



CORPORATE AND ACADEMIC SERVICES

MODULE SPECIFICATION

| Part 1: Basic Data | | | | | |
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| Module Title | World Trade Organisation Law | | | | |
| Module Code | UJGUPM-15-M | Level | M | Version | 1.2 |
| Owning Faculty | FBL | Field | Law Postgraduate | | |
| Contributes towards | All LLM Awards: 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 MSc/LLM Global Trade | | | | |
| UWE Credit Rating | 15 | ECTS Credit Rating | 7.5 | Module Type | Standard |
| Pre-requisites | None | | Co- requisites | None | |
| Excluded Combinations | None | | Module Entry requirements | | |
| First CAP Approval Date | QMAC December 2011 | | Valid from | 1 September 2012 | |
| Revision CAP Approval Date | 26 March 2015 | | Revised with effect from | September 2015 | |

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| Review Date | September 2018 |
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| Part 2: Learning and Teaching | |
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| Learning Outcomes | <p>This module examines the laws, and law-making and adjudicative institutions of the World Trade Organisation. Particular attention is given to the procedures for dispute resolution in respect of GATT and other 'covered agreements' relating to international economic law, and the jurisprudence arising. Whereas it was once possible for legal academics and practitioners to dismiss this field as 'diplomats' law', the WTO's <i>ad hoc</i> panel system, together with its standing Appellate Body, are at the core of a rapidly emerging body of 'lawyers' law'.</p> <p>On successful completion of the module, students are expected to demonstrate:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In-depth knowledge of complex and specialised issues within the module subject area [assessed in components A and B]; 2. Ability to deal with complex and specialised legal norms under the WTO Covered Agreements [assessed in components A and B]; 3. Ability to critically analyse rules of law and apply them to complex and developing issues [assessed in components A and B]; 4. Ability to work autonomously, evidencing ability to evaluate complex legal issues [assessed in components A and B]; 5. Ability to present a structured argument at both abstract and concrete levels [assessed in components A and B]; |

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| | <p>6. Ability to independently plan and undertake effective research on complex and specialised issues in law [assessed in components A and B];</p> <p>7. Ability to utilise paper and computer-based library resources [assessed in components A and B];</p> <p>8. Ability to think analytically and reflexively about complex material and to present arguments and information coherently [assessed in components A and B];</p> <p>9. Ability to communicate complex legal issues in both written and oral form [assessed in components A and B];</p> <p>10. Evidence an awareness of certain ethical issues involved in the research and its findings [assessed in components A and B];</p> <p>Postgraduate skills of independent research and analysis are further developed through the assessment scheme adopted by the programme, which places pre-eminent emphasis upon the undertaken of written coursework. Assessment of coursework not only tests the student's ability to critically analyse the relevant legal point with the material available to them but requires evidence of the undertaking of independent research to ensure that the student has access to all relevant information (as appropriate at 'M' level).</p> <p>At the end of the module the student should be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Demonstrate a critical appreciation of the law, policy and institutions of the WTO [assessed in components A and B]; 2. Solve complex problems relating to the interpretation of international agreements in the field of international economic law [assessed in components A and B]; 3. Compare and contrast WTO legal principles in relation to broader principles of public international law [assessed in components A and B]; 4. Identify - and critically assess the delivery of - the WTO's principal objectives [assessed in components A and B]; <p>On successful 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 components A and B]; • ability to recognise problems and identify solutions [assessed in components A and B]; • ability to analyse, evaluate and reflect upon complex materials relating to the subject area [assessed in components A and B]; • ability to work in groups; and • ability to undertake independent research [assessed in components A and B]. |
| Syllabus Outline | <p>Syllabus outline:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduction: Key Concepts and Historical Background to WTO and its Side Agreements 2. Accession and Dispute Resolution Institutions: WTO Council and DSB; panel system; Appellate Body Shades of 'supranationalism'. 3. Free Movement of Goods & GATT's 'Trade Code': Member State 'rights to trade'; exceptions regarding regional agreements (esp EU); Article XX restrictions on right to trade, and the SPS Agreement. 4. Agriculture, Competition & Subsidies 5. The Impact of the WTO on Developing Countries 6. Assessing the WTO: its past, its present and its future |
| Contact Hours/Scheduled Hours | <p>12 x 2 hour workshops</p> <p>Scheduled contact is supplemented by independent learning structured around reading and questions set in advance. In addition, students are encouraged to attend seminars organised by the Centre for Legal Research and the Research Units of the Department of Law.</p> |

