

Module code: MOD008563	Version: 6 Date Amended: 03/Nov/2025
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1. Module Title
English Legal System and Skills

2a. Module Leader
Caroline Allison

2b. School
School of Economics, Finance and Law

2c. Faculty
Faculty of Business and Law

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	Identify and describe the legal framework, including rules, principles, doctrines, institutions, processes and procedures and or institutions relating to the English legal system, and recognise how they interrelate within and broader social, political, commercial, ethical and other contexts in balancing interests in society;
2	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Identify and summarise relevant legal materials relating to the English legal system, recognising different perspectives and beginning to analyse areas of uncertainty and ambiguity in legal content;
3	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Apply basic legal understanding to straightforward scenarios, outlining reasoned solutions that reflect core legal principles and simple practical implications;
4	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Communicate legal information and arguments with basic structure and clarity, demonstrating clear expression and accurate use of academic conventions, including introductory OSCOLA referencing and bibliography;
5	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Identify individual strengths, areas for improvement, and describe the influence of one's actions on outcomes, demonstrating emerging self-awareness, and the ability to recognise insights for future academic or professional contexts;
6	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Use digital tools, including AI technologies where permitted, to locate and present academic information, showing basic understanding of ethical and appropriate use in a legal research context;

8a. Module Occurrence to which this MDF Refers				
Year	Occurrence	Period	Location	Mode of Delivery
2026/7	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	47.5	1-6	2 x 1 hour tutor led workshop OR 2 x 1 hour lecture x 11 weeks (weeks 1-11) AND 2 x 1 hour student led workshop OR 2 x 1 hour tutorial x 11 weeks (weeks 1-11) PLUS 2 x 20min screencast x 10 weeks
Student managed learning	252.5	1-6	To include such things as watching screencasts, online discussion boards, VLE exercises, private study (guided and autonomous), tutorial preparation, assessment preparation and completion.
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]