



Module Specification

Corporate Governance and Corporate Social Responsibility

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Corporate Governance and Corporate Social Responsibility

Module code: UJGUPP-15-M

Level: Level 7

For implementation from: 2021-22

UWE credit rating: 15

ECTS credit rating: 7.5

Faculty: Faculty of Business & Law

Department: FBL Dept of Law

Partner institutions: None

Delivery locations: Foreign Trade University Vietnam, Frenchay Campus

Field: Law Postgraduate (Programmes)

Module type: Standard

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 module will address corporate governance issues and explore the impact of corporate activity on society at large. This will encompass commercial enterprises, the media, international agencies and charities (NGOs). In recent years, the discussion on corporate governance has been widened by the concept of corporate social responsibility (CSR). In that regard, it has become part of global corporations' mission statements to advertise their CSR policies and although it can

be argued that adopting such policies may be motivated by PR strategies CSR may also have implications for their behaviour and impact on their overall performance. In fact, global corporations increasingly are driven, by both external and internal actors, to adopt socially, environmentally and ethically responsible policies to reflect their sphere of influence – not least because of media attention. In this context, their role in and contribution to armed conflicts is to be highlighted. This leads us to explore the global impact of MNCs and their growing responsibilities and, considering their potential influence on government policies, to discover in how far MNCs are actually subject to legal rules as international players.

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: See Learning Outcomes.

Outline syllabus: All discussions are set in an international and comparative context. The following is an indicative list of topics which will be explored in the seminars. The emphasis may shift where there is a shift in relative importance. The list has been drawn broadly enough so that developments in the area can be taken into account.

Corporate Governance: exploration and examination of the concept of corporate governance; in how far, if at all, are corporations accountable to ‘interested communities’ and what can codes, such as the ‘Combined Code’, offer?

Widening the Concept of Corporate Governance: exploration of the concept of corporate citizenship and who the stakeholders are; where does corporate social responsibility factor in; what is ‘good governance’?

Business and Ethics: discussion of whether ethical behaviour has a positive correlation with corporate performance? Can CSR be measured? And how is corporate leadership determined and effected?

Business and Armed Conflict: How, and by whom, are conflicts fuelled and sustained? Exploration of issues such as jurisdiction, responsibility and accountability.

Stakeholder Involvement in Developing CSR: addressing the question whether there is the power to improve within and what the social impact of business is.

Development of rules and their application.

An “International Law for Corporations”? Explores whether there are binding International Laws Regulating the Conduct of MNCs and, if so, how is compliance monitored and are they applied and enforced?

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: Workshop activities may include presentations by staff or students, seminar discussions, group discussions, group exercises, case studies, online discussion groups, use of other media such as film or video.

For each workshop the students will be expected to have developed a general ‘mastery’ of the subject under consideration, from the reading list provided, and from undertaking further independent research.

Where appropriate students will be directed to seminars, such as those organised by the Centre for Legal Research.

In addition, contact time may also take a synchronous virtual form rather than face-to-face, through the use of email, email discussion groups, virtual learning environments (VLEs) and other technology-aided means. It can also take place in a work-based setting.

Module Learning outcomes:

MO1 The ability to differentiate between the concepts of corporate governance and corporate social responsibility and to assess their contribution and effectiveness as part of the regulatory framework

MO2 A critical understanding of the relevance and influence of MNCs and their regulation with reference to social, political, economic and legal contexts

MO3 A critical understanding of how different legal systems approach the regulation of MNCs and the relationship between those systems and the international legal framework

MO4 A critical understanding of the current academic and policy issues involved in the regulation of MNCs

MO5 The ability to locate, analyse, evaluate and reflect upon both national, regional and international legal instruments and mechanisms independently

MO6 An ability to recognise problems and present structured arguments at both abstract and concrete levels in order to identify potential solutions with reference to the wider corporate governance and corporate social responsibility discourse.

Hours to be allocated: 150

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 126 hours

Face-to-face learning = 24 hours

Total = 150

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at [readinglists.uwe.ac.uk](https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/ujgupp-15-m.html) via the following link <https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/ujgupp-15-m.html>

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: The module will be assessed by three online tests based on Study Units covered. There will be three tests in total of which the best two results will count towards Component B – and an oral presentation which will count towards Component A.

The online tests will allow students to test their level of knowledge and understanding per Study Unit covered, with more immediate feedback and will allow tutors to pinpoint potential issues earlier, addressing them in an ongoing manner and providing more targeted feedback. The tests will be designed with levels of difficulty

in mind, randomising the questions from a pool, and will also consist of a range of question types, which may include short answer questions, matching questions, open-ended questions and other forms of question-setting.

The presentation as the “assessment under controlled conditions” will give students the opportunity to be assessed on their presentation skills, the level of knowledge and understanding displayed and their ability to research, independently, into the assessment topic.

Formative assessment opportunities will be provided in workshops throughout the module.

Learning outcomes will be assessed by oral presentation and a series of online tests. Assessment questions will be set by tutors. Both assessments require students to undertake independent research building on material covered in the workshop sessions.

Assessment components:

Online Assignment - Component B (First Sit)

Description: Students complete three online tests with the two best marks counting 60%.

Weighting: 60 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5, MO6

Presentation - Component A (First Sit)

Description: Oral presentation (15 minutes)

Weighting: 40 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5, MO6

Written Assignment - Component B (Resit)

Description: Written coursework essay (maximum 2,500 words)

Weighting: 60 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested:

Presentation - Component A (Resit)

Description: Oral presentation (15 minutes)

Weighting: 40 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested:

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study: