

MODULE DESCRIPTOR

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| MODULE TITLE | Law Clinic | | |
| MODULE CODE | LW3036 (L6) | CREDIT VALUE | 20 UK CREDITS / <u>10 ECTS</u> |
| SCHOOL | SCHOOL OF LAW | | |
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MODULE AIMS

This module aims to develop in students,

- Knowledge and conceptual understanding of how legal practice can contribute to social justice and increase understanding of the role of law in society
- Knowledge and understanding of areas of law encountered in the clinic, e.g. landlord-tenant, family, contract, employment, wills & probate, litigation, public interest law and human rights
- A practical understanding and competency in legal practice skills
- Knowledge and understanding of legal ethics, moral decision making, dilemmas & concepts of personal and professional responsibility
- Skills in co-operative learning

MODULE CONTENT

This module will consider:

- Availability of access to justice
- The role of pro bono legal work
- Professional ethics / morals
- Relevant substantive law (e.g Family; Landlord & Tenant; Contract; General Litigation; Employment Wills and probate)
- Public interest considerations
- Pervasive elements of Human rights

In addition this module will enhance and develop Legal Skills:

- Client interviewing and advising
- Research and problem-solving
- Drafting letters of advice and guidance
- Case management of client files
- Teamwork
- Representation of clients' interests

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

1. Reflect on his or her experiences, successes and failures and identify areas for development.
2. Lead a client interview and gather relevant information pertaining to their problem(s)
3. Research legal problems and propose resolutions
4. Draft letters of advice and guidance for clients or provide advice to clients in person
5. Organise and lead Clinic activities such as rotas, file management and publicity

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6. **Critically evaluate the rules relating to professional conduct and act in accordance with the standards appropriate to a professional lawyer**
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TEACHING METHODS

This module will involve students working within specific legal firms within the law clinic.

Before being accepted onto the module students should apply to join the firm of their choice. The firms will consist of approximately 10 students each led by a member of staff who is a specialist in the legal practice in the relevant subject field. It is anticipated that the fields offered would include Family; Employment; Landlord & Tenant; Wills & Probate General Consumer (contract); General litigation (Tort) although these could vary dependent upon the availability of relevant staff specialists.

The module will utilise a variety of learning strategies designed to place the student at the centre of the learning process. The module will encourage student learning by participation and independent research as well as developing problem solving and analytical skills.

A module handbook will be provided consisting of lecture / workshop outlines, tasks, case-work, presentation guidelines and further recommended reading.

Small group sessions (in the firm) will follow the client interviews, and will facilitate whole group discussion of issues; an initial action plan will be formulated immediately following the fact finding interview with the client and roles allocated. These sessions will be interactive, making full use of additional case studies and discussion points to enhance the student's ability to apply skills and investigate issues. Individual and group presentations will be used to build on knowledge and experience.

Practical contextual exercises will then be utilised to emphasise the client based practical elements, with the tutor acting as facilitator to guide students through the issues, difficulties and arguments to ensure relevant treatment of the client's problem through correct research, follow-up questioning, and letter of advice.

ASSESSMENT METHODS

This module is assessed through a Presentation (20%) and a Reflective Portfolio (80%).

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION

English