



Module Specification

Environmental Health Law

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Environmental Health Law

Module code: UZVYB6-30-1

Level: Level 4

For implementation from: 2025-26

UWE credit rating: 30

ECTS credit rating: 15

College: College of Health, Science & Society

School: CHSS School of Health and Social Wellbeing

Partner institutions: None

Field: Health, Community and Policy Studies

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 Environmental Health Law module provides students with a foundational understanding of the English legal system. Students will also develop the skills required to interpret and apply environmental health legislation to real-world problems.

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: The Environmental Health Law module aims to provide students with the fundamental legal skills required to read, interpret and apply environmental health legislation, in addition to introducing the core areas of environmental health law.

Outline syllabus: The English legal system, including institutions, law making processes and administration of the law;

Techniques used by the judiciary to interpret legislation and analyse case law, applying these techniques to environmental health related cases;

The regulatory framework for core areas of environmental health, including food control, occupational health and safety, housing, public health and environmental protection (including statutory nuisance and anti-social behaviour legislation);

Principles and processes underpinning the investigation of regulatory crimes, including the collection of evidence, obtaining witness statements and interviewing suspects;

Statutory and non-statutory interventions available to environmental health practitioners when dealing with legal non-compliance, including the provision of advice, service of statutory notices and prosecution;

The role of statutory and non-statutory guidance in determining the most appropriate course of action;

The influence of supranational bodies such as the European Union (EU), United Nations (UN) and World Health Organisation (WHO) on domestic law/policy.

Consideration of the links between Westminster and devolved UK authorities.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: The module may consist of the following activities:

Lectures (hybrid)

Seminars

Tutorials

Guest speakers

Independent study will be organised with a series of both essential and further readings and preparation for practical workshops. It is expected that students prepare themselves for lectures by completing set tasks.

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

MO1 Demonstrate understanding of the structure and functions of the English legal system, including institutions, law making processes and administration.

MO2 Demonstrate an ability to interpret legislation and analyse case law in the environmental health sphere.

MO3 Explain the fundamental principles and processes underpinning the investigation of suspected regulatory offences, including the collection of evidence and criminal/civil sanctions.

Hours to be allocated: 300

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 228 hours

Face-to-face learning = 72 hours

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: This module has two assessment tasks; an online examination and a case study report.

The Assessment Strategy has been designed to support and enhance the development of both subject-based and generic key skills, whilst ensuring that Learning Outcomes are achieved.

Assessment task 1 – Online Examination (8 hour window for completion).

A set of questions will be designed to allow students to apply the fundamental principles of law acquired during the module to an examination, which may include essay style question(s) and multiple choice questions designed to assess breadth of knowledge. This has been specifically designed to gradually introduce students to the rigours of examination as an assessment strategy.

Assessment task 2 – Case Study Report (maximum 1500 words)

Students will identify a recent prosecution in one of the core environmental health intervention areas; they will analyse the material facts of the case and evaluate the legal basis of the decision, taking account of applicable legal provisions and statutory & non-statutory guidance. Students will then consider and appraise alternative courses of action to prosecution, concluding on whether prosecution was the most appropriate course of action. Students are able to discuss formative work and obtain feedback in an assignment tutorial within the module.

Assessment tasks:

Examination (Online) (First Sit)

Description: Online Examination (8 hours)

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1

Case Study (First Sit)

Description: Case Study Report (maximum 1500 words)

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO2, MO3

Case Study (Resit)

Description: Case Study Report (maximum 1500 words)

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO2, MO3

Examination (Online) (Resit)

Description: Online examination (8 hours)

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Environmental Health Practitioner {Apprenticeship-UCW} [UCW] BSc (Hons) 2025-26

Environmental Health Practitioner {Apprenticeship-UCW} [UCW] BSc (Hons) 2025-26

Public and Environmental Health [UCW] BSc (Hons) 2025-26

Public and Environmental Health [UCW] BSc (Hons) 2025-26

Public and Environmental Health [UCW] BSc (Hons) 2025-26

Public and Environmental Health [UCW] BSc (Hons) 2025-26