



Module Descriptor

Title	Foundations of Rights		
Session	2025/26	Status	
Code	LAWW07028	SCQF Level	Level 7
Credit Points	20	ECTS (European Credit Transfer Scheme)	10
School	Business and Creative Industries		
Module Co-ordinator	Dr Samuel White		
Summary of Module			
This module provides students with an introduction to and good grasp of the basics of human rights law and theory applicable to Scotland and the UK. Students undertaking this module will be introduced to the underlying legal theory of rights as well as to core UK human rights legislation (e.g. the Human Rights Act 1998) and relevant international law (e.g. the European Convention on Human Rights). It will offer students an opportunity to start thinking about the role of human rights within the Scottish legal system as well as considering the sources and nature of human rights as a phenomenon of legal theory. As a foundational module, this module will aid students in the development of skills necessary for studying law. Students will learn about good practice for file management, note-taking and studying and will learn how to find, interpret, use and reference sources of law individually and as part of a group. Finally, the module will provide an underpinning for a rights-focused approach to the study of law across multiple subject areas and SCQF levels. 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-Campus¹ ☒	Hybrid² ☐	Online³ ☐	Work -Based Learning⁴ ☐		
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 ability to find and interpret sources of human rights law in Scotland and the UK.
L2	Demonstrate understanding aspects of legal theory appropriate to human rights.
L3	Demonstrate awareness of international instruments underpinning the domestic human rights framework in Scotland.
L4	Apply law from relevant domestic sources to questions of human rights.
L5	Utilise learning resources, including electronic resources, to acquire knowledge and understanding of the law.

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 7 Demonstrate and/or work with: An overall appreciation of the body of knowledge that constitutes human rights and their underpinnings in legal theory. Knowledge that is embedded in the main theories, concepts and principles of human rights law in Scotland and the wider UK. An awareness of the dynamic nature of knowledge and understanding.
Practice: Applied Knowledge and Understanding	SCQF 7 Apply knowledge, skills and understanding:

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

	In practical contexts. In using some of the basic and routine professional skills, techniques, practices and/or materials associated with human rights law, and its underpinning theory, in Scotland and the wider UK.
Generic Cognitive skills	SCQF 7 Present and evaluate arguments, information and ideas that are routine to human rights law and its underpinning in legal theory. Use a range of approaches to address defined and/or routine problems and issues within familiar contexts.
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	SCQF 7 Use a wide range of routine skills and some advanced skills associated with human rights and legal theory, for example: Convey complex ideas in well-structured and coherent form. Use a range of forms of communication effectively in both familiar and unfamiliar contexts. Select and use standard ICT applications to process and obtain a variety of information and data.
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	SCQF 7 Exercise some initiative and independence in carrying out defined activities at a professional level in practice or in human rights and legal theory. Accept supervision in less familiar areas of work. Take account of own and others' roles and responsibilities when carrying out and evaluating tasks. Work, under guidance, with others to acquire an understanding of current professional practice.

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	12
Tutorial / Synchronous Support Activity	24

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: Murdoch, J. L., 'Reed and Murdoch: Human Rights Law in Scotland' (Fifth Edition) Bloomsbury Professional (2024) Freeman, M., 'Human Rights (Key Concepts)' (Fourth Edition) Polity (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: Attendance at lectures and workshops.

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	Joanna Wilson
External Examiner	TBC

Accreditation Details	Accredited by the Law Society of Scotland as part of LLB (Hons)
Module Appears in CPD catalogue	☒ Yes ☐ No
Changes / Version Number	1.0

Assessment (also refer to Assessment Outcomes Grids below)
Assessment 1
Legal Research Task (30%)
Assessment 2
In-person Written Examination (70%)
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
	☒	☒	☐	☒	☒	30	0

Component 2							
Assessment Type	LO1	LO2	LO3	LO4	LO5	Weighting of Assessment Element (%)	Timetabled Contact Hours
	☐	☒	☒	☒	☒	70	2

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

Change Control

What	When	Who
Trasferred to new Module Descriptor Template	01/09/2025	S White
