



Module Specification

Legal Research

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Legal Research

Module code: UJXTTM-10-M

Level: Level 7

For implementation from: 2023-24

UWE credit rating: 10

ECTS credit rating: 5

College: College of Business and Law

School: CBL Bristol Law School

Partner institutions: None

Field: Law - non modular

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: The module will be undertaken by students intending to pursue a career in law and in particular, to qualify as a Solicitor and be Admitted to the Roll to practice in England & Wales (regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority).

This module will prepare students for practice but particularly for the specific requirements of the assessment of the Legal Skill of Legal Research in the Solicitors Qualifying Exam 2 ("SQE 2")

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: On successful completion of this module students will be able to:

Undertake the skill of Legal Research at the level expected by the Solicitors Regulation Authority of a newly qualified solicitor in legal practice. The SRA assessment criteria are set out in the STC Handbook, including the relevant functioning legal knowledge which will be assessed as part of the skill of legal research.

Outline syllabus: SQE2 is a centrally set assessment (administered externally on behalf of the Solicitors Regulation Authority) which a student must pass as part of the qualification framework leading to admission to the Roll to practice as a solicitor

SQE 2 will comprise of a series of skills assessments undertaken at an assessment centre within a short time scale.

The SQE2 assessments will assess a candidate's ability in 6 core skills at the level expected of a newly qualified solicitor in legal practice

This module specifically prepares students for the assessment of the skill of Legal Research in SQE2, which they will undertake in 3 separate exercise scenarios in the subject fields of

1. Dispute Resolution or Criminal Litigation
2. Property Practice or Wills and Intestacy, Probate Administration and Practice
3. Business Organisations, Rules and Procedures

Extracts of the SRA Assessment for the skills of Legal Research and the relevant underpinning legal knowledge requirements will be available in the STC Handbook.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: The module is taught through

Self-directed learning

Online learning through Blackboard including sample documents illustrating the skill of legal research in a range of subject contexts.

Tutor led small group sessions to develop skills

A range of formative assessment exercises to develop student skills in Legal Research in a range of subject contexts

Module Learning outcomes: On successful completion of this module students will achieve the following learning outcomes.

MO1 Find, interpret and evaluate the law by identifying and using relevant sources of information.

MO2 Create written advice which is client-focused and addresses the client's problem.

MO3 Create written advice using clear, precise, concise and acceptable language.

MO4 Identify and utilise correct legal knowledge and research skills to the client's situation.

MO5 Apply the law comprehensively to the client's situation, identifying any ethical and professional conduct issues.

MO6 Assimilate information rapidly and work under strict time pressure.

Hours to be allocated: 100

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 75 hours

Face-to-face learning = 25 hours

Total = 100

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at readinglists.uwe.ac.uk via the following link

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: A portfolio consisting of 3 Legal Research computer-based closed book exercises, (60 minutes each) undertaken in an assessment centre environment (to replicate that of the SQE2 assessment process) one each in the subject fields of:

1. Dispute Resolution or Criminal Litigation
2. Property Practice or Wills and Intestacy, Probate Administration and Practice
3. Business Organisations, Rules and Procedures

Assessment tasks:

Portfolio (First Sit)

Description: 3 x Legal Research exercises in three of five practice areas.

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5, MO6

Portfolio (Resit)

Description: 3 x Legal Research exercises in three of five practice areas.

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5, MO6

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

LLM Solicitors Training Course (SQE) [Frenchay] LLM 2023-24

PG Dip Solicitors Training Course (SQE Prep) (Two Part) [Frenchay] PGDip 2023-24