

University of the West of Scotland

Module Descriptor

Session: 2023-2024

Title of Module: Honours Dissertation (Law)			
Code: LAWW10010	SCQF Level: 10 (Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework)	Credit Points: 40	ECTS: 20 (European Credit Transfer Scheme)
School:	School of Business & Creative Industries		
Module Co-ordinator:	Clive Mitchell		
Summary of Module			
In the Law Honours Dissertation Module, the student will carry out an independent piece of research on a topic relevant to a law degree. This will allow for the development of the student's abilities relating to independent research, critical evaluation and review; as well as enhancing the student's skills in writing an extended piece of work. The research that is undertaken and the production of a dissertation will add to the body of knowledge on the subject. This module is developed in accordance with the UWS Graduate Attributes and helps students to develop the range of skills, qualities and abilities which will prepare them for success both outwith university and beyond their period of study at UWS. This module will help the student develop academic skills such as gaining knowledge, being a critical thinker, being analytical, being a problem solver, being digitally literate and being an autonomous learner. The module also helps to develop many of the personal and professional attributes found at https://www.uws.ac.uk/current-students/your-graduate-attributes/			

Module Delivery Method					
Face-To-Face	Blended	Fully Online	HybridC	Hybrid 0	Work-Based Learning
☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐
See Guidance Note for details.					

Campus(es) for Module Delivery
The module will normally be offered on the following campuses / or by Distance/Online Learning: (Provided viable student numbers permit) (tick as appropriate)

Paisley:	Ayr:	Dumfries:	Lanarkshire:	London:	Distance/Online Learning:	Other:
☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	Add name

Term(s) for Module Delivery

(Provided viable student numbers permit).

Term 1	☒	Term 2	☒	Term 3	☐
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Learning Outcomes: (maximum of 5 statements)**These should take cognisance of the SCQF level descriptors and be at the appropriate level for the module.**

At the end of this module the student will be able to:

L1	Identify a topic to be researched; select an appropriate methodology; design a programme of investigation and implement this programme through the critical use of primary and/or secondary data and sources.
L2	Critically evaluate and apply appropriate theoretical perspectives.
L3	Display the capacity for independent problem solving.
L4	Present and organise findings through a structure of sustained and critical argument in a well organised final dissertation.
L5	Click or tap here to enter text.

Employability Skills and Personal Development Planning (PDP) Skills

SCQF Headings	During completion of this module, there will be an opportunity to achieve core skills in:
Knowledge and Understanding (K and U)	SCQF Level 10 Developing specialist knowledge and understanding.
Practice: Applied Knowledge and Understanding	SCQF Level 10 Applying research skills.
Generic Cognitive skills	SCQF Level 10 Researching, analysing, evaluating and problem solving.
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	SCQF Level 10 Writing skills and ICT and numeracy skills dependant on the topic being researched.

Autonomy, Accountability and Working with others	SCQF Level 10 Working independently on an extended project.	
Pre-requisites:	Before undertaking this module the student should have undertaken the following:	
	Module Code: LAWW09002	Module Title: Legal Research Methods
	Other:	or an appropriate module equivalent to the Legal Research Methods module noted above. The appropriateness of any such module will be determined by the Module Co-ordinator in consultation with the Programme Leader.
Co-requisites	Module Code:	Module Title:

*Indicates that module descriptor is not published.

Learning and Teaching	
In line with current learning and teaching principles, a 20-credit module includes 200 learning hours, normally including a minimum of 36 contact hours and maximum of 48 contact hours.	
Learning Activities During completion of this module, the learning activities undertaken to achieve the module learning outcomes are stated below:	Student Learning Hours (Normally totalling 200 hours): (Note: Learning hours include both contact hours and hours spent on other learning activities)
Lecture/Core Content Delivery	6
Tutorial/Synchronous Support Activity	7.5
Independent Study	386.5
Choose an item.	
Choose an item.	
Choose an item.	
Choose an item.	
Choose an item.	

