

MODULE DESCRIPTOR

MODULE TITLE	DISSERTATION		
MODULE CODE	LW3090(L6)	CREDIT VALUE	40 UK CREDITS / <u>20 ECTS</u>
SCHOOL	SCHOOL OF LAW		

MODULE AIMS

- To provide students with the opportunity to undertake an independent piece of research on a legal topic of their choice,
- To allow for the development of research culminating in a detailed evaluation of the law in the chosen area.
- To facilitate demonstration of an ability to select and organise material from which appropriate conclusions can be elicited and presented through independent research.
- To provide students with the opportunity to present the progress of their research and articulate their learning experiences in an oral forum.
- To enable the students to appreciate the range of available research methodologies and to deploy a methodology appropriate to their chosen legal topic.
- To foster awareness of the practices to be pursued or avoided when undertaking an independent research dissertation.
- To promote the acquisition of transferable skills with which to enhance their confidence and employability in the workplace

MODULE CONTENT

This module will consider a detailed area of the law chosen by the student in negotiation with their dissertation supervisor. The topic must have a substantial or legal content related to a specific aspect or theme studied in the School of Law. In addition, a suitable supervisor must be identified within the staff of the Law School with the expertise to give relevant supervision. The student must maintain a record of all supervision sessions (one to one tutorials) attended throughout the module and at the end of the module must submit a portfolio of progress to the identified supervisor for certification that the student has complied with the agreed regime of supervisory sessions. Both the record of supervision sessions and the portfolio of progress must be appended to the dissertation prior to submission.

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

1.	Plan and produce an independently created piece of legal research that demonstrates a comprehensive knowledge and critical awareness of the chosen area of legal interest
2.	Select and apply a relevant research methodology to your chosen area of research and evaluate, both orally and in writing, its strengths and limitations
3.	Work co-operatively with others
4.	Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of your research strategy by reference to relevant sources
5.	Demonstrate the use of research and IT skills for information retrieval in creating relevant footnotes and a bibliography of evidence in support of your argument

TEACHING METHODS

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 enhancing problem solving and analytical skills. A key element of this module that the student should demonstrate and develop the skills of independent learning and research.

The initial workshop outlines through interactive discussion the requirements for effective self-study, time management, co-operation with supervisors, and recommended practice and research methodology.

The seminar presentation enables the student to assess progress; engage with the students in attendance; analyse and evaluate research findings, and consolidate and plan for the remaining portion of the module

ASSESSMENT METHODS

The module is assessed through a seminar presentation and the dissertation.