Module Descriptor

Title	Honours Dissertation (Law)		
Session	2026/27	**Status**	Approved
Code	LAWW10010	**SCQF Level**	Level 10
Credit Points	40	**ECTS (European Credit Transfer Scheme)**	20
School	**Business and Creative Industries**		
Module Co-ordinator	N Gokhale		

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	**On-Campus[1]**	**Hybrid[2]**	**Online[3]**	**Work -Based Learning[4]**
	☒	☐	☐	☐

Campuses for Module Delivery			
	☐ Ayr	☐ Lanarkshire	☐ Online / Distance Learning
	☐ Dumfries	☐ London	☐ Other (specify)
		☒ Paisley	

[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

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	Identify a topic to be researched; select an appropriate methodology; design a programme of investigation and implement this programme though 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	

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 10** Demonstrate and/or work with: Knowledge that covers and integrates most of the principal areas, features, boundaries, terminology and conventions of the topic chosen for the dissertation. A critical understanding of the principal theories, concepts and principles. Detailed knowledge and understanding in one or more specialisms, some of which is informed by, or at the forefront of, the topic chosen for the dissertation. Knowledge and understanding of the ways in which the topic chosen for the dissertation has developed, including a range of established techniques of enquiry or research methodologies.
Practice: Applied Knowledge and Understanding	**SCQF 10** Apply knowledge, skills and understanding: In using a wide range of the principal professional skills, techniques, practices and/or materials associated with the topic chosen for the dissertation. In using a few skills, techniques, practices and/or materials that are specialised, advanced and/or at the forefront of the topic chosen for the dissertation. In executing a defined project of research, development or investigation and in identifying and implementing relevant outcomes. To practise in a range of professional level contexts that include a degree of unpredictability and/or specialism.
Generic Cognitive skills	**SCQF 10**

	Critically identify, define, conceptualise and analyse complex/professional problems and issues. Offer professional insights, interpretations and solutions to problems and issues. Demonstrate some originality and creativity in dealing with professional issues. Critically review and consolidate knowledge, skills, practices and thinking in the topic chosen for the dissertation. Make judgements where data/information is limited or comes from a range of sources.
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	**SCQF 10** Use a wide range of routine skills and some advanced and specialised skills in support of established practices in the topic chosen for the dissertation, for example: Present or convey, formally and informally, information about specialised topics to informed audiences. Communicate with peers, senior colleagues and specialists on a professional level. Use a range of ICT applications to support and enhance work at this level and adjust features to suit purpose. Interpret, use and evaluate a wide range of numerical and graphical data to set and achieve goals/targets.
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	**SCQF 10** Exercise autonomy and initiative in professional/equivalent activities. Practise in ways that show awareness of own and others' roles and responsibilities. Work, under guidance, in a peer relationship with specialist practitioners. Work with others to bring about change, development and/or new thinking. Manage complex ethical and professional issues in accordance with current professional and/or ethical codes or practices. Recognise the limits of these codes and seek guidance where appropriate.

Prerequisites	**Module Code** LAWW09002	**Module Title** Law Dissertation Skills (formerly 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**

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	6
Tutorial / Synchronous Support Activity	7.5
Independent Study	386.5
Please select	
Please select	
Please select	
TOTAL	400

Indicative Resources

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)

(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:

Student compliance with the Student Attendance and Engagement Procedure noted above.

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	Accounting, Finance and Law
Moderator	Dr Samuel White
External Examiner	George Forgi Amin
Accreditation Details	Not applicable
Module Appears in CPD catalogue	☐ **Yes** ☒ **No**
Changes / Version Number	5.0

Assessment (also refer to Assessment Outcomes Grids below)
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
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**
Dissertation	☒	☒	☒	☒	☐	100	0

Component 2

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

Component 3							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		
Combined total for all components						100%	0 hours

Change Control

What	When	Who