

MODULE DESCRIPTOR

MODULE TITLE	DISSERTATION		
MODULE CODE	LA4095 (L7)	CREDIT VALUE	60 UK CREDITS / <u>30 ECTS</u>
SCHOOL	SCHOOL OF LAW		

MODULE AIMS

The dissertation aims:

- to provide postgraduate students with advanced skills required to undertake an extended programme of research.
- to cover practical skills (such as project planning and management) and theoretical skills (such as applying conceptual models).
- It will inform students of a range of different research methodologies and students will be able to assess the appropriateness of particular methodologies for their proposed dissertation topic.
- to enable the students to put into practical effect the research skills acquired during the course and to work in a self-defined field with the objective of producing a substantial piece of work based on critical evaluation and independent thought.
- to give students the opportunity to carry out extended research on a subject of interest to them.
- to give students the opportunity to show their ability to work independently and at a high quality level, on a substantial project.

MODULE CONTENT

Indicative syllabus content:

- (1) Introduction to the dissertation module: supervision and working with your supervisor, time-management, choosing your topic.
- (2) Research methodologies and perspectives.
- (3) Overview of the main theoretical approaches to legal research.
- (4) Planning Your Dissertation – choosing a topic/formulating research questions.
- (5) Reviewing the Literature.
- (6) Referencing and dishonest academic practices.

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

On successful completion of this module a student will be able to:

1. Plan a substantial programme of research
 2. Identify and implement the most appropriate research methodologies for the research question(s)
 3. Carry out and where necessary, modify such programme
 4. Analyse and evaluate the information obtained
 5. Produce an in-depth critical evaluation of the area researched based upon independent argument
 6. Present clearly and accurately, in written form, the research carried out and the conclusions reached
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TEACHING METHODS

There will be a number of *Writing Your Dissertation* workshops to encourage early engagement with the dissertation supervisors and the dissertation itself. Writing the Dissertation itself will involve research into and completion of a dissertation on a topic chosen by the student and approved by the Project Supervisor, the topic being within the subject area of the LLM pathway or specialised LLM selected by the student. The topic must also be one that falls outside the subject-matter covered in the modules undertaken by the student unless it involves a significant and substantial extension or development of an aspect of that subject-matter.

ASSESSMENT METHODS

This module is assessed through a written Dissertation of 15,000 words maximum.