



University of the
West of England

ACADEMIC SERVICES

MODULE SPECIFICATION

| Part 1: Basic Data | | | | | |
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| Module Title | Practical Legal Research | | | | |
| Module Code | UJXTX7-0-M | Level | M | Version | 3 |
| UWE Credit Rating | 0 | ECTS Credit Rating | 0 | WBL module? | No |
| Owning Faculty | Business and Law | | Field | Law Non-Modular | |
| Department | Law: BILP | | Module Type | Professional Practice | |
| Contributes towards | Post Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice Masters in Advanced Legal Practice | | | | |
| Pre-requisites | None | | Co- requisites | None | |
| Excluded Combinations | None | | Module Entry requirements | N/A | |
| First CAP Approval Date | 2008 | | Valid from | 2008 | |
| Revision CAP Approval Date | 1 June 2016 | | Revised with effect from | September 2016 | |

| Part 2: Learning and Teaching | |
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| Learning Outcomes | <p>On successful completion of this module students will be able to:</p> <p>Understand the need for thorough investigation of all relevant factual and legal issues involved in a transaction or matter; determining the scope of the research problems and identifying the objectives of the research (<i>including determining whether additional information is required and identifying appropriate sources for factual investigation</i>); identifying and understanding the relevant legal context of the research issue; addressing & analysing all relevant factual & legal issues</p> <p>Undertake systematic & comprehensive legal research; throughout the research process selecting & using appropriate paper & electronic research tools; understanding how & when to use the key paper & electronic research tools; identifying the appropriate use of secondary sources, including encyclopaedias and practitioner texts (<i>and also journals, periodicals and digests</i>); identifying the appropriate use of primary sources, including cases, statutes and statutory instruments; understanding how to locate, analyse and update all primary sources (<i>including the use of indices and citators</i>); determining all relevant legal principles from both secondary and primary sources and applying these to the research problem</p> |

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| | <p>Present the results of their research; drawing clear conclusions from the research process, including identifying relevant courses of action; presenting the results of investigation and research (<i>including keeping a methodical, accurate and complete record of research undertaken</i>) to meet relevant Course Skills outcomes (<i>communicating in writing in a form, style and tone appropriate for the recipients and the context; demonstrating attention to detail; taking account of the practical, commercial and personal considerations relevant to the research</i>)</p> |
| Syllabus Outline | <p>Syllabus Outline</p> <p>The Practical Legal Research syllabus will develop the student's ability to</p> <p>Understand the need for thorough investigation of all relevant factual and legal issues involved in a transaction or matter; determining the scope of the research problems and identifying the objectives of the research (<i>including determining whether additional information is required and identifying appropriate sources for factual investigation</i>); identifying and understanding the relevant legal context of the research issue; addressing & analysing all relevant factual & legal issues</p> <p>Undertake systematic & comprehensive legal research; throughout the research process selecting & using appropriate paper & electronic research tools; understanding how & when to use the key paper & electronic research tools; identifying the appropriate use of secondary sources, including encyclopaedias and practitioner texts (<i>and also journals, periodicals and digests</i>); identifying the appropriate use of primary sources, including cases, statutes and statutory instruments; understanding how to locate, analyse and update all primary sources (<i>including the use of indices and citators</i>); determining all relevant legal principles from both secondary and primary sources and applying these to the research problem</p> <p>Present the results of their research; drawing clear conclusions from the research process, including identifying relevant courses of action; presenting the results of investigation and research (<i>including keeping a methodical, accurate and complete record of research undertaken</i>) to meet relevant Course Skills outcomes (<i>communicating in writing in a form, style and tone appropriate for the recipients and the context; demonstrating attention to detail; taking account of the practical, commercial and personal considerations relevant to the research</i>)</p> <p>Statement of Outcomes</p> <p>The LPC outcomes relevant to the course skill of Practical Legal Research will be met by the students undertaking the type and range of tasks identified in the indicative teaching scheme set out below this statement.</p> <p>The elements of law and practice to be covered on the elective are primarily identified in the syllabus set out above as expanded upon in this statement and in the indicative teaching scheme set out below.</p> <p>Indicative Teaching Scheme</p> <p>Unit 1: Introduction to key research resources (paper & electronic) (library based)</p> <p><u>Preparatory work:</u></p> <p>Tutorial on the use of online databases (LexisNexisButterworths, Westlaw & Lawtel)</p> <p>Self study exercises in the use of online databases to locate, analyse & update cases, statutes & statutory instruments, regulations and rules</p> |

Self reflection of self study exercises utilising online feedback & model answers

Workshop:

Review of self study exercises

Introduction to paper resources – Legal dictionaries, Halsbury's Laws, Halsbury's Statutes, practitioner texts, indices and citators

Exercises involving the use of paper resources

Introduction to Halsbury's Laws online

Review/consolidation:

Further self study exercises in the use of paper resources

Self study exercises in the use of Halsbury's Laws online

Self reflection of self study exercises utilising online feedback & model answers

Unit 2: Introduction to fact & problem analysis

Preparatory work:

Continuation of the review/consolidation exercises from Unit 1

Preparatory reading in relation to fact analysis

Workshop:

Review of self study exercises from Unit 1

Group exercises in fact & problem analysis

Group exercise in the presentation of the results of research – the research trail and memorandum answer

Review/consolidation:

Further exercise in fact & problem analysis of a "take-home" research problem.

