



Module Specification

Alternative Dispute Resolution

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Alternative Dispute Resolution

Module code: UJGU95-15-M

Level: Level 7

For implementation from: 2026-27

UWE credit rating: 15

ECTS credit rating: 7.5

College: College of Business and Law

School: CBL Bristol Law School

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: The Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) module aims to provide students with an understanding of alternative methods for resolving legal disputes outside of court litigation. The module will cover the theoretical foundations, practical applications, and ethical considerations associated with a range of ADR processes, enabling students to critically evaluate and these methods in the context of commercial legal disputes.

Negotiation and mediation simulations pervade the module, in which students will have opportunities to practice throughout the module so that you can see how they are progressing towards achieving the module's learning outcomes. The skills students will practice in this module are directly relevant to them in their future employment.

It examines the various processes that collectively constitute Alternative Dispute Resolution. It particularly explores negotiation, mediation, online dispute resolution and dispute systems design.

This module provides experience in the value and limitations of adopting a 'problem-solving' approach to disputes. Students will gain an understanding of the dynamics of mediation and negotiation and the necessary skill of the mediator. Theoretical and skills-development is provided through seminars, practical exercises, the application of dispute systems design, and the writing of a case study as a final assessment.

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: Our PG Law programmes encourage students to take responsibility for their learning and become independent, as well as interdependent, learners. Student learning is facilitated through a combination of face-to-face and online interaction that integrates a range of learning and teaching approaches (including, for example, workshops, group discussions, presentations, visiting speakers, and external engagement).

Students are encouraged to become active participants, both in their own learning and in the creation of knowledge, and to develop their critical and reflective capacity. The aim of the programme is to enable students to progress to a high level of autonomy in learning and professionalism and to view learning as a process of continuing professional development.

Learning activities and resources apply theoretical knowledge and international research to practical situations with reference to real examples and a wide range of contexts. Further, the innovative Legal Research Project requires students to explore a substantial issue using appropriate concepts, frameworks and methodologies.

The programmes provide students with core legal knowledge and an understanding of the fundamental principles of the law, which enables them to progress into a wide variety of careers, including the legal profession or to further professional law study. These are delivered through the following:

Outline syllabus: The module will provide an introduction to the practice and theory of dispute resolution processes in the context of commercial disputes, to include:

- Introduction to alternative dispute resolution methods and their role within legal systems as an alternative to litigation.
- Negotiation theory and practice of negotiation.
- The theory and practice of mediation.
- The role of arbitration.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: The module will be taught in interactive workshop sessions, including critical discussion and development of practical skills using case study materials based on commercial disputes.

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

MO1 To critically analyse complex legal concepts, the UK and international frameworks in international commercial dispute resolution, and communicate effectively with others in various contexts, orally and in writing.

MO2 Demonstrating independent learning, effective communication, and a commitment to ethical practice, valuing diversity, social justice, and the perspectives of others.

Hours to be allocated: 150

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 126 hours

Staff-guided learning = 24 hours

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: Students will undertake analysis of a complex legal dispute, based on case study documents. They will be required to provide advice in relation to analysis of the legal and practical issues involved in the case study on behalf of a (fictional) client on one side of the dispute, create a strategy for the client, and propose and justify an appropriate ADR method for adoption by the client, demonstrating critical consideration of possible outcomes in light of the advice provided.

The assessment strategy of the module is designed to comply with and support UWE Bristol Strategy 2030 and CBL Strategy.

The assessment is positioned to enable student centred and practice-led learning to achieve the learning outcomes.

Formative assessment opportunities will be provided throughout the module during student-centred, practice-led workshops.

Assessment tasks:

Case Study (First Sit)

Description: Analysis of a complex legal dispute, based on case study documents.

Max 2500 words.

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2

Case Study (Resit)

Description: Analysis of a complex legal dispute, based on case study documents.

Max 2500 words.

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

International Law and Security LLM 2026-27

Global Business and Finance Law [BIBM] LLM 2026-27

Global Business and Finance Law [Frenchay] LLM 2026-27

Global Business and Finance Law [Villa] LLM 2026-27

Global Business and Finance Law [FTU] LLM 2026-27

Global Business and Finance Law [Frenchay] LLM 2026-27

Global Business and Finance Law [FTU] LLM 2026-27

Global Business and Finance Law [Villa] LLM 2026-27

Global Business and Finance Law [BIBM] LLM 2026-27

Global Business and Finance Law [FTU] LLM 2026-27