

MODULE DESCRIPTOR

MODULE TITLE	INDEPENDENT RESEARCH PROJECT		
MODULE CODE	LA4946 [L7]	CREDIT VALUE	10 ECTS
SCHOOL	SCHOOL OF LAW		

MODULE AIMS

The module aims to enable students to apply skills of information gathering, evaluation and written research presentation. Students will have these skills to some extent as part of their graduatness, but this module aims to give them an opportunity to apply those skills at a postgraduate level. There is emphasis on evaluation of the chosen subject area and the project tutor will assist the student in choosing an appropriate question and appropriate methods of answering that question. The module aims to give students the opportunity to explore a particular subject or question in depth.

MODULE CONTENT

The research topic will be agreed with the project tutor and student. Students on a named award must choose a subject within the broad subject area of their specialisation. The topic chosen must be different from that to be undertaken for LA4905 the Dissertation.

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

On successful completion of this module a student will be able to:	
1.	Plan a programme of research;
2.	Carry out and where necessary, modify such programme
3.	Analyse and evaluate the information obtained
4.	Present clearly and accurately, in written form, the research carried out and the conclusions reached.

TEACHING METHODS

Preparation for the Independent Research Project will involve extensive research and reading, to consider and critically analyse the agreed research question(s). A student is expected to communicate regularly with their supervisor and the supervision process may proceed through any or all of the following stages:

- i. Student approaches a potential supervisor with their initial research idea: using the list of staff research interests to select a potential supervisor who is able to supervise the general area of law they wish to study.
- ii. Topic selection: The student and supervisor agree on a subject matter area, and discuss possible research topics within that general area.

- iii. Preliminary research: Following selection of a topic, the student conducts research aimed at narrowing and refining the project and the supervisor provides feedback that assists the student in formulating a research and writing plan.
 - iv. Project outline: The student prepares and submits a written outline of the research project and the supervisor responds with substantive feedback.
 - v. Project draft: The student submits a preliminary draft of the paper or its equivalent and the supervisor provides written or oral comments on the draft.
- Final project: The student submits the final paper for the supervisor's evaluation.

ASSESSMENT METHODS

This module is assessed through an Essay (100%).