



Module Specification

Drafting, Opinion Writing and Legal Research

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Drafting, Opinion Writing and Legal Research

Module code: UJXTTE-15-M

Level: Level 7

For implementation from: 2023-24

UWE credit rating: 15

ECTS credit rating: 7.5

College: College of Business and Law

School: CBL Bristol Law School

Partner institutions: None

Field: Law - non modular

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: Not applicable

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: See Learning Outcomes.

Outline syllabus: The purpose this module is to equip students with an ability to provide written advice on disputes arising in a civil law context, to assess the quality and relevance of legal sources, interpret and evaluate the results of research, to

apply effective analytical and evaluative skills to their work and to teach the skill of litigation drafting. This will be done with the provision of a number of contract and tortious dispute scenarios, which will be used for students to advise by way of a written opinion and/or draft a variety of statements of case.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: Workshops are interactive during which students will be taught case analysis in order to be in a position to provide advice on liability and quantum, as well as to draft statements of case. Students will consider how to draft in compliance with the Civil Procedure Rules, how to state the client's case, identify the relief sought, apply the material facts with clarity, identify material issues (and omit all immaterial matters).

Although there will be some large group sessions, most of the teaching takes place via small group sessions. Workshops use a variety of active learning methods incorporating real world research examples. Students make extensive use of industry standard databases and research tools.

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

MO1 Find, interpret and evaluate the law, identifying relevant legal and non-legal issues.

MO2 Create a clear and accurate research trail.

MO3 Apply current legal knowledge and research skills in the interests of the client.

MO4 Evaluate a set of facts in order to advise on a course of action and to draft relevant documentation.

MO5 Create a pleading that is clear, concise and accurate.

MO6 Create an opinion that sets out clear and accurate advice on liability and quantum.

Hours to be allocated: 150

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 114 hours

Face-to-face learning = 36 hours

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

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: For professional body purposes, students are required to demonstrate their competence in 3 key skills: Drafting, Opinion Writing and Legal Research. Students must achieve a pass in each of the three skills, in order to pass the module. Pass standard is assessed as 60% or above in each skills. Drafting and opinion writing are further graded dependent upon the mark awarded whereas Legal Research attracts a pass/fail grade.

Assessment Task 1 (33%) - an invigilated open book examination – Drafting. Students will sit an invigilated examination to test their drafting skills.

Assessment Task 2 (written Assignment 1) (67%), is a take home time constrained assessment – a written opinion which is marked as a percentage and graded. Students will prepare a written opinion, addressing liability, quantum and procedural aspects, while making appropriate requests for further information. Grammatical style and overall presentation of the opinion is also assessed.

The nature of the scenario is intended to require the student to undertake legal research. That research informs the opinion, while a record of the research is also prepared, being a separate assessment task

Assessment Task 3 (Written Assignment 2) is the legal research record (pass/fail) which is a take home time constrained assessment. The quality of the research is

not tested under this task- that is tested in a separate task (opinion writing). It is the accuracy and appropriate presentation of the research that is tested, together with a clear understanding of the legal concepts.

Students will demonstrate their legal research skills to arrive at their opinion on the case provided, which they will then write up using appropriate conventions and approaches. Students will have a specified number of days to complete these separate tasks and submit their opinion. There is a specified 4000 word limit for the opinion and a 3 page limit for the legal research record, Tahoma font 11. Students must meet the learning outcomes (competencies) required in both Legal Research and in Opinion Writing to satisfy professional body requirements.

The assessments will be set and marked locally.

Practice assessment, mirroring the summative assessment conditions, will provide students with formative feedback opportunities.

Assessment tasks:

Examination (First Sit)

Description: Drafting examination

Weighting: 33 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO3, MO4, MO5

Written Assignment (First Sit)

Description: Written Assessment - a 7 day take home assessment, based on a civil law case scenario

Weighting: 67 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO3, MO4, MO6

Written Assignment (First Sit)

Description: To prepare a legal research record which accurately informs the written opinion.

Weighting: 0 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO2, MO3

Examination (Resit)

Description: Examination (drafting)

Weighting: 33 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO3, MO4, MO5

Written Assignment (Resit)

Description: Written Assessment - a 7 day take home assessment, based on a Civil Law case scenario.

Weighting: 67 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO3, MO4, MO6

Written Assignment (Resit)

Description: To prepare a legal research record which accurately informs the written opinion under a separate task.

Weighting: 0 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO2, MO3

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Bar Training Course {Two Part} [Frenchay] PGDip 2023-24

Bar Training Course [Frenchay] PGDip 2023-24

Bar Training Course [Frenchay] LLM 2022-23

Bar Training Course [Frenchay] LLM 2023-24