



Module Definition Form (MDF)

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| Module code: MOD008573 | Version: 2 Date Amended: 24/Feb/2022 |
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| 1. Module Title |
| Criminal Litigation |

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| 2a. Module Leader |
| Jane Martin |

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| 2b. School |
| School of Economics, Finance and Law |

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| 2c. Faculty |
| Faculty of Business and Law |

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| 3a. Level |
| 6 |

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| 3b. Module Type |
| Standard (fine graded) |

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| 4a. Credits |
| 15 |

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| 4b. Study Hours |
| 150 |

| 5. Restrictions | | | |
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| Type | Module Code | Module Name | Condition |
| 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 | Critically evaluate how legal rules, doctrines, institutions, and processes in criminal litigation (including the Magistrates' Courts) interrelate within and across complex social, political, commercial, and ethical contexts in balancing societal interests; |
| 2 | Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills | Critically evaluate and synthesise legal materials relating to criminal litigation (including the Magistrates' Courts), addressing complex legal uncertainty and justifying interpretations of competing views and approaches; |
| 3 | Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills | Strategically apply and evaluate legal understanding to complex or ambiguous scenarios, and develop sophisticated solutions that integrate legal reasoning with practical, ethical, and policy implications; |
| 4 | Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills | Communicate complex legal arguments persuasively and precisely, using critically informed structure and expression, and consistently adhering to professional standards, including accurate and comprehensive use of OSCOLA referencing and bibliography. |

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 | | | |
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| Learning Activities | Hours | Learning Outcomes | Details of Duration, frequency and other comments |
| Lectures | 0 | N/A | N/A |
| Other teacher managed learning | 25.5 | 1-4 | 1 x 1 hour tutor led workshop OR 1 x 1 hour lecture x 11 weeks (weeks 1-11) AND 1 x 1 hour student led workshop OR 1 x 1 hour tutorial x 11 weeks (weeks 1-11) PLUS 1 x 20min screencast x 10 weeks |
| Student managed learning | 124.5 | 1-4 | To include such things as watching screencasts, online discussion boards, VLE exercises, private study (guided and autonomous), tutorial preparation, assessment preparation and completion. |
| 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]