



CORPORATE AND ACADEMIC SERVICES

MODULE SPECIFICATION

Part 1: Basic Data

Module Title	Contemporary Research Project				
Module Code	UJGUPG-15-M	Level	M	Version	1
Owning Faculty	FBL	Field	Law Postgraduate		
Contributes towards	All LLM Awards: 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				
UWE Credit Rating	15	ECTS Credit Rating	7.5	Module Type	Project
Pre-requisites	None		Co- requisites	None	
Excluded Combinations	None		Module Entry requirements	n/a	
Valid From	September 2012		Valid to		

CAP Approval Date	
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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"> • Demonstrate an in-depth critical understanding of complex and specialised issues within an area of law chosen for study. “Contemporary” in this context is defined as an area which deals with issues of present import [assessed in component B]; • critically analyse rules of law and apply them to complex and developing issues [assessed in component B]; • think analytically and reflectively and communicate complex legal arguments coherently [assessed in component B]; • independently plan and undertake effective legal research [assessed in component B]; • synthesise information from a variety of relevant sources to draw informed and well-supported conclusions [assessed in component B]; • 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 [assessed in component B]; • demonstrate an awareness of ethical issues involved in the research and its findings [assessed in component B].
Syllabus Outline	The focus of the module is on the process and outcomes of independent research and investigation.

	<p>Project proposals must be submitted at the beginning of the semester. A member of academic staff with expertise in the area of the proposed project will evaluate the viability of the project and provide feedback to the student. Students will be expected to work independently in developing a framework for their research and defining the ambit of research with limited supervision.</p>
Contact Hours/Scheduled Hours	<p>There are no formal scheduled contact hours.</p> <p>Students will consult academic staff about topics and for assistance with the development of their proposals.</p> <p>A supervisor will be appointed for each student undertaking this module.</p> <p>Supervision will take place face to face or via email or other electronic media.</p>
Teaching and Learning Methods	<p>This module allows students to pursue their particular interest in an issue of contemporary legal importance. It requires that students work autonomously, with limited supervision. Students will be required to produce an outline of the research to be undertaken together with a short literature review in advance of commencing work on the final report. The final report must provide a critical analysis of the chosen issue with clear conclusions or recommendations as appropriate.</p> <p>Students will be expected to develop their own learning and skills by independently using resources within the University Library. Appropriate reading will be highlighted in discussion with the project supervisor.</p>
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 will be made available via the module Blackboard.</p>
Indicative Reading List	<p>M Henn, et al, <i>A Critical Introduction to Social Research</i> (2nd 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 & Maxwell 2001)</p> <p>Recommended databases and internet sources: Lexis Library Westlaw Hein Online</p> <p>Legal Journals Modern Law Review Social and Legal Studies 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 project topics in consultation with their supervisors.</p>

Part 3: Assessment

Assessment Strategy	<p>Students will be assessed on the basis of a research plan and literature review submitted in the middle of the semester and a final project report submitted at the end of the module.</p> <p>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.</p>
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Identify final assessment component and element	Component A2	
% weighting between components A and B (Standard modules only)	A:	B:
	100%	n/a

First Sit	
Component A (controlled conditions) Description of each element	Element weighting (as % of component)
1. Research plan (maximum 1000 words)	10%
2. Written project report (maximum 4500 words)	90%
Component B Description of each element	Element weighting (as % of component)
n/a	

Resit (further attendance at taught classes is not required)	
Component A (controlled conditions) Description of each element	Element weighting (as % of component)
1. Research plan (maximum 1000 words)	10%
2. Written project report (maximum 4500 words)	90%
Component B Description of each element	Element weighting (as % of component)
n/a	
<p>If a student is permitted an EXCEPTIONAL RETAKE of the module the assessment will be that indicated by the Module Description at the time that retake commences.</p>	