

MODULE DESCRIPTOR

Module Title

Practical Legal Skills

Reference	BS3177	Version	4
Created	February 2017	SCQF Level	SCQF 9
Approved	June 2017	SCQF Points	15
Amended	June 2017	ECTS Points	7.5

Aims of Module

1. To develop the legal research skills to which the students are introduced in BS1112 Legal Methods so as to enable students to design a research project for their honours dissertations and to use these skills in the workplace. 2. To provide students with a working understanding of practical legal skills such as dispute resolution, written and oral advocacy, negotiation and client interviewing and counselling.

Learning Outcomes for Module

On completion of this module, students are expected to be able to:

- 1 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the legal research process.
- 2 Make effective use of specialist legal data retrieval systems and critically evaluate the material forming the results of the search.
- 3 Communicate effectively in writing and orally, the aims and objectives of research, methodology, interpretation of data and research findings.
- 4 Communicate effectively in writing and orally a valid legal argument
- 5 Demonstrate an understanding of, and the ability to use, legal and dispute resolution skills such as drafting, interviewing, negotiation, and mediation.

Indicative Module Content

One half of the module will address legal information searching and retrieval, effective literature research strategies, critical analysis and evaluation of data, construction of a research proposal, management of a research project, the ethical dimension to research and presentation of research. The other half of the module will develop key practical transferrable skills required in the workplace such as dispute resolution skills, advocacy, client interviewing and counselling and drafting of documents.

Module Delivery

Delivery of the subject matter will be through a combination of lectures and workshops, and case studies and practical exercises in seminars.

Indicative Student Workload	Full Time	Part Time
Contact Hours	36	36
Non-Contact Hours	114	114
Placement/Work-Based Learning Experience [Notional] Hours	N/A	N/A
TOTAL	150	150
<i>Actual Placement hours for professional, statutory or regulatory body</i>		

ASSESSMENT PLAN

If a major/minor model is used and box is ticked, % weightings below are indicative only.

Component 1

Type: Coursework Weighting: 50% Outcomes Assessed: 1, 2, 3
 Description: Legal research proposal

Component 2

Type: Coursework Weighting: 10% Outcomes Assessed: 4, 5
 Description: Oral presentation

Component 3

Type: Coursework Weighting: 40% Outcomes Assessed: 4, 5
 Description: Written practical skills exercise

MODULE PERFORMANCE DESCRIPTOR

Explanatory Text

The Module is assessed by three components: C1 - Coursework - 50% weighting. C2 - Oral Presentation - 10% weighting. C3 - Coursework - 40% weighting. Module Pass Mark = Grade D (40%)

Module Grade	Minimum Requirements to achieve Module Grade:
A	At least 70% on weighted aggregate and at least 35% in each component
B	At least 60% on weighted aggregate and at least 35% in each component
C	At least 50% on weighted aggregate and at least 35% in each component
D	At least 40% on weighted aggregate and at least 35% in each component
E	At least 35% on weighted aggregate
F	Less than 35% on weighted aggregate
NS	Non-submission of work by published deadline or non-attendance for examination

Module Requirements

Prerequisites for Module	None.
Corequisites for module	None.
Precluded Modules	None.

INDICATIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 1 BROWN, H.J., 2012. *ADR principles and practice*. 3rd ed. London: Sweet and Maxwell.
- 2 CHERKASSKY, L. et al., 2011. *Legal skills*. Hampshire: Palgrave Macmillan.
- 3 COTTRELL, S., 2014. *Dissertations and project reports a step by step guide*. London: Palgrave Macmillan.
- 4 FINCH E. and FAFINSKI S., 2014. *Employability skills for law students*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- 5 GRANT F., 2014. *Legal research skills for Scots lawyers*. 3rd ed. Edinburgh: W.Green.
- 6 KERRIGAN, K. and MURRAY, V., 2011. *A student guide to clinical legal education and pro bono*. London: Palgrave Macmillan.
- 7 LEWICKI, R. et al., 2010. *Essentials of negotiation*. 5th ed. New York: McGraw-Hill/Irwin.
- 8 TODD A. and SIM I., 2016 *Commercial awareness for lawyers*. Edinburgh: W.Green.