



Module Specification

Foundations for Law

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Foundations for Law

Module code: UJUUKV-30-1

Level: Level 4

For implementation from: 2021-22

UWE credit rating: 30

ECTS credit rating: 15

Faculty: Faculty of Business & Law

Department: FBL Dept of Law

Partner institutions: None

Delivery locations: Alexander College, Frenchay Campus, University Centre
Weston, Villa College

Field: Law Undergraduate (Programmes)

Module type: Standard

Pre-requisites: None

Excluded combinations: None

Co-requisites: None

Continuing professional development: No

Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements: None

Part 2: Description

Overview: Foundations for Law is designed to prepare students for their degree by introducing them to sources of law, fundamental information about the English legal system and key legal research skills.

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: See Learning Outcomes.

Outline syllabus: Foundations for Law is designed to prepare students for their degree by introducing them to sources of law, fundamental information about the English legal system and key legal research skills.

This module will also support students by developing key personal skills and attributes which will enable them to succeed in their studies and chosen career path.

Study units may include, but is not limited to, the following:

Orientation and basic study skills such as time management, organisation and planning and goal setting

Legal research techniques

Applying legal sources appropriately

Critical thinking, legal reasoning and problem-solving

The modern English legal system

Doctrinal legal analysis

Understanding court hierarchy, case law and precedent

Case law fact analysis

Statutory interpretation

The impact and relevance of non-domestic law on the English legal system

Becoming an autonomous learner and developing self-motivation

Enhancing learning by developing reflective practices

Career development skills such as researching career opportunities, CV writing and cover letters

Commercial awareness and business intelligence

Developing communication skills

Subject to the requirements of the Professional Bodies, it is not necessarily envisaged that every topic in the syllabus will be covered in any one academic year.

Areas which have topical significance could, therefore, be developed at greater length and less important areas delineated in outline only.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: There is an expectation that the student will independently undertake a number of activities that will complement and enhance the teaching and learning opportunities provided within lectures and workshops.

Lectures: Delivered via weekly 2 hour lectures.

Workshops: Delivered via fortnightly 2 hour workshops.

Visits: There is an expectation that students will attend a Magistrates Court and Crown Court at least once during their first year of study, the visit to be timetabled at the student's discretion. Students may also wish to attend an alternative venue where they are able to encounter other professionals who are engaged within an occupation for which a law degree might be useful. This is to encourage engagement with possible future careers both within and outside of the legal profession and to provide valuable experience for any student who is considering a career within the justice system.

Library Sessions: Delivered via study sessions, workshops and self-directed learning. Students are expected to attend library sessions related to their first year study experience. They will also be expected to identify gaps within their research and/or library skills, and to attend relevant library workshops or undertake self-directed learning to remedy this deficit.

E-Learning: A series of online tutorials (Building Legal Information Skills – “BLIS”) are provided building on the library skills session. These tutorials cover the foundational research skills necessary for a law degree.

Careers Sessions: Delivered via ad hoc sessions, briefings, workshops and self-directed learning within the careers department. Students are expected to attend those sessions that will aid them in: the identification of future potential careers, the development of skills pertinent to potential careers and the acquisition of knowledge relevant to making successful applications for work experience, relevant part time

work, holiday internships and mini pupillages.

Scheduled learning: It is anticipated that each student will receive/attend approximately 72 hours of scheduled learning activities delivered by way of lectures and workshops.

Independent learning: In addition to scheduled learning, there is an expectation that students will spend approximately 228 hours on their own independent learning.

Module Learning outcomes:

MO1 Demonstrate a broad understanding of the major concepts, values, principles and personnel of the English common law system.

MO2 Demonstrate knowledge of primary and secondary sources of law, and the ability to search for and collect these materials using electronic and non-electronic systems.

MO3 Demonstrate the ability to identify, evaluate and carry out basic critical analysis of legal arguments and debates and to apply knowledge gained on this course in a range of different contexts.

MO4 Demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively and appropriately.

MO5 Demonstrate an ability to work both autonomously and collaboratively in order to achieve a defined goal.

MO6 Demonstrate an understanding of reflection in self-development and learning in order to identify their own capabilities and an understanding of their career aspirations and the skills, attributes and knowledge required to achieve these goals.

Hours to be allocated: 300

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 228 hours

Face-to-face learning = 72 hours

Total = 300

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at [readinglists.uwe.ac.uk](https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/ujuukv-30-1.html) via the following link <https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/ujuukv-30-1.html>

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: This module will be assessed by the following components:

Component A – Online Examination and Coursework (60% of module mark)

Component A1 - Case Note (20% of module mark)

Students will prepare a case note of up to 600 words. They will also submit evidence of completion of training for legal databases, Lexis and Westlaw.

