work in a legal work-related environment and critically evaluate and reflect on their experience. They will need to manage their own learning within the organisation and outside the class-based environment.

Key to the module is the need for the student to explore the relationship between the study of law as an academic discipline and the practice of law in the workplace. Students should use reflection to enhance, refine and develop personal theories of professional practice, with due regard to ethical, conceptual and contextual needs and/or outcomes.

Learning outcomes:

On successful completion of this module, students will be able to:

- Identify and appraise the knowledge and skills developed and acquired through the work-based learning
- Identify and use relevant source material demonstrable in the report
- Identify the links between the experience of work and the theories and debates which underpin the field of study and use this knowledge.
- Reflect upon the practical challenges encountered when completing a work-based project, and identify potential solutions to such challenges

The Project module is designed to:

- Enable students to acquire analytical and problem solving skills based on evaluation and synthesis within a law-based work environment or simulation of a practical situation;

- Provide for learning that is active, where the student identifies and defines the problem to be explored, the work to be completed, and learns from his/her experience rather than the passive mode of, for example, taught classes;
- Develop skills for independent research and the students' ability to apply academic knowledge in the investigation of a business issue or problem.
- Enable students to develop personal skills, such as resourcefulness, flexibility, creativity and clarity of thought, as well as self-confidence gained in the work environment.

Syllabus outline:

Not applicable. Eligible students will be identified by the third term of their last but one year, normally the second year. They should be single honours students deemed to have a 'good' aggregate coursework mark in all Level 3 subjects studied to date and who have demonstrated considerable motivation and commitment to studies up to this point. Application will be by written application and an interview. Suitability may also be supported by a reference from a relevant tutor. Before the placement commences, all students must attend an introductory session with the module leader, covering issues relating to placement allocation.

Students will be expected to participate in a placement equivalent of approximately 30 days work experience. This may operate as a block (normally of six consecutive weeks), or as one day per week depending upon the requirements of the placement organisation. Placement as a block enables students to carry out the work outside of the teaching timetable (e.g. the summer break) whilst a one day per week placement allows students to take other modules without interference. The exact timing of the placement will be decided before allocation to students so that they are fully aware of commitment requirements.

Where placements opportunities are identified by students they will be subject to prior approval by the module leader.

As there is no expectation that students will be paid for their work, placements will normally take place in the Bristol area. Any additional travel should be covered at student's own expense.

Placements appropriate for the work-based learning model can be any of the currently accepted range of different clinical legal models including:

- placements – students placed with a legal host organisation and working there under the direction of that organisation's management. The host is responsible for the delivery of the relevant service.
- in-house advice centres and/or representation services – where advice and/or further assistance (including advocacy) is offered by a service run by and at the educational provider
- outreach clinics (advice and/or representation) – a service involving the same extent of provision, run by the educational provider but at a community-based venue outside of the institution
- community-based consultancy services – where the institution provides a consultancy service for another organisation using staff and students at that institution to provide the service
- legal literacy clinics (otherwise known generically as Street Law) – here students deliver classes on rights and responsibilities in the context of everyday legal issues to local groups. The classes are interactive and customised to meet the needs of the particular community.

Prior to the placement commencing, students will be required to commit to a learning contract informed by the work plan with the placement organisation that will lay out the responsibilities of the student and their tutor.

This will identify specific task(s) which the student will be expected to carry out. Whilst this may involve some general small administrative tasks, the majority of the work experience will require the student to be involved in the substantive work of the organisation.

Teaching and learning methods:

Whilst the emphasis is on active, self managed learning, with the student taking responsibility for

initiating, planning and executing the work, it is recognised that some structured framework of staff support is required and this is provided to two forms. Students are provided with introductory teaching before taking up their placement and at staged intervals during the academic year will attend seminars to discuss work-based learning. In addition students are allocated individual tutors whose task is to help guide students as they undertake their self-managed project.

Reading Strategy

All students will be encouraged to make full use of the print and electronic resources available to them through membership of the University. These include a range of electronic journals and a wide variety of resources available through web sites and information gateways. The University Library's web pages provide access to subject relevant resources and services, and to the library catalogue.

Any essential reading will be indicated clearly, along with the method for accessing it, e.g. students will be referred to texts that are available electronically, etc. This guidance will be available either in the module handbook, via the module information on Blackboard or through any other vehicle deemed appropriate by the module/programme leaders.

Indicative reading:

This module does not have general indicative reading, but source material will be driven by the nature of individual placements.

Assessment

The A2, the project, is designated as the final assessment.

The project is an opportunity for students to investigate and construct a hypothesis or argument arising from an aspect of their placement (law, practice, procedure, business) that they feel strongly about. The student needs to demonstrate autonomy in creating the project, act independently in planning and managing the project, identify own resources, and submit a comprehensive review based on and reflective of the student's opinion..

The reflective logs comprise a daily record of what the student undertakes in the placement, how the student critically evaluates the placement and reflects on their own learning. Reflection should encompass what the student has learned about themselves, their skills, about work, the skills of others and about the Law and/or the practice of Law.

Weighting between components A and B n/a

ATTEMPT 1

First Assessment Opportunity

Component A

Description of each element	Element weighting
1 Reflection on Placement Experience(normally by Reflective Log)	30%
2 Project Report	70%

Second Assessment Opportunity (further attendance at taught classes is required)

Component A

Description of each element	Element weighting
1 Resubmission of Reflective Log	30%
2 Resubmission of Project Report	70%

Specification confirmed byDate
 (Associate Dean/Programme Director)