



## **Module Specification**

### **Research Methods**

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## Part 1: Information

**Module title:** Research Methods

**Module code:** UJGUPY-15-M

**Level:** Level 7

**For implementation from:** 2023-24

**UWE credit rating:** 15

**ECTS credit rating:** 7.5

**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:** Not applicable

**Features:** Not applicable

**Educational aims:** Research Methods provides opportunities for students to build on the skills and knowledge gained in Foundation for Research by in depth examination of the core research methodologies relevant to their field of LLM studies. By critical engaging with examples of the use of these core methodologies in

practice, students will be enabled to hone critical thinking and communication skills and engage with models of good practice in the discipline relevant to both academic studies and professional practice. The goal is to encourage the student to see themselves as a reflective and effective legal researcher able to evaluate the work of others to produce cogent and well researched legal writing. These activities are at the center of both academic and professional legal practice.

**Outline syllabus:** Students will be required to develop their understanding of legal research and research processes in order to:

- (a) enable them to engage effectively with their studies;
- (b) enable them to respond to emerging legal issues and problems critically and constructively, and;
- (c) support them in developing an appropriate legal research project.

The core elements of the syllabus are:

Methodologies in practice;

Research-related skills development;

The development of current awareness and the ability to understand the implications of issues from both legal and professional perspectives.

### **Part 3: Teaching and learning methods**

**Teaching and learning methods:** 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 practice within the formal teaching environment.

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

**MO1** A critical understanding of the range of research methodologies and methods that are used in legal research, in particular an appreciation of the scope and limits of doctrinal legal research.

**MO2** An ability to reflect objectively on the nature of research practice and to communicate that effectively in a professional context

**MO3** An ability to critically analyse legal research from the perspective of the methodology and methods adopted therein.

**MO4** A critical awareness of the standards of good academic writing and practice, that can be used throughout the student's LLM studies, including the ethical implications of different choices in legal research

**MO5** An ability to reflect on the skills that they have developed in the course of the programme and how this relates to their professional development and practice

**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/modules/ujgup7-15-m.html) via the following link <https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/ujgup7-15-m.html>

## **Part 4: Assessment**

**Assessment strategy:** Task 1 – A group presentation analysing the significance and implications of a current issue for law and/or professional practice.  
(Duration - 25 minutes; 40% of total mark for the module)

Task 2 - A critical review of one or more pieces of academic writing selected by the course teaching team - students will be to analyse the work in question in terms of its methodological approach and the reliability of its findings based on what they have learned across the module (maximum 2000 words - 60%).  
(Word Limit 2000 words; 60% of total mark for the module.)

Learning outcomes will be assessed by both tasks. 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.

The Critical Review encourages students to see themselves as critical consumers of research who are in conversation with the work of their peers. This assignment will allow students to demonstrate their competency in methodology by critiquing the work of others.

The Group Presentation will allow students to develop valuable graduate attributes, such as team work, organisation, effective communication and current awareness, which will support them in their future professional lives.

**Assessment tasks:**

**Presentation (First Sit)**

Description: A Current Awareness Group Presentation (maximum duration 25 minutes).

Weighting: 40 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: Yes

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

**Written Assignment (First Sit)**

Description: Critical Discussion or Research Review (maximum 2000 words)

Weighting: 60 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

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

**Presentation (Resit)**

Description: A Current Awareness Presentation (maximum duration 15 minutes).

Including reflective component.

Weighting: 40 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

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

**Written Assignment (Resit)**

Description: Research Review (maximum 2000 words)

Weighting: 60 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

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

**Part 5: Contributes towards**

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

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

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

International Law [Frenchay] LLM 2023-24

Commercial Law [Frenchay] LLM 2023-24

International Law [Frenchay] LLM 2023-24