Component A2 - Online Examination - 24 hours (40% of module mark) Maximum of 2000 words.

This open book online examination will assess students' understanding of legal sources, their understanding of legal materials and terminology and their ability to interpret and apply the information they contain. The examination provides students with an opportunity to test their ability to work with and engage with primary legal materials across a range of areas. The assessment requires students to use research skills to gather the sources, as well as effective reading and note-taking skills in preparing these materials for use in the exam.

Component B (40% of module mark)

Component B1 - Portfolio (40% of module mark)

Students will produce a portfolio of work incorporating employability, communication and reflective skills.

Referral Assessment

Component A - Online Examinations (60% of overall mark)

Students who need to resit Component A of the module will have all of the relevant learning outcomes assessed through an online examination. The skills developed and assessed through Component A are incorporated within the online examination.

Component A1 - Online Examination - 24 hours (60% of module mark) Maximum of 2000 words.

This open book online examination will assess students' understanding of legal sources, their understanding of legal materials and terminology and their ability to interpret and apply the information they contain. The examination provides students with an opportunity to test their ability to work with and engage with primary legal materials across a range of areas. The assessment requires students to use research skills to gather the sources, as well as effective reading and note-taking skills in preparing these materials for use in the exam.

Component B (40% of module mark)

Component B1 - Portfolio (40% of module mark)

Students will produce a portfolio of work incorporating employability, communication and reflective skills.

Assessment Strategy:

Component A assesses students' understanding of legal sources and their ability to apply a range of legal techniques to a defined problem. These assessments connect to and develop skills relevant to student learning and success across all law modules. Assessments are staged across the first term to scaffold and support the development of relevant legal skills.

Component B assesses the development of the personal skills and attributes associated with professional practice and autonomous learning. These portfolios use

reflection and direct students in practical context specific tasks that minimise the potential for plagiarism.

By providing assessment points across both semesters, first year students will be provided with multiple opportunities for feedback and development throughout the crucial first year of their study.

The assessment criteria have been standardised across the Law department and will be used as appropriate. In addition, insofar as Foundations for Law continues to support students in attaining an external professional qualification, students work will be assessed in accordance with the criteria of the relevant organisation eg Institute of Leadership and Management. The assessment criteria for all assessments will be clearly identified to students in the assessment materials, on Blackboard and through the module handbook.

Education for sustainable development (ESD) can be demonstrated through the incorporation of a strong element of reflective practice within the Component B. Reflective practice is a touchstone for CPD across the professions. By introducing students to these powerful learning techniques our graduates will be ready and able to continue learning throughout their careers.

Assessment components:

Examination (Online) - Component A (First Sit)

Description: Online Examination - MCQ and SAQ format - maximum 2000 words

Weighting: 40 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

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

Online Assignment - Component A (First Sit)

Description: Case Note (600 words)

Weighting: 20 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

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

Portfolio - Component B (First Sit)

Description: Portfolio – Writing and Communication for Employability and Business (2500 words)

Weighting: 40 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO3, MO4, MO5, MO6

Examination (Online) - Component A (Resit)

Description: Online examination, MCQ and SAQ format up to 2000 words

Weighting: 60 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested:

Portfolio - Component B (Resit)

Description: Portfolio – 2500 words

Weighting: 40 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested:

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

European and International Law {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][5yrs] LLB (Hons)
2020-21

European and International Law {Foundation} [Sep][FT][Frenchay][4yrs] LLB (Hons) 2020-21

Commercial Law {Foundation} [Sep][FT][Frenchay][4yrs] LLB (Hons) 2020-21

Commercial Law {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][5yrs] LLB (Hons) 2020-21

Law {Foundation} [Sep][FT][Frenchay][4yrs] LLB (Hons) 2020-21

Law {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][5yrs] LLB (Hons) 2020-21

Law with Business {Foundation} [Sep][FT][Frenchay][4yrs] LLB (Hons) 2020-21

Law with Business {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][5yrs] LLB (Hons) 2020-21

Business and Law {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][5yrs] BA (Hons) 2020-21

Business and Law {Foundation} [Sep][FT][Frenchay][4yrs] BA (Hons) 2020-21

Criminology and Law {Foundation} [Sep][FT][Frenchay][4yrs] BA (Hons) 2020-21

Criminology and Law {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][5yrs] BA (Hons) 2020-21

Law with Criminology {Foundation} [Sep][FT][Frenchay][4yrs] LLB (Hons) 2020-21

Law with Criminology {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][5yrs] LLB (Hons) 2020-21

Criminology with Law {Foundation} [Sep][FT][Frenchay][4yrs] BA (Hons) 2020-21

Criminology with Law {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][5yrs] BA (Hons) 2020-21