



MODULE SPECIFICATION

Part 1: Information			
Module Title	Research Methods		
Module Code	UJGUP7-15-M	Level	M
For implementation from	September 2018		
UWE Credit Rating	15	ECTS Credit Rating	7.5
Faculty	Business and Law	Field	Law Postgraduate
Department	Law		
Contributes towards	LLM in Commercial Law LLM in Environmental Law and Sustainable Development LLM in International Banking and Finance Law LLM in International Law LLM in International Trade and Economic Law		
Module type:	Standard		
Pre-requisites	None		
Excluded Combinations	None		
Co- requisites	None		
Module Entry requirements	N/A		

Part 2: Description	
<p>Research Methods facilitates the development of the student's own approach to legal research by introducing the student to key skills and concepts in a range of approaches to legal research. The analysis of distinctive aims, forms and priorities in different legal methodologies allows the student to develop their own 'best practice' in legal research through discussion and reflective practice. This is achieved through both forms of assessment, which encourage both the critical analysis of methodological concerns and the synthesis of new legal knowledge by contextualizing abstract methodological concerns in relation to both existing research, students' own dissertation research or participation in work-based projects. By the end of the module the student will be able to produce a comprehensive and critical literature review and establish a programme of research or activity with likely outcomes.</p> <p>Research Methods supports effective student achievement on the postgraduate programme, given that it is only after undertaking a literature review and establishing, by choice of methodology, a research project and its likely outcomes, that the substantive research undertaken will be of the appropriate level. This is particularly the case in relation to the dissertation. It also supports effective student achievement by providing a forum in which communication skills and techniques can be discussed and developed.</p> <p>The following is a list of topics that will be explored in the seminars. The emphasis may shift where there is a shift in relative importance. The exact content of these workshops may be changed to reflect more recent developments or interests in this subject area.</p>	

- Doctrinal approaches to legal research
- Socio-legal approaches to legal research
- Empirical approaches to the legal research
- Developing written and oral communication skills
- Comparative approaches to legal research
- Feminist Approaches to legal research

The main focus of teaching and learning on the taught LLM programme is through independent research and debate in the context of 2 hour weekly workshops. The workshop-based approach to teaching and learning is designed to enable the student to develop the independent research, analytical and reflective skills required for successful completion of a postgraduate level course. Students will need to complete the necessary preparatory reading and study of any set case materials in advance of each workshop. From each workshop, the student will be expected to have developed a general mastery of the subject under consideration. In addition, students will be expected to raise, critically assess and defend different points of view on controversial issues in class and to make presentations to the class on their own and in groups.

Part 3: Assessment


Component A – Element 1. A test under controlled conditions last one hour in duration, to provide students with a different assessment method of ensuring acquired knowledge across the spectrum of the course. The test will also ascertain the base knowledge the students have gained during the first part of the module. The test will take place after week 6. The rationale is to assess research methods knowledge which is then taken into the written part of the assessment and is applied in the written format.

Element 2. The written format is a dissertation plan and will encourage students to link questions of methodology, method and good academic practice in legal research with other subjects studied on the LLM, thus enhancing their understanding by facilitating students in applying these issues in practical contexts. The students will be required to make a 15-minute meeting appointment with one of the allocated tutors to discuss their dissertation plan before submission so that it is monitored and an opportunity for formative feedback to be given.

Learning outcomes will be assessed by the controlled test and the written coursework. Assessment questions will be set by tutors. Both assessments require students to undertake independent research building on material covered in the workshop sessions. Both assessments are designed with the specific aim of helping students to connect the ideas and practices of good academic research with the study and research they will conduct throughout the whole LLM. The coursework assessment is designed to support students in preparing their dissertation or work based project as outlined in the Dissertation module specification.

Identify final timetabled piece of assessment (component and element)	Component A2	
% weighting between components A and B (Standard modules only)	A:	B:
	100%	
First Sit		
Component A (controlled conditions) Description of each element	Element weighting (as % of component)	
1. One hour controlled test	10%	
2. Written dissertation plan (maximum of 3500 words) with a required 15-minute meeting with a tutor to discuss the dissertation plan	90%	
Component B Description of each element	Element weighting (as % of component)	
N/A		

Resit (further attendance at taught classes is not required)	
Component A (controlled conditions) Description of each element	Element weighting (as % of component)
1. One hour controlled test	10%
2. Written dissertation plan (maximum of 3500 words) with a required 15-minute meeting with a tutor to discuss the dissertation plan	90%
Component B Description of each element	Element weighting (as % of component)
N/A	
Part 4: Learning Outcomes & KIS Data	
Learning Outcomes	<p>On successful completion of the module, students are expected to demonstrate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a critical understanding of the range of research methodologies and methods that can be used in legal research, in particular an appreciation of the scope and limits of doctrinal legal research [assessed in component A]; • an ability to critically analyse the strengths, weaknesses and practicalities of undertaking different types of legal research [assessed in component A]; • an ability to critically analyse legal research from the perspective of the methodology and methods adopted therein [assessed in component A]; • an ability to locate a wide range of legal research through independent library and ICT-based research activities [assessed in component A]; • an ability to develop a rigorous legal research project, dissertation or plan for work-based project which engages effectively with methodological concerns and good academic practice [assessed in component A]; • an awareness of the standards of good academic writing and practice, which can be used throughout the student's LLM studies, including the ethical implications of different choices in legal research [assessed in component A]; • Communication skills, both oral and written, in the articulation of their own and others' approach to legal method and strategies in research [assessed in component A]; • an ability to reflect effectively on the nature of what they do in order that they can do it better [assessed in component A]. <p>On completion of this module, students should have the following transferable skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ability to present a structured argument at both abstract and concrete levels in the subject area [assessed in component A]; • ability to recognise problems and identify solutions [assessed in component A]; • ability to analyse, evaluate and reflect upon complex materials relating to the subject area [assessed in component A]; • ability to undertake independent research [assessed in component A]; • ability to work in groups; and • an awareness of and sensitivity to issues of diversity in both classroom and research contexts, achieved through both active participation in group work and the discussion of power and respect for those being researched in workshops.

Key Information Sets Information (KIS)	Key Information Set - Module data				
Contact Hours	<i>Number of credits for this module</i>				15
	Hours to be allocated	Scheduled learning and teaching study hours	Independent study hours	Placement study hours	Allocated Hours
150	24	126	0	150	
Total Assessment	The table below indicates as a percentage the total assessment of the module which constitutes a;				
	<p>Written Exam: Unseen or open book written exam Coursework: Written assignment or essay, report, dissertation, portfolio, project or in class test Practical Exam: Oral Assessment and/or presentation, practical skills assessment, practical exam (i.e. an exam determining mastery of a technique)</p>				
Reading List	Total assessment of the module:				
	Written exam assessment percentage				10%
	Coursework assessment percentage				90%
	Practical exam assessment percentage				%
				100%	
https://uwe.rl.talis.com/lists/FF9A6F76-E22B-7A45-CD14-D42095146B3A.html					

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First CAP Approval Date	QMAC December 2011			
Revision ASQC Approval Date <i>Update this row each time a change goes to ASQC</i>	16 January 2016	Version	2	link to RIA