

MODULE DESCRIPTOR

Module Title

Legal Skills And Ethics

Reference	LL1001	Version	4
Created	February 2024	SCQF Level	SCQF 7
Approved	April 2021	SCQF Points	15
Amended	March 2024	ECTS Points	7.5

Aims of Module

To introduce students to the study of law by providing them with the ability to use legal research skills, an understanding of the sources of the law and the ability to interpret and use these sources, and introduce them to the core professional legal writing and presentation skills. To introduce students to the contextual, moral and ethical basis of law and legal practice and standards of professional conduct for lawyers in Scotland.

Learning Outcomes for Module

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

- 1 Make effective use of a law library; identify and retrieve and make use of information from a range of access points and demonstrate basic numeracy skills in making use of legal research statistics.
- 2 Explain and demonstrate competence in reading and interpreting the sources of law in Scotland.
- 3 Demonstrate competence in the construction and communication of a legal argument.
- 4 Demonstrate an understanding of the moral and ethical basis of law and legal practice and standards of professional conduct for lawyers in Scotland.

Indicative Module Content

Distinctive features of legal literature; sources of the law; legal research skills and information retrieval techniques; use of legal research statistics; reading and analytical skills appropriate for primary legal sources; legal writing, problem solving and reasoning; statutory interpretation; legal ethics and the impact legal ethics have in supporting sustainability.

Module Delivery

This is a lecture and tutorial based module. Lectures provide core module content. Tutorials develop associated higher level skills through student centred learning.

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
Actual Placement hours for professional, statutory or regulatory body		

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, 3, 4
Description:	Written coursework				

MODULE PERFORMANCE DESCRIPTOR**Explanatory Text**

Component 1 comprises 100% of the module grade. To pass the module, a D grade is required.

Module Grade	Minimum Requirements to achieve Module Grade:
A	A
B	B
C	C
D	D
E	E
F	F
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

- DEWART, M.H., 2019. The Scottish Legal System. 6th ed. Haywards Heath: Bloomsbury Professional.
- FINCH, E. and FAFINSKI, S., 2021. Legal skills. 8th ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press
- GRANT, F., 2014. Legal Research Skills for Scots lawyers. 3rd ed. Edinburgh: W. Green.
- HANSON S Learning Legal Skills and Reasoning (4th ed Bloomsbury Professional 2015)
- BIRRELL IVORY, S., 2021 Becoming a Critical Thinker, Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- MACQUEEN, H.L., 2016. Studying Scots Law, 5th ed. Haywards Heath: Bloomsbury Professional.