



**CORPORATE AND ACADEMIC SERVICES**

**MODULE SPECIFICATION**

**Part 1: Basic Data**

Module Title	Dissertation				
Module Code	UJGT85-60-M	Level	M	Version	5
Owning Faculty	FBL	Field	Law Postgraduate		
Contributes towards	LLM in Commercial Law LLM in Environmental Law and Sustainable Development LLM in International Banking and Finance Law LLM in International Law LLM in International Trade and Economic Law MSc/LLM Global Trade				
UWE Credit Rating	60	ECTS Credit Rating	30	Module Type	Project (Dissertation)
Pre-requisites	None		Co- requisites	None	
Excluded Combinations	None		Module Entry requirements	n/a	
First CAP Approval Date	QMAC December 2011		Valid from	September 2012	
Revision CAP Approval Date	13 Feb 2014		Revised with effect from	September 2014	

<b>Review Date</b>	September 2012
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**Part 2: Learning and Teaching**

Learning Outcomes	<p>On successful completion of this module students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• demonstrate in-depth knowledge and understanding of the subject matter of their chosen topic or the complex work-based context that is the focus of their report</li> <li>• demonstrate appreciation of research philosophies, strategies and methodologies in relation to investigation of their chosen topic or work-based project</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• appreciate relevant ethical issues in relation to the legal issues under investigation, including those influencing the design of their research/project and the dissemination and implementation of the findings from their enquiry</li> <li>• synthesise information from a variety of relevant sources to draw informed and well-supported conclusions</li> <li>• make use of academic perspectives, as well as primary research findings where relevant, to make recommendations that may have practical application in a workplace where relevant</li> <li>• make discriminating use of a range of information sources, identifying and acknowledging appropriate material that can be used to inform their own</li> </ul>
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	<p>research or work-based project;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• communicate ideas, information and arguments in a clear, organised, and well presented dissertation/project report</li> <li>• submit a piece of 'original' work. The requirement of originality in the context of an MSc/LLM dissertation may be satisfied by carrying out empirical work that has not been done before; by synthesising issues not put together before; by investigating topics that have not been investigated before within the discipline, by examining existing knowledge in an original way; or by bringing new evidence to bear on an old issue. It is not required that the work combine all these features.</li> </ul> <p><b>All of the above will be assessed.</b> In addition, the educational experience may explore, develop, and practise, <u>but not formally discretely assess</u>, the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• oral presentation, communications and negotiation skills through a supervision process;</li> <li>• time management skills;</li> <li>• effectiveness at working independently;</li> <li>• reflection on own learning;</li> <li>• use of appropriate IT and electronic data resource to aid efficient searching, communication and presentation of information.</li> </ul>
Syllabus Outline	<p>Autonomous and independent study, under the appropriate supervision of a member of staff appointed from within the Law Department</p> <p>The focus of the module is on the process and outcomes of independent research and investigation.</p>
Contact Hours/Scheduled Hours	<p>One scheduled workshop will be offered which will provide an introduction to the module.</p> <p>Students will consult academic staff about topics and for assistance with the development of their proposals in the first half of semester 2. These consultations will take place face to face or via email or other electronic media.</p> <p>Up to 10 hours of supervision by the academic supervisor and/or the organisational mentor which will take place face to face or via email or other electronic media.</p>
Teaching and Learning Methods	<p><b>Where a student chooses to undertake an academic dissertation, the following procedures should be followed:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. preparation of a dissertation proposal and plan, identifying research questions, outlining the methodology, reviewing the literature and reflecting on the research process.</li> <li>2. students should develop and carry out their investigation in regular consultation with their allocated supervisor.</li> <li>3. preparation of a 15 000 word (max) dissertation.</li> </ol> <p><b>Where a student chooses to undertake a work-based project, the following procedures should be followed:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. preparation of a learning contract agreed between the learner, host organisation(s) and academic supervisor which sets out the aim and parameters of the work-placed project, the timetable and resources required for the investigation. The learning contract should also formally consider ethical issues.</li> <li>2. the student will use their learning contract to explore and further enquire into their chosen work-based project in regular consultation with their organisational mentor and their academic supervisor.</li> <li>3. preparation of a 15 000 word (max) project report.</li> </ol> <p>Students will be expected to develop their own learning and skills by</p>

	independently using resources within the University Library. Appropriate reading will be highlighted in discussion with the supervisor / organisational mentor.
Reading Strategy*	<p>All students will be encouraged to make full use of the print and electronic resources available to them through membership of the University. These include a range of electronic journals and a wide variety of resources available through websites and information gateways. The University Library's web pages provide access to subject relevant resources and services, and to the library catalogue. Many resources can be accessed remotely.</p> <p>Students will be directed towards the LLM Research Learning Unit which has been developed to support the Dissertation module and which can be accessed via the Dissertation Blackboard as well as other resources made available via the Dissertation Blackboard.</p>
Indicative Reading List	<p>M Henn, et al, <i>A Critical Introduction to Social Research</i> (2<sup>nd</sup> edn, Sage 2009)  P Clinch, <i>Using a Law Library: A Student's Guide to Legal Research Skills</i> (Blackstone Press 2001)  M Salter, <i>Writing law dissertations: an introduction and guide to the conduct of legal research</i> (Pearson 2007)  G Holborn, <i>Legal Research Guide</i> (Butterworths 2001)  P Thomas and J Knowles, <i>How to Use a Law Library</i> (Sweet &amp; Maxwell 2001)</p> <p>Recommended databases and internet sources:  Lexis Library  Westlaw  Hein Online</p> <p><b>Legal Journals</b>  Modern Law Review  Social and Legal Studies  Harvard Law Review  Law Quarterly Review  Legal Studies</p> <p>Relevant subject specific reading will be provided by the supervisor.</p> <p>Students will be expected to generate their own reading lists focusing on their individual dissertation/project topics in consultation with their supervisors.</p>

### Part 3: Assessment

Assessment Strategy	Assessment will be by means of a single dissertation/report. This dissertation/report will involve either researching an issue of academic relevance in law or a work-based project with a legal element. Students will draw on the skills and knowledge developed on taught modules in the LLM, in particular the Research Methods module, and will apply appropriate methodologies and enquiry methods as appropriate.		
Identify final assessment component and element	<b>Component A</b>		
% weighting between components A and B (Standard modules only)	<b>A:</b>	<b>B:</b>	
	<b>100%</b>	<b>n/a</b>	
<b>First Sit</b>			
<b>Component A</b> (controlled conditions) <b>Description of each element</b>	<b>Element weighting</b> (as % of component)		
1. Written dissertation/report (maximum 15 000 words)	100%		
<b>Component B</b> <b>Description of each element</b>	<b>Element weighting</b> (as % of component)		
n/a			

<b>Resit (further attendance at taught classes is not required)</b>	
<b>Component A</b> (controlled conditions) <b>Description of each element</b>	<b>Element weighting</b> (as % of component)
1. Written dissertation/report (maximum 15 000 words)	100%
<b>Component B</b> <b>Description of each element</b>	<b>Element weighting</b> (as % of component)
n/a	
If a student is permitted an <b>EXCEPTIONAL RETAKE</b> of the module the assessment will be that indicated by the Module Description at the time that retake commences.	