Module Descriptor

Title	Family Law		
Session	2026/27	**Status**	Approved
Code	LAWW08032	**SCQF Level**	Level 8
Credit Points	20	**ECTS (European Credit Transfer Scheme)**	10
School	**Business and Creative Industries**		
Module Co-ordinator	Dr Joanna Wilson		

Summary of Module

This module will explore contemporary Scots family law while placing these laws in their wider UK and global perspective when appropriate. It is intended that the module will give a broad overview of this complex area of law. In this module we will be considering the various relationships which make up families and the legal obligations arising from such relationships. We will be examining the parent/child relationship, the spousal relationship and relationships between civil partners and cohabitants.

Specifically, we will be considering:

• the acquisition of legal personality and legal capacity of persons;

• children's rights and capacities to make decisions;

• the laws determining parentage, and parental rights/responsibilities;

• the law relating to the creation, consequences, and termination of marriage and civil partnership;

• the rights and obligations arising from cohabitation;

• the end of relationships, including division of property, the occupation of the matrimonial home and financial provision.

The module will adopt a blended means of delivery whereby students will be expected to attend lectures and participate in in-person workshops supplemented by a range of online teaching materials. Lectures (1 hour) and workshops (2 hours) will be delivered weekly covering all of the topics. Students are expected to prepare for the workshops through attendance at the relevant lecture and engagement with the online teaching materials. In the workshops students will engage in active learning through a range of problem-solving activities and engage in critical debate on the topics being explored.

Module Delivery Method	On-Campus[1] ☒	Hybrid[2] ☐	Online[3] ☐	Work -Based Learning[4] ☐
Campuses for Module Delivery	☐ Ayr ☐ Dumfries	☐ Lanarkshire ☐ London ☒ Paisley	☐ Online / Distance Learning ☐ Other (specify)	

Terms for Module Delivery	Term 1	☒	Term 2	☐	Term 3	☐
Long-thin Delivery over more than one Term	Term 1 – Term 2	☐	Term 2 – Term 3	☐	Term 3 – Term 1	☐

Learning Outcomes	
L1	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of Scots Family Law in relation to the legal capacity of persons.
L2	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of Scots Family Law in relation to parentage, parental responsibilities and rights, and children's rights.
L3	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of Scots Family Law in relation to marriage and civil partnership including the creation, consequences, and termination, thereof.
L4	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of Scots Family Law in relation to the rights and obligations arising from cohabitation.
L5	Apply legal principles and techniques to propose solutions relating to Scots Family Law problems.

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 8** Demonstrate and/or work with: A knowledge of the scope, defining features, and main areas of Scots family law. A discerning understanding of a defined range of core theories, concepts, principles and terminology. Awareness and understanding of some major current issues and specialisms.

[1] Where contact hours are synchronous/ live and take place fully on campus. Campus-based learning is focused on providing an interactive learning experience supported by a range of digitally-enabled asynchronous learning opportunities including learning materials, resources, and opportunities provided via the virtual learning environment. On-campus contact hours will be clearly articulated to students.

[2] The module includes a combination of synchronous/ live on-campus and online learning events. These will be supported by a range of digitally-enabled asynchronous learning opportunities including learning materials, resources, and opportunities provided via the virtual learning environment. On-campus and online contact hours will be clearly articulated to students.

[3] Where all learning is solely delivered by web-based or internet-based technologies and the participants can engage in all learning activities through these means. All required contact hours will be clearly articulated to students.

[4] Learning activities where the main location for the learning experience is in the workplace. All required contact hours, whether online or on campus, will be clearly articulated to students

Practice: Applied Knowledge and Understanding	**SCQF 8** Apply knowledge, skills and understanding: In using a range of professional skills, techniques, practices and/or materials associated with Scots family law, a few of which are advancedand/or complex. In carrying out routine lines of enquiry, development or investigation into professional level problems and issues.
Generic Cognitive skills	**SCQF 8** Undertake critical analysis, evaluation and/or synthesis of ideas, concepts, information and issues that are within the common understandings in Scots family law..
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	**SCQF 8** Use a wide range of routine skills and some advanced and specialised skills associated with Scots family law, for example: Convey complex information to a range of audiences and for a range of purposes. Use a range of standard ICT applications to process and obtain data.
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	**SCQF 8** Exercise autonomy and initiative in some activities at a professional level in practice or in Scots family law. Take the lead on planning in familiar or defined contexts. Practise in ways that show awareness of own and others' roles, responsibilities and contributions when carrying out and evaluating tasks. Manage, under guidance, ethical and professional issues in accordance with current professional and/or ethical codes or practices.

Prerequisites	**Module Code**	**Module Title**
	Other	
Co-requisites	**Module Code**	**Module Title**

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** (Note: Learning hours include both contact hours and hours spent on other learning activities)
Lecture / Core Content Delivery	24
Tutorial / Synchronous Support Activity	12
Independent Study	164

Please select	
Please select	
Please select	
TOTAL	200

Indicative Resources
The following materials form essential underpinning for the module content and ultimately for the learning outcomes: K Macfarlane Thomson's Family Law in Scotland (Bloomsbury Publishing, 2022)
(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:** Attending timetabled teaching sessions, accessing course-related learning resources and complete and submit assessment on time.

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.
(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 Law**
Overall Assessment Results	☐ **Pass / Fail** ☒ **Graded**
Module Eligible for Compensation	☐ **Yes** ☒ **No** **If this module is eligible for compensation, there may be cases where compensation is not permitted due to programme accreditation requirements. Please check the associated programme specification for details.**
School Assessment Board	AFL
Moderator	TBC
External Examiner	Tracy Kirk
Accreditation Details	Law Society of Scotland
Module Appears in CPD catalogue	☒ **Yes** ☐ **No**
Changes / Version Number	1

Assessment (also refer to Assessment Outcomes Grids below)
Assessment 1
In-person Written Examination (60%)
Assessment 2
Oral Presentation (case study) (40%)
Assessment 3
(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.)

Component 1							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
Exam	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	60	2

Component 2							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
Case Study	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	40	

Component 3							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		
Combined total for all components						100%	2 hours

Change Control

What	**When**	**Who**
Updated to new MD template	21/10/2025	Samuel White