Undertaking relevant research of the "take-home" research problem, utilising appropriate paper & online resources

Unit 3: Consolidation of legal research skills, fact & problem analysis and presenting the results of research

Preparatory work:

Preparation of PowerPoint presentation of "take-home" research problem

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| | <p>Preparation of memorandum answer & research trail to the “take-home” research problem</p> <p><u>Workshop:</u></p> <p>Individual powerpoint presentations of “take-home” research problems</p> <p>Peer review of memorandum answers & research trails</p> <p>Review of the use of online & paper resources</p> <p><u>Review/consolidation:</u></p> <p>Self study exercises undertaking further research problem(s)</p> <p>Self reflection of self study exercises utilising online feedback & model answers</p> <p>Additional Practical Legal Research</p> <p>Formative assessment</p> <p>Tutor feedback on formative assessment</p> <p>Further practical legal research exercises will also be undertaken in the compulsory Subject Study Units.</p> |
| Contact Hours | <p>Each Study Unit involves the student undertaking 11.5 Notional Learning Hours, of which (with the exception of the Self Study unit) 2.5 hours will be a Small Group Session.</p> |
| Teaching and Learning Methods | <p>Self-study preparation and research in order to acquire knowledge and understanding;</p> <p>Large group sessions in order to consolidate and develop knowledge and understanding;</p> <p>A mixture of individual and group work centred on problem-based learning, involving management of information, analysis of complex facts and application of knowledge;</p> <p>Role play and oral presentations to demonstrate understanding and effective communication of complex areas of law applied to detailed factual scenarios;</p> <p>Preparation of written communications (primarily in the form of office memoranda and letters of advice to clients) to demonstrate understanding and effective communication of complex areas of law applied to detailed factual scenarios;</p> <p>Drafting and amending of legal documents, often involving the use of precedents, to demonstrate synthesis and application of knowledge, and the ability to reach autonomous, competent decisions;</p> <p>Reviews of topics in the form of both large group sessions (where ideas can be pooled and debated) and critical self-evaluation.</p> <p>The teaching and learning strategy pervading all modules on the Legal Practice Course is a student-centred approach through the provision of a stimulating</p> |

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| | <p>educational environment.</p> <p>Face to face teaching and learning in a workshop environment is at the heart of the Teaching & Learning strategy, for students to participate fully in challenging activities, undertaking a wide variety of exercises as individuals and in groups. Full participation is encouraged and expected. Students are encouraged to ask questions during the workshops and to take responsibility for their own learning. Feedback will be given on these exercises both by students and tutors.</p> <p>Outside of the workshop students are required to take responsibility for their own learning undertaking a variety of preparatory tasks. These may be undertaken by students either as individuals or working in office groups, including include provision of information using recorded lectures, reading from course manuals and from practitioner texts, reading and research from primary source material, completion of electronic tests, preparing documents or presentations and attending large group sessions.</p> <p>The final component of each Study Unit will be a consolidation task or tasks designed to broaden and deepen students' understanding of an aspect or aspects of work covered in the relevant Study Unit</p> |
| Reading Strategy | Students will undertake reading from the course manual, practitioner texts, and primary source material. |
| Indicative Reading List | Lawyers' Skills Manual (OUP) |

| Part 3: Assessment | |
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| Assessment Strategy | <p>The Assessment Strategy pervading all modules on the LPC is rigorous in its approach to ensure the credibility of the course to ensure that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment arrangements will be robust, consistent, fair and secure, to ensure that academic standards will meet the threshold set by the SRA • Assessments will revolve around transactions of the type encountered in practice • Assessments will address depth and realism as well as coverage • Individual assessments cover a representative and robust selection of the relevant outcomes. Where an assessment does not include coverage of all of the outcomes for a particular subject, students will nevertheless be prepared to be assessed on all outcomes and will not be informed of what (or will not) be assessed in any particular assessment. • Student achievement will be measured appropriately in accordance with the LPC outcomes. • All diligent students have an opportunity to achieve and demonstrate the LPC learning outcomes. • The needs of disabled students will be taken into account ensuring equal accessibility of assessments to all students. |

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| % weighting between components A and B | A: | B: |
| | 100% | |

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| First Sit | |
| Component A (controlled conditions) Description of each element | Element weighting (as % of component) |
| Take away Summative Assessment – to be completed within 7 days (FT) or 21 days (PT) and submitted electronically. | 100% |
| Component B Description of each element | Element weighting (as % of component) |
| n/a | |

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| First Resit (further attendance at taught classes is not required) | |
| Component A (controlled conditions) Description of each element | Element weighting (as % of component) |
| Take away Summative Assessment – to be completed within 7 days (FT) or 21 days (PT) and submitted electronically. | 100% |
| Component B Description of each element | Element weighting (as % of component) |
| n/a | |

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| Second Resit (further attendance at taught classes is not required) | |
| Component A (controlled conditions) Description of each element | Element weighting (as % of component) |
| Take away Summative Assessment – to be completed within 7 days (FT) or 21 days (PT) and submitted electronically. | 100% |
| Component B Description of each element | Element weighting (as % of component) |
| n/a | |