

Module code: MOD008584	Version: 3 Date Amended: 05/May/2026
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1. Module Title
Competition Law in the International Context

2a. Module Leader
Alicia Virtue

2b. School
School of Economics, Finance and Law

2c. Faculty
Faculty of Business and Law

3a. Level
7

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

Knowledge of the legal regulation of competition is a key tool for anyone involved in businesses operating in a global context. The aim of this module is to examine the purposes and theory of competition law and its relationship to economics, including comparison between EU and US anti-trust law.

A substantial component of the module considers the extent to which the law operates to regulate the market behaviour of businesses. This is put in the context of the growing internationalisation of competition law. Increasingly, businesses are operating internationally, making cooperation between competition authorities essential. A number of case studies with an international dimension will be included.

An examination of EU competition law will provide a practical understanding of the framework of competition law and its enforcement. Not only is Europe a major global market, but EU competition law reaches beyond Europe and may act to prohibit activities (such as mergers between undertakings) which take place outside the EU. Consideration is given to the impact of the law on business practices such as cartels, abuse of a dominant position, distribution agreements, joint ventures and mergers.

6b. Outline Content

- The aims of competition regulation
- Theories of competition; relevant aspects of US antitrust law
- The EU competition rules relating to cartels, abuse of a dominant position, distribution agreements and mergers
- The internationalisation of competition law; extraterritoriality and international cooperation.

6c. Key Texts/Literature

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

6d. Specialist Learning Resources

- European Union www.europa.eu/
- US Department of Justice Antitrust Division <http://www.usdoj.gov/atr/>
- World Trade Organisation http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/comp_e/comp_e.htm
- International Competition Network <http://www.internationalcompetitionnetwork.org/>
- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development <http://www.unctad.org>

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 and synthesise legal frameworks, principles, doctrines, institutions, and processes relevant to Competition Law in the International Context and assess how they interact and evolve across complex and contested social, political, commercial, and ethical contexts.
2	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Critically analyse and interrogate a range of legal materials, theories, and perspectives relevant to Competition Law in the International Context, identifying ambiguity, conflict, and potential reform, and developing original interpretations grounded in legal reasoning.
3	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Apply and evaluate complex legal principles to novel, interdisciplinary, or ambiguous scenarios, creating solutions that show creative and original insight, and integrate legal analysis with broader policy, ethical, and contextual dimensions.
4	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Produce sophisticated and critically structured legal arguments tailored to academic or professional audiences, communicating with precision, originality, and authority, and adhering to advanced academic and professional standards.

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	25	1-4	Tutor Led Workshop (TLW): 1 x 1-hour TLW x 11 weeks (Teaching Weeks 1-11) AND Student Led Workshop (SLW): 1 x 1-hour SLW x 11 weeks (Teaching Weeks 1-11) PLUS Screencast: 1 x 20min x 10 weeks (Teaching Weeks 1-10)
Student managed learning	125	1-4	To include such things as watching screencasts, online discussion boards, VLE exercises and activities, private study, workshop 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	40 (%)
Up to 3000 words. An assessment task requiring the students to analyse and evaluate areas of law covered in learning outcomes 1-4.					

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]
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