University of the West of Scotland

Module Descriptor

Session: 2023/24

Title of Module: Legal Research Methods			
Code: **LAWW09002**	**SCQF Level: 9 (Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework)**	**Credit Points: 20**	**ECTS: 10 (European Credit Transfer Scheme)**
School:	School of 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					
Face-To-Face	**Blended**	**Fully Online**	**HybridC**	**Hybrid 0**	**Work-Based Learning**
☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
See Guidance Note for details.					

Campus(es) for Module Delivery

The module will **normally** be offered on the following campuses / or by Distance/Online Learning: (Provided viable student numbers permit) (tick as appropriate)						
Paisley:	Ayr:	Dumfries:	Lanarkshire:	London:	Distance/Online Learning:	Other:
☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	Add name

Term(s) for Module Delivery					
(Provided viable student numbers permit).					
Term 1	☒	Term 2	☐	Term 3	☐

Learning Outcomes: (maximum of 5 statements) **These should take cognisance of the SCQF level descriptors and be at the appropriate level for the module.** At the end of this module the student will be able to:	
L1	critically discuss methodologies appropriate to legal research
L2	Critically evaluate examples of legal research and socio-legal research
L3	engage with contemporary sociological and legal research methods.
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 Level **9** Demonstrating in depth knowledge and application of legal research techniques.

Practice: Applied Knowledge and Understanding	SCQF Level **9** Using knowledge and understanding of the law, and legal research methods and skills, to critically evaluate the various research techniques; Retrieve information from legal databases.
Generic Cognitive skills	SCQF Level **9** Bringing together information from a variety of research sources, both written and electronic. Making critical judgments of the merits of different research methods, and making an appropriate and reasoned choice between alternative research methods.
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	SCQF Level **9** Communicating effectively and appropriately in speech and writing. Interpreting complex primary materials. Making effective use of information retrieval systems and use information technology applications to present documents in an appropriate form.
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with others	SCQF Level **9** Identifying and addressing their own learning needs and undertaking independent learning with guidance.

Pre-requisites:	Before undertaking this module the student should have undertaken the following:	
	Module Code:	**Module Title:**
	Other:	
Co-requisites	**Module Code:**	**Module Title:**

*Indicates that module descriptor is not published.

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** (Normally totalling 200 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
	200 Hours Total

**Indicative Resources: (eg. Core text, journals, internet access)

The following materials form essential underpinning for the module content and ultimately for the learning outcomes:

M Salter and J Mason Writing Law Dissertations: an introduction and Guide to the Conduct of Legal Research (Longman, 2007)

Please ensure the list is kept short and current. Essential resources should be included, broader resources should be kept for module handbooks / Aula VLE.

Resources should be listed in Right Harvard referencing style or agreed professional body deviation and in alphabetical order.

(**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:

In line with the Academic Engagement Procedure, Students are defined as academically engaged if they are regularly engaged with timetabled teaching sessions, course-related learning resources including those in the Library and on the relevant learning platform, and complete assessments and submit these on time. Please refer to the Academic Engagement Procedure at the following link: Academic engagement procedure

Where a module has Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body requirements these will be listed here: Students are required to attend scheduled teaching sessions and engage with the Virtual Learning Environment, and engage in assessment, lack of which could result in the student being referred to the Engagement Panel, and could prevent student progression, and ultimately successful degree completion.

Students have a maximum of 2 years to progress through a module/level, which over 4 levels, could cumulatively take a maximum of 8 years for Full-Time study.

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.

Please ensure any specific requirements are detailed in this section. Module Co-ordinators should consider the accessibility of their module for groups with protected characteristics..

(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 and Law
Assessment Results (Pass/Fail)	Yes ☐No ☒
School Assessment Board	BCI
Moderator	Dr Susannah Paul
External Examiner	D Hill
Accreditation Details	n.a.
Changes/Version Number	unknown

Assessment: (also refer to Assessment Outcomes Grids below)

This section should make transparent what assessment categories form part of this module (stating what % contributes to the final mark).
Maximum of 3 main assessment categories can be identified (which may comprise smaller elements of assessment).
NB: The 30% aggregate regulation (Reg. 3.9) (40% for PG) for each main category must be taken into account. When using PSMD, if all assessments are

recorded in the one box, only one assessment grid will show and the 30% (40% at PG) aggregate regulation will not stand. For the aggregate regulation to stand, each component of assessment must be captured in a separate box. Please provide brief information about the overall approach to assessment that is taken within the module. In order to be flexible with assessment delivery, be brief, but do state assessment type (e.g. written assignment rather than "essay" / presentation, etc) and keep the detail for the module handbook. Click or tap here to enter text.

Component 1 – Essay (Research question and aims) worth 15%

Component 2 – Essay (Literature Review) worth 35%

Component 3 - Presentation worth 50%

(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.)

Assessment Outcome Grids (See Guidance Note)

Component 1							
Assessment Type (Footnote B.)	Learning Outcome (1)	Learning Outcome (2)	Learning Outcome (3)	Learning Outcome (4)	Learning Outcome (5)	Weighting (%) of Assessment Element	Timetabled Contact Hours
Essay		x	x	x		15	0

Component 2							
Assessment Type (Footnote B.)	Learning Outcome (1)	Learning Outcome (2)	Learning Outcome (3)	Learning Outcome (4)	Learning Outcome (5)	Weighting (%) of Assessment Element	Timetabled Contact Hours
Essay		X		x	x	35	0

Component 3							
Assessment Type (Footnote B.)	Learning Outcome (1)	Learning Outcome (2)	Learning Outcome (3)	Learning Outcome (4)	Learning Outcome (5)	Weighting (%) of Assessment Element	Timetabled Contact Hours
Presentation	X	X	X	X	X	50	0.16
Combined Total for All Components						100%	0.16 hours

Change Control:

What	When	Who
Further guidance on aggregate regulation and application when completing template	16/01/2020	H McLean
Updated contact hours	14/09/21	H McLean
Updated Student Attendance and Engagement Procedure	19/10/2023	C Winter
Updated UWS Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Code	19/10/2023	C Winter
Guidance Note 23-24 provided	12/12/23	D Taylor
General housekeeping to text across sections. .	12/12/23	D Taylor

Version Number: MD Template 1 (2023-24)