

MODULE DESCRIPTOR

Module Title

Dissertation

Reference	BS4118	Version	5
Created	January 2017	SCQF Level	SCQF 10
Approved	June 2017	SCQF Points	30
Amended	June 2017	ECTS Points	15

Aims of Module

To provide students with the opportunity to undertake a piece of supervised, independent in-depth research into a specific area or issue of legal interest and to apply the full range of associated research skills required to produce a dissertation. To demonstrate skills of analysis, critical evaluation, reflection, logical argument and communication.

Learning Outcomes for Module

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

- 1 Demonstrate rigour in the analysis of information from primary and/or secondary sources and in the synthesis and interpretation of concepts and legal issues.
- 2 Plan and write a dissertation which demonstrates a logical consistency in approach and structure, and critical evaluation of theory, process, and outcomes.

Indicative Module Content

The semester will involve a taught element concentrating on legal research skills and methodology. Beyond this, the student will work independently but under supervision to prepare a dissertation on an approved topic of their choice. The content is developed dialectically between the student and the supervisor.

Module Delivery

Lectures / workshops over the course of first semester supplemented by a dissertation supervisor who will provide guidance on the academic and practical aspects of topic selection and literature review, as appropriate. The supervisor will not advise on the specific content of the dissertation.

Indicative Student Workload

	Full Time	Part Time
Contact Hours	30	30
Non-Contact Hours	270	270
Placement/Work-Based Learning Experience [Notional] Hours	N/A	N/A
TOTAL	300	300
<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:	100%	Outcomes Assessed:	1, 2
Description:	Students will undertake one piece of assessed coursework in the form of a dissertation which will assess all learning outcomes.				

MODULE PERFORMANCE DESCRIPTOR**Explanatory Text**

The module is assessed by one component: C1 - Coursework - a detailed written thesis on a subject within the course curriculum. The dissertation module is central to the objectives of the course.

Module Grade	Minimum Requirements to achieve Module Grade:
A	70% or above
B	60% - 69%
C	50% - 59%
D	40% - 49%
E	35% - 39%
F	0% - 34%
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

- BELL, J., 2010. *Doing your research project*. 5th ed. Maidenhead : McGraw-Hill Open University Press.
- COTTRELL, S., 2011. *Critical thinking skills*. 2nd ed. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.
- FINCH, E. and FAFINSKI, S., 2015. *Legal skills*. 5th ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- FULLERTON, K., 2012. *Legal research skills for Scots lawyers*. 2nd ed. Edinburgh: W. Green.
- HIGGINS, E. AND TATHAM, L., 2011. *Successful legal writing*. 2th ed. London: Sweet and Maxwell.