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| <p>Teaching and Learning Methods</p> | <p>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 contribute to structured analytical discussions, 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. Analytical skills and a critical theoretical approach to the subject are encouraged. A strong emphasis is placed on independent engagement with the materials and the questioning of assumptions concerning human rights as categories. Students should come prepared to be fully involved in lively debate and engagement with each other and the tutor.</p> <p>Scheduled learning for this module is in the form of workshops. The activities covered in workshops may include lectures, seminars, tutorials, group discussions, group exercises, role play, case studies, presentations by students and staff, in groups or individually, debates and other activities such as films or video and online discussions.</p> <p>Independent learning includes hours engaged with essential reading, case study preparation, assignment preparation and completion etc.</p> |
| <p>Reading Strategy*</p> | <p>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 journals (both print and electronic) and a wide variety of resources available through web sites and information gateways. Use will be made of the UN, Council of Europe and African Union websites in particular. The University's Library website pages provide access to subject relevant resources and services, and to the library catalogue. Many resources can be accessed remotely. Students will be presented with opportunities to develop their information retrieval and evaluation skills in order to identify appropriate resources effectively.</p> <p>This module is supported by Blackboard, where students will be able to find all necessary module documentation, to include guidance on essential and further reading within the module outline. Direct links to information resources and digitised materials will also be provided from within Blackboard.</p> <p>Any essential reading will be indicated clearly, along with the method for accessing it, for instance, students may be expected to purchase a set text or be referred to texts that are available electronically. If further reading is expected, this will be indicated clearly. If specific texts are listed, a clear indication will be given regarding how to access them and, if appropriate, students will be given guidance on how to identify relevant sources for themselves, for instance, through use of bibliographical databases. Essential reading and additional reading will be distinguished. Where possible electronic versions will be made available via Blackboard.</p> |
| <p>Indicative Reading List</p> | <p>Indicative Reading List:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Van Den Bossche, <i>The Law and Policy of the World Trade Organisation</i>, (3rd Edition, CUP, 2013) ▪ Trebilcock, Howse and Eliason, <i>The Regulation of International Trade</i>, (4th Edition, Routledge, 2013) ▪ Indira Carr, <i>International Trade Law</i>, (5th Edition, Routledge, 2014) ▪ Mitchell D., <i>Legal Principles in WTO Disputes</i> (CUP, 2014) ▪ Asif Qureshi, <i>International Economic Law</i> (Sweet & Maxwell, 2007) ▪ J. Jackson, <i>The Jurisprudence of GATT and the WTO</i> (Cambridge Uni. Press, 2000) |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Journal of World Trade</i> (Kluwer Law International) ▪ <i>International and Comparative Law Quarterly</i> (Oxford University Press) ▪ World Trade Organisation Web-site <www.wto.org> <p>Recommended databases and internet sources: Lexis Library Westlaw Heinonline http://www.eisil.org Electronic Information System for International Law http://www.asil.org/resource/humrts1.htm American Society of International Law database</p> |
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| Part 3: Assessment | | |
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| Assessment Strategy | Learning outcomes will be assessed by oral presentation and 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. | |
| Identify final assessment component and element | Component A | |
| % weighting between components A and B (Standard modules only) | A: 40% | B: 60% |
| First Sit | | |
| Component A (controlled conditions) Description of each element | Element weighting (as % of component) | |
| 1. Oral Presentation and Questions (20 minutes) | 100% | |
| Component B Description of each element | Element weighting (as % of component) | |
| 1. Written coursework essay (maximum 3500 words) | 100% | |

| Resit (further attendance at taught classes is not required) | |
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| Component A (controlled conditions) Description of each element | Element weighting (as % of component) |
| 1. Oral Presentation and Questions (20 minutes) | 100% |
| Component B Description of each element | Element weighting (as % of component) |
| 1. Written coursework essay (maximum 3500 words) | 100% |
| If a student is permitted a retake of the module the assessment will be that indicated by the Module Description at the time that retake commences. | |