



## **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:** 2023-24

**UWE credit rating:** 15

**ECTS credit rating:** 7.5

**Faculty:** Faculty of Business & Law

**Department:** FBL Dept of Law

**Partner institutions:** Bristol Institute of Business Management, Foreign Trade University, Vietnam, Villa College

**Delivery locations:** Not in use for Modules

**Field:** Law Postgraduate (Programmes)

**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 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 Sustainability: Exploration of issues such as jurisdiction, responsibility and accountability in a wider context of sustainable business practices.

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

**MO1** Evidence of a critical understanding of the relevance and influence of corporations and critical analysis of their regulation with reference to social, political, economic and legal contexts.

**MO2** Evidence of a critical understanding of how different legal systems approach the regulation of corporations and the relationship between those systems and the international legal framework.

**MO3** Evidence of problem solving ability at both abstract and concrete levels through identification and deliberation of potential solutions as part of structured arguments with reference to the corporate governance and corporate social responsibility discourse.

**MO4** Evidence of reflective and transformative practice in planning and delivering a presentation to an audience, having used feedback to integrate points of improvement.

**MO5** Evidence of ability to follow instructions on the use of technology in the preparation and presentation of content in a prescribed format and within a specified time frame.

**MO6** Evidence of ability to present to an audience appropriately and professionally making use of feedback received.

**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 in two parts. First, by a written assessment (40%) for which students carry out a SWOT analysis based on a fictitious company on an identified area of (jurisdictional) concern accompanied by a A4-page reflection on their presentation skills on selected rubrics. The second

assessment is an oral presentation (60%) in which students present a pitch that builds on feedback received on their written submission on how to improve on one area at issue with reference to actual examples and supporting legal analysis. Marking criteria will include how well feedback on the written submission has been integrated.

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

It is expected that this will provide students with both relevant academic and employability skills ensuring an authentic assessment experience.

### **Assessment components:**

#### **Written Assignment (First Sit)**

Description: •Format: submission of two sections:

1. one A4-page summary / SWOT analysis based on fictitious company on an identified area of (jurisdictional) concern.

AND

2. One A4-page reflection on presentation skills on selected rubrics.

Weighting: 40 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

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

#### **Presentation (First Sit)**

Description: Format: 15 minute (recorded) oral presentation

•Details: students to present a pitch that builds on feedback received on the Task 1 submission on how to improve on one area at issue with reference to actual examples and supporting legal analysis. Marking criteria to include how well feedback from Task 1 has been integrated.

Weighting: 60 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

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

**Presentation (Resit)**

Description: Format: 15 minute (recorded) oral presentation

•Details: students to present a pitch that builds on feedback received on the Task 1 submission on how to improve on one area at issue with reference to actual examples and supporting legal analysis. Marking criteria to include how well feedback from Task 1 has been integrated.

Weighting: 60 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

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

**Written Assignment (Resit)**

Description: •Format: submission of two sections:

1.one A4-page summary / SWOT analysis based on fictitious company on an identified area of (jurisdictional) concern.

AND

2.One A4-page reflection on presentation skills on selected rubrics.

Weighting: 40 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

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

**Part 5: Contributes towards**

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Commercial Law [BIBM] LLM 2023-24

Commercial Law [Villa] LLM 2023-24

Commercial Law [Frenchay] LLM 2023-24

Environmental Law and Sustainable Development [Frenchay] LLM 2023-24

International Banking and Finance Law [Frenchay] LLM 2023-24

International Trade and Economic Law [Frenchay] LLM 2023-24

International Trade and Economic Law [FTU] LLM 2023-24

International Trade and Economic Law [HCMCUL] LLM 2023-24

International Law [Frenchay] LLM 2023-24

International Law [Frenchay] LLM 2023-24

International Law [Frenchay] LLM 2022-23