



Module Definition Form (MDF)

Module code: MOD008467	Version: 4 Date Amended: 08/Sep/2023
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1. Module Title
English Legal System and Skills

2a. Module Leader
Kathryn Jones

2b. School
Faculty of Business Innovation and Entrepreneurship at ARU Peterborough

2c. Faculty
ARU Peterborough

3a. Level
4

3b. Module Type
Standard (fine graded)

4a. Credits
30

4b. Study Hours
300

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

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

6a. Module Description

You will be introduced to key concepts in English law and the skills you will need to be successful in the LLB and later use in your career.

The key theme running throughout the module is that law is dynamic, and the study skills are pervasive.

The concepts you will cover are, the sources of law and Statutory interpretation, the structure of the legal system, the civil legal system, the criminal legal system, access to justice, the future of law.

The transferable skills that you will obtain will be legal research (such as fact handling and case reading and Informational literacy), group working skills (such as advocacy and negotiation), enhanced communication skills (both written and oral), interviewing skills, digital and analysis skills.

6b. Outline Content

The Legal System of England and Wales and Sources of law

1. Common law system as a system of law,
2. Sources of law and law making,
3. The doctrine of precedent, statutory interpretation
4. The courts and its professionals: Criminal and civil law courts,
5. Mediation and alternative dispute resolution
6. Access to justice
7. Employability and careers with a law degree
8. The future: reasons and processes for reforming the law

Legal Skills

These are the pervasive skills needed as a lawyer used throughout the law course and for your employability to include:

1. Research, using good sources and critical thinking skills
2. Analysis, understanding law, principles, and rationale (reading cases and legal reasoning)
3. Applying law to real situations, linking the law, and arguing a case
4. Understand the theory and practice of skills for law including research, communication skills, writing, analysis, advocacy, interviewing and negotiation.
5. How to take an exam (i.e., in relation to coursework/essays, problem questions, exams) concisely in writing, conforming to the conventions of good academic practice, including referencing

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	Demonstrate a basic knowledge and understanding of the fundamental elements of the English Legal system, including the doctrine of precedent and the rules of statutory interpretation.
2	Knowledge and Understanding	Demonstrate an awareness of the pressures for change in the law and the legal system and the process for law reform.
3	Knowledge and Understanding	Understand the theory and practice of skills for law including research, writing, analysis, advocacy, interviewing and negotiation.
4	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Show reflective practice of own abilities and learning needs in relation to their career aspirations.
5	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Demonstrate the ability to locate and manage relevant legal material.
6	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Convey information clearly and concisely in writing, conforming to the conventions of good academic practice, including referencing

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	0	N/A	N/A
Other teacher managed learning	51	1-6	2 x 1 hour tutor led workshop OR 2 x 1 hour lectures x 12 weeks minimum (weeks 1-12) AND 2 x 1 hour student led workshop OR x 2 x 1 hour tutorial x 10 weeks minimum (weeks 2-11) PLUS 2 x twenty-minute screencasts x 10 weeks minimum (weeks 1-10, ACL modules only and excluding ARUL and SAM)
Student managed learning	249	1-6	To include such things as online discussion boards, VLE exercises, private study (guided and autonomous), tutorial preparation, assessment preparation and completion. This is adjusted if additional Teacher Managed Learning is used to ensure total 300 hours.
TOTAL:	300		

9. Assessment for the above Module Occurrence					
Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
010	Coursework	1-6	100 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)
Component 010_1 Assessed Piece to support skills for main assessment (max 500 words) Component 010_2 A Report (equivalent of up to 3000 words) on an aspect of the English Legal System and that employs various legal skills					

Assessment components for Element 010				
Component No.	Assessment Title	Submission Method	Weighting (%)	Components needed for Mark Calculation?
010/1	Assessed Piece to support skills for main assessment (max 500 words)	Canvas	20 (%)	All
010/2	Report (up to 3000 words)	Canvas	80 (%)	

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]