



Module Specification

Legal Research Project

Version: 2023-24, v1.0, 28 Jun 2023

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Legal Research Project

Module code: UJGUPX-60-M

Level: Level 7

For implementation from: 2023-24

UWE credit rating: 60

ECTS credit rating: 30

Faculty: Faculty of Business & Law

Department: FBL Dept of Law

Partner institutions: None

Field: Law Postgraduate (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: An autonomous and independent study, under the appropriate supervision of a member of staff appointed from within the Law School. The focus of the module is on the process and outcomes of independent research and investigation, and the development of legal research skills.

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: In addition to the assessed Learning Outcomes the educational experience may explore, develop, and practise, the following:

Oral presentation, communications and negotiation skills through a supervision process;

time management skills;

effectiveness at working independently;

reflection on own learning;

use of appropriate IT and electronic data resource to aid efficient searching,

communication and presentation of information.

Outline syllabus: One scheduled workshop will be offered which will provide an introduction to the module.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: The module will provide students the opportunity to integrate and apply the learning and skills acquired through the programme by writing a substantial piece of individual research which is relevant to practitioners and/or researchers in the field of law. This might involve the testing of hypotheses, developing theory, or the provision of logically supported practitioner recommendations. Students will be encouraged to use the full range of data sources and analysis tools provided for Law postgraduate students.

The project module is a spine module that runs over the full academic year.

The module focuses on developing students' understanding of research, identifying relevant and feasible research topics, formulating research questions, identifying the relevant literature and developing a literature review to inform the hypotheses. The module will further focus on teaching research methods.

Subsequently, the module focuses on the project and the student is supported by the research mentor to build a portfolio of evidence covering four areas: aims and objectives; a critical review of key literature; methodology and ethics; and legal

analysis. The research mentor provides guidance and feedback on the portfolio submissions and acts as the immediate contact point when ideas need to be explored or problems addressed.

The student will determine his or her own learning pattern. Each student will be guided by a suitably qualified mentor. Once a student has been allocated a mentor, they will agree upon a project type and topic with their mentor. There will then be periodic contact with that mentor, during which time the student will report on the development of the research proposal into a formal plan of research, the review of legal research questions or legal research Law-Commission style report, the existing literature and other information sources, legal analysis, and the development of discussions and a conclusion (or recommendations).

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

MO1 Apply in-depth knowledge and understanding of the subject matter in a complex legal context.

MO2 Critically evaluate research philosophies, strategies and methodologies in relation to a legal issue.

MO3 Critically evaluate academic literature, sources, arguments and interpretations, assessing their relevance to the issue in question and forming judgements on the basis of evidence collected

MO5 Synthesise information from a variety of relevant sources to draw informed and well-supported conclusions

MO6 Make use of academic perspectives, as well as primary research findings, where relevant to make recommendations that may have practical application in a workplace.

Hours to be allocated: 600

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 590 hours

Face-to-face learning = 10 hours

Total = 600

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at [readinglists.uwe.ac.uk](https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/ujgt85-60-m.html) via the following link <https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/ujgt85-60-m.html>

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: Assessment Task 1 is a portfolio that is followed by a critical discussion of 15 minutes which will assess the quality of the portfolio. The portfolio will comprise the research proposal, their evaluation of the key literature in the research area, identification and collection of relevant key legal issues and the key research methodology which the student will then defend.

Assessment Task 2 is a 2,500 to 3,000 legal research essay or legal report which will focus on the analysis of the key relevant legal issues, presenting and discussing the key legal issues and findings, and arriving at conclusions and recommendations for practice.

Task 1: Portfolio submission and critical discussion (15 minutes with 5 minutes for notes)

Task 2: Legal research essay or legal practice report (Overview, analysis, conclusion (and recommendations for Written submission (max 3000 words)).

Assessment tasks:

Project (First Sit)

Description: Portfolio and critical discussion

Weighting: 60 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

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

Project (First Sit)

Description: Summary conclusions and recommendations

Weighting: 40 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO5

Project (Resit)

Description: Portfolio and critical discussion

Weighting: 60 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested:

Project (Resit)

Description: Summary conclusions and recommendations

Weighting: 40 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested:

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

International Trade and Economic Law [Frenchay] LLM 2023-24

Commercial Law [Frenchay] LLM 2023-24

International Banking and Finance Law [Frenchay] LLM 2023-24

International Law [Frenchay] LLM 2023-24