

MODULE DESCRIPTOR

MODULE TITLE	EU COMPETITION LAW		
MODULE CODE	LA4601 [L7]	CREDIT VALUE	10 ECTS
SCHOOL	SCHOOL OF LAW		

MODULE AIMS

This module seeks to analyse the way competition law affects particular commercial phenomena in the EU, taking into consideration the current global economic context. Overall, it provides an in-depth legal and economic analysis of anti-competitive agreements between firms, abuse of dominant position, mergers and state intervention from the perspective of market power, its abuse and its regulation in the EU. This module will also allow for critical reflection on the many recent developments in EU and international competition law, including in the context of their modernisation and in the light of the current economic and financial crisis.

MODULE CONTENT

- The goals of competition law; economic approaches; comparative dimension
- The EU, its competition law and its institutions
- Global competition law and the economic and financial crisis
- Competition law and internal market in the EU
- Market power, market definition and entry barriers
- Anti-competitive agreements between firms and Article 101 TFEU
- Abuse of dominant position and Article 102 TFEU
- Enforcement of Articles 101 and 102 TFEU; centralisation and decentralisation in EU competition law; proceedings in national courts; role of private parties
- Horizontal and vertical agreements; the outer limits of EU competition law
- Concentrations and merger control
- State intervention and public undertakings
- Competition law and intellectual property rights in the EU

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

Provide an in depth analysis and a critical evaluation of the main reasons and dimensions of EU competition law, the context for its establishment and modernisation and the actors involved.

Identify the EU competition law rules and methods and critically assess their effectiveness in realising the policy objectives, including through enforcement.

Comprehend the global dimension of competition law and economics and assess the impact there may be, including any global crisis on EU competition law.

Critically examine the relationship between competition law and other areas of EU law such as the internal market or intellectual property rights

Research, critically evaluate and present well-structured arguments in written and oral work.

TEACHING METHODS

Preparation for the workshops will involve extensive research and reading, to consider and critically analyse the set topics and the discussion questions, set in advance, arising from those topics. Students are expected to prepare answers to the discussion questions and present these to, and discuss with, the workshop tutor and workshop group members. In addition to the skills of analysis and research, students are expected to develop and apply skills of analytical discussion, oral expression and writing. Students will engage with other students and staff in online activities, and synchronous and asynchronous workshops, to consider and critically analyse particular sources and engage in discussion leading to development of these skills.

The workshops also give students the opportunity to synthesise in a more dynamic way the independent learning already undertaken and apply principles from various themes covered in the workshop activity sheets.

One workshop may be run online, two weeks before the module starts, to introduce students to module themes and principles in advance of the campus-sessions. The final workshop will take place two-weeks before the submission deadline for coursework and run as a revision session.

ASSESSMENT METHODS

This module is assessed through an Essay (75%) and a Presentation / Online Activity / Essay Plan (25%).