



Module Definition Form (MDF)

Module code: MOD008476	Version: 2 Date Amended: 24/Feb/2022
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1. Module Title
Criminal Litigation

2a. Module Leader
Kathryn Jones

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

2c. Faculty
ARU Peterborough

3a. Level
6

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:			

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

6a. Module Description

You'll cover basic law and procedures involved in acting in a criminal case. You'll look at interviewing a client and taking instructions in relation to a criminal charge. Your work will be based on a case study, starting with the arrest of a client and continuing through caution, practice and procedure in the police station and the test for charging. This will include police powers of arrest and search and the rights of the person detained in the police station. You'll cover the professional conduct aspects of attending at the police station and of conducting the case to its conclusion, as well as costs and funding. Post charge, you'll cover the first court appearance, including bail and pleas, before moving on to taking further instructions, building a defence case, practical application of evidence and trial venue, followed by summary trial. As a hands-on practical module, you'll work on your interviewing, negotiation and drafting skills to think practically and commercially, having a regard for the reality of cost effective criminal defence work.

6b. Outline Content

- Students need to understand how to analyse the component parts of a criminal charge and what the prosecution must prove in respect of each element to justify charging. They must similarly be able to weigh the strength of the evidence and advise as to the prospect of conviction.
- Students have to be able to understand and complete all the relevant practical and procedural steps in a criminal matter in relation to a guilty or not guilty plea.
- Police Powers of arrest and search
- Cautions
- Police powers and duties at the police station
- Detained persons rights at the police station
- Taking instructions and funding
- Criminal Procedure Rules
- Full Code Test for charging
- First appearance at the Magistrates Court
- Bail
- Article 6, ECHR
- Practical evidence
- Disclosure and defence statements
- Procedure at trial
- Plea in mitigation

6c. Key Texts/Literature

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

6d. Specialist Learning Resources

The following websites are important:

Court Service website - www.hmcourts-service.gov.uk/

Ministry of Justice website - www.justice.gov.uk/

Magistrates Court Sentencing Guidelines www.jsb.co.uk Legal Services Commission www.legalservices.gov.uk

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 detailed knowledge and understanding of particular aspects of the criminal law, and a clear, practical understanding of the role of the Criminal Procedure Rules and how they apply to the prosecution and defence of a criminal charge.
2	Knowledge and Understanding	Demonstrate awareness and understanding of professional conduct matters relevant to criminal litigation, and the need to act professionally with regards to the client, the court and third parties. when acting for a defendant in a criminal matter
3	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Identify, assess, analyse and evaluate legal and factual information arising from commonly occurring scenarios, so as to identify the basis and likely success of a basic criminal claim, and to be able to advise and act on behalf of the defendant in criminal proceedings
4	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Demonstrate the commercial awareness that is needed to conduct criminal defence work where the work is publicly or privately funded.

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	23	1-4	1 hour tutor led workshop OR 1 hour lecture x 10 weeks (weeks 1-10) AND 1 hour student led workshop OR 1 hour tutorial x 10 weeks minimum (weeks 2-11) PLUS 1 x twenty-minute screencasts x 10 weeks minimum (weeks 1-10, ACL modules only and excluding ARUL and SAM)
Student managed learning	127	1-4	To include such things as engaging 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 150 hours.
TOTAL:	150		

9. Assessment for the above Module Occurrence					
Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
010	Coursework	1-4	100 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)
Coursework: Up to 3000 words.					

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]