

Module code: MOD011443	Version: 1 Date Amended: 17/Apr/2026
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1. Module Title
Data Protection, Digital Law and Privacy Law

2a. Module Leader
Rohan Kariyawasam

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

In this module, you will examine the legal, ethical, and regulatory principles that govern data protection, digital technologies, and privacy in a global context. You will explore how law responds to technological innovation, digital communication, artificial intelligence, and the growing economic and societal value of data.

You will analyse key legal frameworks such as the UK GDPR and international instruments, alongside comparative approaches in other jurisdictions. The module considers emerging norms relating to cross-border data flows, digital governance, cybersecurity, and the intersection of privacy, human rights, and commercial interests.

Through case studies and current debates, you will critically evaluate how law, ethics, and governance interact to manage risks and promote accountability in the digital environment. By the end of the module, you will be able to apply complex legal principles to contemporary issues involving data processing, surveillance, algorithmic decision-making, and privacy protection in a connected world.

6b. Outline Content

- Foundations of Data Protection and Privacy: Historical development, concepts, and philosophical justifications.
- Legal and Regulatory Frameworks
- Principles of Data Processing
- Rights of Data Subjects and Enforcement Mechanisms
- Obligations of Controllers and Processors
- Cross-Border Data Transfers and International Compliance
- Privacy, Surveillance, and Cybersecurity
- Technology and Emerging Challenges
- Ethics, Risk and Future Directions in Digital Regulation

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	Critically evaluate and synthesise the legal and regulatory frameworks, principles, doctrines, institutions, and processes governing data protection, digital governance, and privacy, assessing how these interact and evolve within 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 relating to data, digital technologies, and privacy, identifying ambiguity, tension, and opportunities for reform, and developing original interpretations grounded in advanced legal reasoning.
3	Knowledge and Understanding	Apply and evaluate complex legal and regulatory principles to novel, interdisciplinary, and ambiguous scenarios, formulating innovative and well-justified solutions that integrate legal analysis with broader policy, ethical, and technological considerations
4	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Produce sophisticated and critically structured legal arguments tailored to academic or professional audiences in written form, 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 (%)
Case study application of substantive law and critical evaluation of the effectiveness of the legal framework Wordcount: Maximum 3000					

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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