



MODULE SPECIFICATION

Part 1: Information			
Module Title	Foundations for Research		
Module Code	UJGUPW-15-M	Level	M
For implementation from	September 2019		
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	<i>None</i>		
Excluded Combinations	<i>None</i>		
Co- requisites	<i>None</i>		
Module Entry requirements	<i>N/A</i>		

Part 2: Description
<p>Foundations for Research and 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 at 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 workshops will explore a range of approaches to legal research, including doctrinal, socio-legal and comparative approaches. 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> <p>The module will provide students with opportunities to develop their core research and reasoning skills, undertaking reflection on their current skills (based on a hybrid set of competences drawing from both legal practice requirements and the QAA level 7 descriptors), engaging in legal information retrieval and referencing, and exploring critical reasoning and research good practice at a foundational level. Students will also be encouraged to think about managing professional relationships in the context of planning their use of time, working as part of a team as well as participation in class.</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 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: Preliminary Dissertation proposal plan (maximum of 2000 words 50%) with a required 10-minute meeting with an academic to discuss the dissertation proposal – this proposal is to focus on defining a clear title, identifying available resources and setting milestones for dissertation work – it will provide a practical individual context for the deeper exploration of dissertation planning/drafting in the 'Research Methods' module.
- Component B: A reflective portfolio considering the development of core competences and research skills (max 2000 words, 50%)

Learning outcomes will be assessed by both elements. Assessment questions will be set by the teaching team. 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 and in their on-going professional life.

Identify final timetabled piece of assessment (component and element)

Component A

% weighting between components A and B (Standard modules only)

A:

50%

B:

50%

First Sit

Component A (controlled conditions)

Description of each element

Element weighting (as % of component)

1. Written dissertation proposal (maximum of 2000 words) with a required 10 minute meeting with an academic to discuss the dissertation proposal

100%

Component B

Description of each element

Element weighting (as % of component)

1. Reflective Portfolio (maximum 2000 words - excluding evidence)

100%

Resit (further attendance at taught classes is not required)

Component A (controlled conditions)

Description of each element

Element weighting (as % of component)

1. Written dissertation proposal (maximum of 2000 words) with a required 10 minute meeting with an academic to discuss the dissertation proposal

100%

Component B

Description of each element

Element weighting (as % of component)

1. Reflective Portfolio (maximum 2000 words - excluding evidence)

100%

Part 4: Learning Outcomes & KIS Data

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of the module, students are expected to demonstrate:

- An awareness of the standards of good academic writing and practice, that can be used throughout the student's LLM studies [assessed in Components A and B];
- An appreciation of the range of research methodologies and methods that can be used in legal research and the ability to consider which methodologies/methods are appropriate for a specific research question [assessed in Component A];
- An ability to undertake independent research, analyse and synthesise concepts and theories, evaluate complex legal issues, effectively communicate (both orally and in writing) arguments and appropriately reference sources at a level consistent with postgraduate study [assessed in Components A and B];
- An ability to reflect objectively on their own skills and abilities and an awareness of the ongoing importance of reflection in enhancing academic and professional skills [assessed in Component B];
- An ability to conceptualise and integrate complex ideas and arguments from multiple sources and perspectives and present a structured argument at both abstract and concrete levels [assessed in Components A and B];
- An ability to formulate a coherent, scholarly and practicable research question [assessed in Component A];
- An ability to work as part of a team [assessed in Component B];
- An awareness of ethical issues [assessed in Component B].

Key Information Sets Information (KIS)

Contact Hours

Total Assessment

Key Information Set - Module data				
Number of credits for this module				15
Hours to be allocated	Scheduled learning and teaching study hours	Independent study hours	Placement study hours	Allocated Hours
150	24	126	0	150

The table below indicates as a percentage the total assessment of the module which constitutes a;

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)

Total assessment of the module:	
Written exam assessment percentage	0%
Coursework assessment percentage	100%
Practical exam assessment percentage	0%
	100%

Reading List <https://uwe.rl.talis.com/lists/E7F7ED97-345B-E0E8-C437-CED46CB9AF31.html>

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First Approval Date (and panel type)	PER 25 June 18 link to RIA			
Revision ASQC Approval Date <i>Update this row each time a change goes to ASQC</i>		Version	2	Link to RIA