Module Definition Form (MDF)

Module code: MOD008577	**Version:** 5 **Date Amended:** 03/Nov/2025

1. Module Title
Undergraduate Major Project in Law (Dissertation)

2a. Module Leader
Alicia Virtue

2b. School
School of Economics, Finance and Law

2c. Faculty
Faculty of Business and Law

3a. Level
6

3b. Module Type
Project or dissertation (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:	LLB (Hons) Law BA (Hons) Legal Studies		

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

6a. Module Description

This module will provide you with the opportunity to examine a real-life, current legal issue and undertake a theoretically informed analysis, resulting in recommendations and considering the practical implications for implementing these recommendations.

Drawing on knowledge, skills and tools gained from across your programme of study, you will undertake a secondary research project to critically assess a legal issue and formulate recommendations for practice. You will engage with relevant literature to identify, examine, analyse, interpret and synthesise relevant data from multiple sources.

6b. Outline Content

This independent research project offers you the chance to choose your own topic aligned with your interests and aspirations. It serves as a platform for showcasing your mastery of the skills you've developed during your degree, including the ability to learn, conduct research, critically assess information, solve problems, communicate effectively, maintain precision and credibility in your work and most importantly to do so autonomously. It is also an excellent employability tool to demonstrate to future employers your interest in a particular area of law.

This module has four briefing sessions and a range of research training screencasts. You will also be allocated a dedicated supervisor to assist with your Major Project and will have 4 hours of individual supervision. The role of the supervisor is to assist you by providing advice and guidance on how to prepare, produce and improve your dissertation, e.g. guidance on the clarity and coherence of your arguments, the overall structure of your paper, the feasibility of your chosen topic.

6c. Key Texts/Literature

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

6d. Specialist Learning Resources

As appropriate to the nature and field of study.

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 a legal issue of your choice 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 a legal issue of your choice, 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;
5	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Deliver persuasive and critically informed arguments, adapt tone, structure, and content for different audiences, and respond effectively to challenge in academic or professional contexts;
6	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Formulate and critically evaluate an independent research topic for law reform, assessing its academic relevance and demonstrating critical awareness of context, methodology, and appropriate scope through the design of a focused and well-structured enquiry.

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	4	1-6	Briefing Sessions
Other teacher managed learning	7	1-6	4 hours of individual supervision as arranged by the student. 3 x 1 hour support sessions
Student managed learning	289	1-6	Proposal/hypothesis formulation, research, preparation of draft, writing and submission of final project.
TOTAL:	300		

9. Assessment for the above Module Occurrence

The assessment for some modules includes a presentation (see below for details on how this particular module is assessed). We recognise that presenting, especially to a large group, can cause significant anxiety or distress for some students. If this may affect you, please contact your Module Leader or the Disability and Neurodiversity Service as early as possible. We will work with you to consider appropriate reasonable adjustments. Depending on your individual needs, these might include, for example, presenting to a smaller group or presenting only to a member of academic staff.

Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
010	Coursework	1-6	100 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)

Poster Presentation and Written Report

Assessment components for Element 010				
Component No.	**Assessment Title**	**Submission Method**	**Weighting (%)**	**Components needed for Mark Calculation?**
010/1	Individual poster presentation of an abstract (maximum 10 minute questions)	Canvas	20 (%)	All
010/2	Substantial written report (maximum 8,000 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]