Choose an item.	
	400 Hours Total
**Indicative Resources: (eg. Core text, journals, internet access)	
The following materials form essential underpinning for the module content and ultimately for the learning outcomes: Bell, J. and Waters, S., Doing Your Research Project (7th edition, Open University Press 2018) Blaxter, L., Hughes, C. & Tight, M., How To Research (4th edition, Open University Press 2010) Grant, F., Legal Research Skills for Scots Lawyers (4th edition, W Green 2021) Lammasniemi, L., Law Dissertations: A Step-by-Step Guide (2nd edition, Routledge 2021)* Morley, I., The Devil's Advocate (3rd edition, Sweet & Maxwell 2015) Salter, M. and Mason, J., Writing Law Dissertations: An Introduction and Guide to the Conduct of Legal Research (Longman 2007) Williams, K, Planning Your Dissertation (2nd edition, Red Globe Press 2018) Click or tap here to enter text. Click or tap here to enter text. Please ensure the list is kept short and current. Essential resources should be included, broader resources should be kept for module handbooks / Aula VLE. Resources should be listed in Right Harvard referencing style or agreed professional body deviation and in alphabetical order.	
(**N.B. Although reading lists should include current publications, students are advised (particularly for material marked with an asterisk*) to wait until the start of session for confirmation of the most up-to-date material)	
Attendance and Engagement Requirements	
In line with the Student Attendance and Engagement Procedure: Students are academically engaged if they are regularly attending and participating in timetabled on-campus and online teaching sessions, asynchronous online learning activities, course-related learning resources, and complete assessments and submit these on time. For the purposes of this module, academic engagement equates to the following: Free Text – to add detail	

Equality and Diversity
The University's Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Procedure can be accessed at the following link: UWS Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Code. Please ensure any specific requirements are detailed in this section. Module Co-ordinators should consider the accessibility of their module for groups with protected characteristics..
(N.B. Every effort will be made by the University to accommodate any equality and diversity issues brought to the attention of the School)

Supplemental Information

Divisional Programme Board	Accounting, Finance and Law
Assessment Results (Pass/Fail)	Yes ☐ No ☒
School Assessment Board	Accounting, Finance and Law
Moderator	Dr Samuel White
External Examiner	Dr David Hill
Accreditation Details	Not applicable
Changes/Version Number	4.03

Assessment: (also refer to Assessment Outcomes Grids below)
This section should make transparent what assessment categories form part of this module (stating what % contributes to the final mark). Maximum of 3 main assessment categories can be identified (which may comprise smaller elements of assessment). NB: The 30% aggregate regulation (Reg. 3.9) (40% for PG) for each main category must be taken into account. When using PSMD, if all assessments are recorded in the one box, only one assessment grid will show and the 30% (40% at PG) aggregate regulation will not stand. For the aggregate regulation to stand, each component of assessment must be captured in a separate box. Please provide brief information about the overall approach to assessment that is taken within the module. In order to be flexible with assessment delivery, be brief, but do state assessment type (e.g. written assignment rather than “essay” / presentation, etc) and keep the detail for the module handbook. Click or tap here to enter text.
Assessment 1 – The module assessment is based solely on the submission of a 12,000 to 15,000 word dissertation which is worth 100% of the overall mark for this module.

Assessment 2 – Free Text
Assessment 3 – Free Text
(N.B. (i) Assessment Outcomes Grids for the module (one for each component) can be found below which clearly demonstrate how the learning outcomes of the module will be assessed. (ii) An indicative schedule listing approximate times within the academic calendar when assessment is likely to feature will be provided within the Student Module Handbook.)

Assessment Outcome Grids (See Guidance Note)

Component 1							
Assessment Type (Footnote B.)	Learning Outcome (1)	Learning Outcome (2)	Learning Outcome (3)	Learning Outcome (4)	Learning Outcome (5)	Weighting (%) of Assessment Element	Timetabled Contact Hours
Dissertation/ Project report/ Thesis	✓	✓	✓	✓		100	7.5

Component 2							
Assessment Type (Footnote B.)	Learning Outcome (1)	Learning Outcome (2)	Learning Outcome (3)	Learning Outcome (4)	Learning Outcome (5)	Weighting (%) of Assessment Element	Timetabled Contact Hours

Component 3							
Assessment Type (Footnote B.)	Learning Outcome (1)	Learning Outcome (2)	Learning Outcome (3)	Learning Outcome (4)	Learning Outcome (5)	Weighting (%) of Assessment Element	Timetabled Contact Hours
Combined Total for All Components						100%	7.5 hours

Change Control:

What	When	Who
Further guidance on aggregate regulation and application when completing template	16/01/2020	H McLean
Updated contact hours	14/09/21	H McLean
Updated Student Attendance and Engagement Procedure	19/10/2023	C Winter
Updated UWS Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Code	19/10/2023	C Winter
Guidance Note 23-24 provided	12/12/23	D Taylor
General housekeeping to text across sections.	12/12/23	D Taylor

Version Number: MD Template 1 (2023-24)