Module Descriptor

Title	Law Dissertation Skills		
Session	2026/27	**Status**	Approved
Code	LAWW09002	**SCQF Level**	9
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 equips the student with a range of intellectual, research and personal skills required for the effective research, communication and presentation of information, knowledge and legal concepts. There will be a series of workshops which introduce students to particular aspects of the research process. These

workshops are supported by means of fortnightly practical tasks which must be completed which challenge students to put the theory of research into practice. In addition to the workshops, students will be encouraged to do their own, and directed, reading through the use of specified texts and non-assessed independent learning activities.

This module equips the student with the necessary skills to tackle a piece of legal research, in particular their dissertation, in an effective and logical manner.

To prepare students for undertaking advanced legal research, in particular the level 10 dissertation in law.

To introduce students to a variety of legal research methods.

To introduce students to concepts including ethics and standards in legal research.

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

[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

			☒ Paisley			
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	develop a working understanding of key skills in conducting legal research
L2	engage with the literature develop a dissertation topic and research question
L3	identify links between their own research interests and those of others (staff/peers…)
L4	reflect on their own learning style and needs and to develop strategies for addressing any problem areas in their learning.
L5	utilise the library and electronic resources to conduct legal research.

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 9** Demonstrate and/or work with: An understanding of the scope and defining features of Legal Research, and an integrated knowledge of its main areas and boundaries. A critical understanding of a range of the principles, principal theories, concepts and terminology of Law. Knowledge of one or more specialisms that is informed by forefront developments.
Practice: Applied Knowledge and Understanding	**SCQF 9** Apply knowledge, skills and understanding: In using a range of the principal professional skills, techniques, practices and/or materials associated with Internationa. In using a few skills, techniques, practices and/or materials that are specialised and/or advanced. In practising routine methods of enquiry and/or research.
Generic Cognitive skills	**SCQF 9** Undertake critical analysis, evaluation and/or synthesis of ideas, concepts, information and issues in Law and Legal Research. Draw on a range of sources in making judgements.
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	**SCQF 9** Use a wide range of routine skills and some advanced and specialised skills in support of established practices of Legal Research, for example: Present or convey, formally and informally, information on standard/mainstream topics in Law to a range of audiences.

	Use a range of ICT applications to support and enhance work.
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	**SCQF 9** Exercise autonomy and initiative in some activities at a professional level in practice or in Legal Research. Exercise managerial responsibility for the work of others and for a range of resources. Work, under guidance, with specialist practitioners. Seeking guidance where appropriate, manage 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)
n/a	
Tutorial / Synchronous Support Activity	24
Independent Study	176
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: Lammasniemi, L., Law Dissertations: A Step-by-Step Guide (2nd edition, Routledge 2021)'
(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:** Students are required to attend scheduled teaching sessions and engage with the Virtual Learning Environment, lack of which could result in the student being referred to the Engagement Panel or other appropriate body, and could prevent student progression, and ultimately successful degree completion.

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. Reasonable accomodation will be made as applicable within the module to both teaching and assessments.
(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	TBC
External Examiner	T Madebwe
Accreditation Details	
Module Appears in CPD catalogue	☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**
Changes / Version Number	

Assessment (also refer to Assessment Outcomes Grids below)
Assessment 1
Component 1 – Essay (Literature Review of Chosen Topic) worth 40%
Assessment 2
Component 2 – Presentation with submitted notes (Research question and aims, justification of place in field, method and potential difficulties) worth 60%
Assessment 3
NA
(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**
Essay	☒	☒	☐	☐	☒	40	0

Component 2							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
Presentation	☒	☐	☒	☒	☒	60	0.16

Component 3							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
NA	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	0	0
Combined total for all components						100%	0.16 hours

Change Control

What	**When**	**Who**
New Module Name	5/3/25	Joanna Wilson
Move to Term 2	5/3/25	Joanna Wilson
LOs/SCQF descriptors adapted in line with above	5/3/25	Joanna Wilson
Assessments adapted in line with above	5/3/25	Joanna Wilson