



Module Definition Form (MDF)

Module code: MOD002399	Version: 7 Date Amended: 05/Jun/2026
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1. Module Title
Economic, Political and Legal Framework

2a. Module Leader
Michael Greenslade

2b. School
School of Engineering and the Built Environment

2c. Faculty
Faculty of Science and Engineering

3a. Level
7

3b. Module Type
Standard (fine graded)

4a. Credits
15

4b. Study Hours
150

5. Restrictions			
Type	Module Code	Module Name	Condition
Pre-requisites:	None		
Co-requisites:	None		
Exclusions:	None		
Courses to which this module is restricted:	None		

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

6a. Module Description

This contextual module is designed to give students an appreciation of the influence of economic, political and legal influences on firms in the built environment and understanding of the ways in which these influence firms. Firms in the built environment are very dependent on the external environment and this module enables students to understand and analyse these complex relationships and the impact they have on firms. It is expected that at post-graduate level students will be able to develop their appreciation of the complex inter-relationships involved and synthesise these. Topics covered equip students with a theoretical base which they will then be able to apply to current events. It is expected that students will immerse themselves in current issues and debates, and apply theoretical knowledge. Using source material is also important in this module, and students will be expected to do their own research in this respect. In the delivery of the module and in its assessment, emphasis is placed on each student's understanding and application of knowledge and their critical reflection on what they have learned.

6b. Outline Content

The microeconomic context for firms, the theory of the firm, environmental issues including sustainability, regional and urban problems. Macroeconomic theory and issues, in particular government economic aims and objectives, monetary and fiscal policy and their impact, and inter-relationships between the property market and the macroeconomic environment. The influence of political ideology on decision-makers and consequences for built environment practitioners in terms of policy decisions. Legal issues for firms and projects in the built environment with the focus on legislation, the use of standard form contracts JCT / NEC and dispute resolution methods including mediation, adjudication, arbitration and litigation with consideration to the RICS conflict avoidance pledge. The module will be delivered with a focus to ethical standards within all areas including the RICS code of conduct.

6c. Key Texts/Literature

The reading list to support this module is available at: <https://readinglists.aru.ac.uk/>

6d. Specialist Learning Resources

None

7. Learning Outcomes (threshold standards)		
No.	Type	On successful completion of this module the student will be expected to be able to:
1	Knowledge and Understanding	Critically evaluate macroeconomic and microeconomic issues and analyse their links with current events both political and economic.
2	Knowledge and Understanding	Demonstrate a detailed understanding and knowledge of law as applied to built environment firms.
3	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Synthesise and evaluate the current economic and political environment in which firms operate.
4	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Demonstrate application of law to particular scenarios, critically evaluating the effectiveness of the law applicable to the built environment and its development.

8a. Module Occurrence to which this MDF Refers				
Year	Occurrence	Period	Location	Mode of Delivery
2025/6	ZZF	Template For Face To Face Learning Delivery		Face to Face

8b. Learning Activities for the above Module Occurrence			
Learning Activities	Hours	Learning Outcomes	Details of Duration, frequency and other comments
Lectures	12	1,2	1 hour lecture per week 1 hour seminar/workshop per week 1 hour tutorial per week
Other teacher managed learning	24	1,2	1 hour lecture per week 1 hour seminar/workshop per week 1 hour tutorial per week
Student managed learning	114	1-4	Use of internet based source material
TOTAL:	150		

9. Assessment for the above Module Occurrence

Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
010	Examination Chelmsford	1-4	100 (%)	Fine Grade	40 (%)

Examination 2.5hrs

In order to pass this module, students are required to achieve an overall mark of 40% (for modules at levels 3, 4, 5 and 6) or 50% (for modules at level 7*).

In addition, students are required to:

- (a) achieve the qualifying mark for each element of fine graded assessment as specified above**
- (b) pass any pass/fail elements**

[* the pass mark of 50% applies for all module occurrences from the academic year 2024/25 – see Section 3a of this MDF to check the level of the module and Section 8a of this MDF to check the academic year]