Module Descriptor

Title	Scots Private Law 4: Family		
Session	2026/27	**Status**	Approved
Code	LAWW08027	**SCQF 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 perspectie when apprioriate. 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:

Students are expected to prepare for the workshops through watching the relevant video lectures and completing the required reading. In the workshops students will then, in groups and individually, complete various problem solving activities and engage in critical debate on the topics being explored.

the acquisition of legal personality and children's rights and capacities to make decisions;

the laws determining parentage, and parental rights/responsibilities;

international aspects of family law, for example the enforceability of court decisions in other jurisdictions marriage, civil partnership, and cohabitation, and their legal obligations;

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

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

[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

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 adult relationships, including the formation, consequences of, and termination of these relationships.
L2	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of Scots Family Law in relation to the parent/child relationship, including the formation, consequences of, and termination of these relationships
L3	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of key international conventions and their impact on Scots Family Law.
L4	Identify and apply principles to analyse legal issues and propose solutions to legal problems which arise in relation to Family Law.
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 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. Awareness and understanding of research and equivalent scholarly/academic processes.
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. Use a range of approaches to formulate and critically evaluate evidence-based solutions/responses to defined and/or routine problems and issues.
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. Use and evaluate numerical and graphical data to measure progress and achieve goals/targets.
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	**SCQF 8** Exercise autonomy and initiative in some activities at a professional level in practice or in the Scots Family Law Module. Exercise managerial responsibility for the work of others within a defined structure. Manage resources within defined areas of work. 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. Work, under guidance, with others to acquire an understanding of current professional practice. 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:** 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	Kelly-Ann Canon
Accreditation Details	
Module Appears in CPD catalogue	☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**
Changes / Version Number	

Assessment (also refer to Assessment Outcomes Grids below)
Assessment 1
Class Test worth 30% - Adult Relationships
Assessment 2
Case Study worth 70% (oral presentation) - Parent/Child Relationships
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**
Class Test	☒	☐	☒	☐	☐	30	0

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

Change Control

What	**When**	**Who**
SCQF descriptors amended	5/3/25	Joanna Wilson
