



## **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:** 2023-24

**UWE credit rating:** 30

**ECTS credit rating:** 15

**Faculty:** Faculty of Business & Law

**Department:** FBL Dept of Law

**Partner institutions:** None

**Delivery locations:** Not in use for Modules

**Field:** Law Undergraduate (Programmes)

**Module type:** Module

**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 lectorials.

Workshops: Delivered via weekly 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:** On successful completion of this module students will achieve the following 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 through the following tasks:

Tasks 1 and 2: online assessments (worth 5% each of the total module mark)

As part of ensuring students are equipped with basic legal research skills, all students on the module will be required to submit evidence of the successful completion of Basic Training certificates for key legal databases Westlaw (Task 1 - Practical Skills Assessment 1: Westlaw) and Lexis+ UK (Task 2 - Practical Skills Assessment 2: Lexis+ UK).

Task 3: Online Examination (24 hours; 2000 words) (worth 50% of the total module mark)

The first teaching block of Foundations for Law focuses in ensuring students are familiar with basic concepts and sources of English Law. Students are exposed to a variety of cases and statutes to provide experience in reading, understanding, analysing and applying primary sources of law.

This open book online examination provides students with an opportunity to test their ability to work 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. The examination provides an assessment in which students' understanding of basic legal terminology and their ability to understand, analyse, interpret and apply

legal materials can be evaluated.

#### Task 4: Portfolio (worth 40% of total module mark)

The second term of teaching on Foundations for Law focuses on the general employability skills of students. The portfolio reflects this focus and is designed as a method through which students' understanding and use of these skills can be tested. In addition to this, the portfolio is specifically designed as an assessment which can be useful for students, providing an opportunity to scaffold feedback and support for students as they begin to develop the employability skills they will need to secure work experience and graduate opportunities in the future.

In this portfolio, students will complete a number of different tasks incorporating, for example, employability skills, communication skill, commercial awareness and reflective practice.

#### Referral Assessment

The referral assessments for this module reflect the initial tasks to be completed in order to pass this module.

Referral Tasks 1 and 2: Practical Skills Assessments 1 & 2 (5% respectively) - where students did not pass the database certification training or submitted incorrect evidence, the referral assessments will provide students the opportunity to complete any missing tasks, ensuring that all students on this module will have achieved important basic skills training by the end of their first year.

#### Referral Task 3: Online Examination (24 hours; 2000 words) (50%) -

This resit examination will require students to attempt another examination of the same style as Assessment Task 3, reading, analysing and applying a new set of primary legal materials. (Please see earlier for a more detailed discussion of the design and rationale of this assessment task.)

## Referral Task 4: Portfolio (2250 words; 40%)

Students will produce a portfolio of work incorporating employability, communication and reflective skills. This referral assessment will provide students with the opportunity to learn from their feedback for any first attempt and to improve their approaches. This is also supported through the reflective element which is an ideal medium through which students can be encouraged to learn from their experiences in order to improve and develop their skills.

## Assessment Strategy:

The first three assessment tasks on Foundations for Law assess 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.

In addition to support in lectorials and workshops, students will also be given a formative opportunity to practice writing a case note about a legal decision in Teaching Block 1. This task requires students to be able to identify key elements of a case, the relevant facts, the decision reached and the reasoning used. Helping students to develop this skill will not only provide them with relevant experience of the skills needed to tackle Task 3 (the online examination), it will also provide them with a framework for understanding legal decisions that will enable them to engage independently with primary legal materials across their whole programme of study.

The fourth assessment task (the portfolio) assesses the development of the personal skills and attributes associated with professional practice and autonomous learning. These portfolios use reflection and direct students to engage in practical context-specific tasks that minimise the potential for plagiarism.

Workshops in the second teaching block are designed to mirror the sort of tasks and activities students are required to complete for the portfolio. Therefore, their engagement with teaching provides them with the opportunity to practice and gain



early feedback on work they may include in their portfolio.

By providing assessment points across both semesters, first year students will be provided with a number of 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. 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 Assessment Task 4 (the portfolio). 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:**

#### **Online Assignment (First Sit)**

Description: Practical Skills Assessment 1: Westlaw

Weighting: 5 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO5

#### **Online Assignment (First Sit)**

Description: Practical Skills Assessment 2: Lexis+ UK

Weighting: 5 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO5

#### **Examination (Online) (First Sit)**

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

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

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

**Portfolio (First Sit)**

Description: Portfolio – Writing and Communication for Employability and Business (2250 words)

Weighting: 40 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO3, MO4, MO5, MO6

**Online Assignment (Resit)**

Description: Practical Skills Assessment 1: Westlaw (Referral)

Weighting: 5 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO5

**Online Assignment (Resit)**

Description: Practical Skills Assessment 2: Lexis+ UK (Referral)

Weighting: 5 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO5

**Examination (Online) (Resit)**

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

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

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

**Portfolio (Resit)**

Description: Portfolio – 2250 words

Weighting: 40 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO3, MO4, MO5, MO6

**Part 5: Contributes towards**

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Law with Criminology [Frenchay] LLB (Hons) 2023-24

Criminology with Law [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2023-24

Criminology and Law [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2023-24

Law [Villa] LLB (Hons) 2023-24

Law [Frenchay] - Withdrawn LLB (Hons) 2023-24

Law [UCW] LLB (Hons) 2023-24

Business and Law [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2023-24

Law with Business [Frenchay] LLB (Hons) 2023-24

Law {Foundation} [Frenchay] LLB (Hons) 2022-23

Business and Law {Foundation} [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2022-23

Law with Business {Foundation} [Frenchay] LLB (Hons) 2022-23

Criminology and Law {Foundation} [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2022-23

Criminology with Law {Foundation} [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2022-23

Law with Criminology {Foundation} [Frenchay] LLB (Hons) 2022-23