



Module Specification

Foundations for Research

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Foundations for Research

Module code: UJGUPW-15-M

Level: Level 7

For implementation from: 2021-22

UWE credit rating: 15

ECTS credit rating: 7.5

Faculty: Faculty of Business & Law

Department: FBL Dept of Law

Partner institutions: None

Delivery locations: Frenchay Campus

Field: Law Postgraduate (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: Not applicable

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: The aim of this module is to provide opportunities for students to enhance and further develop key academic and professional skills. Students will be introduced to the idea of skills auditing and reflective practice by being required to

produce a skills focused portfolio. The aim is to facilitate student in reflecting on the core skills and competencies required for professional practice and to consider their own skills levels.

Outline syllabus: Opportunities will be provided for students to develop research and reasoning skills as well as skills in information retrieval and referencing at a foundational level. Students will also be given opportunities to think about managing professional relationships, time management, working well as part of a team and participation in class. These skills map directly onto academic and employment performance in the legal field. The module will also introduce students to the fundamental features of the core research methodologies and the foundational skills required to carry out successful research at LLM level. The methodologies to be explored will reflect those dominant in legal academia and practice.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: It is intended that by focusing on skills developments, performance in all areas of the LLM in general, and the dissertation in particular, will be improved. The rationale is that these practices will not only assist students in building their academic performance, but will also act as a 'body of evidence' when students are asked by employers to explore what skills, competencies and capabilities they have gained through LLM study.

This module will be delivered via the medium of two hour weekly interactive workshops. The workshop format is appropriate for skills development as its interactive approach permits both demonstration/illustration and practise within the formal teaching environment.

Module Learning outcomes:

MO1 An awareness of the importance of reflection in enhancing academic and professional skills and the ability to practise critical reflection

MO2 A critical understanding of the range of research methodologies and methods that can be used in legal research and the ability to formulate coherent, scholarly and practicable research questions.

MO3 The ability to locate, gather, evaluate and use a wide range of legal and other information through independent library and ICT-based research activities

MO4 Communication skills, both oral and written, in the articulation of their own and others' approach to legal research

MO5 Core transferable academic and professional skills such as time management, communication skills and professional interpersonal skills

Hours to be allocated: 150

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 126 hours

Face-to-face learning = 24 hours

Total = 150

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

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: Component A – Project Proposal and Plan (maximum 1500 words - 50%)

Component B - A portfolio reflecting on and evidencing the development of core skills and competencies (maximum 1500 words (excluding evidence) - 50%).

Learning outcomes will be assessed by both components. 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, their dissertation project, and in their on-going professional lives.

Assessment components:

Written Assignment - Component A (First Sit)

Description: Written project proposal

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

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

Portfolio - Component B (First Sit)

Description: Portfolio reflecting on core skills and competencies (maximum 1500 words - excluding evidence).

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO3, MO4, MO5

Written Assignment - Component A (Resit)

Description: Written project proposal

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested:

Portfolio - Component B (Resit)

Description: Portfolio reflecting on core skills and competencies (maximum 1500 words - excluding evidence).

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested:

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study: