1. **Title of the module**

LAWS9191 / LAWS9193 (LW9191): Legal Research and Writing Skills 1

1. **School or partner institution which will be responsible for management of the module**

Kent Law School

1. **The level of the module (e.g. Level 4, Level 5, Level 6 or Level 7)**

Level 7

1. **The number of credits and the ECTS value which the module represents**

2 credits (1 ECTS Credit) – non-contributory

1. **Which term(s) the module is to be taught in (or other teaching pattern)**

Autumn or Spring

1. **Prerequisite and co-requisite modules**

Co-requisite LAWS9192 / LAWS9194

1. **The programmes of study to which the module contributes**

Compulsory for students on the LLM in (Specialisation); LLM in Law; PG Diploma in (Specialisation) and PG Certificate in Law.

1. **The intended subject specific learning outcomes.  
   On successfully completing the module students will be able to:**
   1. Carry out advanced legal research by effectively locating and using primary and secondary legal and other relevant sources at the national and international level (both paper and electronic);
   2. Plan, structure, write up and edit a research project in a defined area of law;
   3. Use a range of advanced research skills in law.
2. **The intended generic learning outcomes.  
   On successfully completing the module students will be able to:**
   1. Apply the intellectual skills required for producing creative and original research;
   2. Demonstrate advanced editing skills;
   3. Demonstrate advanced critical writing skills.
3. **A synopsis of the curriculum**

This first extracurricular module provides an introduction to the legal research and writing skills required to carry out research at Masters level, bearing in mind the international character of our LLM student body. This may include an introduction to the English Legal System (particularly important for international students); a session on the various traditions of Critical Legal Thinking; a session on researching and writing for an LLM essay (particularly important for international students); plagiarism; oral skills; and workshops on using REFWORKS, OSCOLA and other library resources.

1. **Reading list (Indicative list, current at time of publication. Reading lists will be published annually)**
   * + - W.C. Booth, *The Craft of Research* (University of Chicago Press, 2009)
       - P. Cane and HM. Kritzer (ed), The Oxford Handbook of Empirical Legal Research (Oxford University Press, 2010)
       - H. Carr et al, *Skills for Law Students* (Oxford University Press, 2009)
       - M. Davies, *Asking the Law Question* (Lawbook Co., 2008)
       - S. Hanson, *Legal Method, Skills and Reasoning 3rd Ed.* (Routledge-Cavendish, 2010)
       - JM. Smits, *Mind and Method of the Legal Academic* (Edward-Elgar Publishing, 2012)
       - W. Twining and D. Miers, *How to Do Things with Rules* (Butterworths, 1999)
       - D. Watkins and M. Burton, *Research Methods in Law* (Routledge, 2013)
2. **Learning and teaching methods**

**September students (LAWS9191):**

Contact hours: 14

Private study hours: 6

Total hours: 20

**January students (LAWS9193):**

Private study hours: 20

January students will access the module via e-learning and will be provided with access to the recordings of the lecture/workshops. There will be a group forum on Moodle where students will be encouraged to discuss issues with their peers. The forum will be monitored by the course convenor.

1. **Assessment methods.**

The modules will be assessed on a pass/fail basis.

* 1. **Main assessment methods**

**September students (LAWS9191):**

Students who attend the lectures/workshops and participate in the group discussion will be deemed to have met the learning outcomes of the module. Students will fail the module if they miss two or more of the lectures/workshops. Where there are legitimate reasons for non-attendance, the convenor will permit students to write a 250-word reflective summary for any other missed sessions. Non-submission of the reflective summaries for the missed sessions will result in failure of the module. Where there are no legitimate reasons for non-attendance, students will be required to submit a 1000-word essay which demonstrates their understanding of the material covered on the module as a whole. Non-submission of this essay will result in failure of the module.

**January students (LAWS9193):**

Due to their engagement with the module via e-learning, all January students are required to submit a 250-word reflective summary per session for at least five sessions to demonstrate their achievement of the module learning outcomes. Non-submission of at least five reflective summaries will result in failure of the module.

* 1. **Re-assessment methods**

100% coursework for both September and January students.

1. **Map of module learning outcomes (sections 8 & 9) to learning and teaching methods (section 12) and methods of assessment (section 13)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Module learning outcome** | 8.1 | 8.2 | 8.3 | 9.1 | 9.2 | 9.3 |
| **Learning / teaching method** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Lecture/workshops | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Private Study | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| **Assessment method** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Attendance and participation | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Retrieval essay (if required) | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| January students |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Reflective summaries | X | X | X | X | X | X |

1. The School recognises and has embedded the expectations of current equality legislation, by ensuring that the module is as accessible as possible by design. Additional alternative arrangements for students with Inclusive Learning Plans (ILPs)/declared disabilities will be made on an individual basis, in consultation with the relevant policies and support services.

The inclusive practices in the guidance (see Annex B Appendix A) have been considered in order to support all students in the following areas:

**a) Accessible resources and curriculum**

* 1. Preference will be given to electronic resources that meet minimum accessibility standards and support the use of assistive technologies.
  2. Module outlines will be made accessible before the module starts.
  3. Prioritised reading lists will be made available sufficiently in advance to accommodate the provision of alternative formats and support those with a slow reading speed.
  4. Lecture/seminar slides/outlines will be made available in electronic format in advance to allow all students to prepare (particularly students with notetaking difficulties).
  5. Lecture capture will be used to assist notetaking.

**b) Learning, teaching and assessment methods**

The inclusive practices in the guidance (Annex B Appendix A, section b(1) and (2)) have all been considered in order to support all students in their assessments on this module.

1. **Campus(es) or centre(s) where module will be delivered:**

Canterbury

1. **Internationalisation**

The aim of this module is to develop students’ abilities to carry independent legal research and writing skills that can be transposed to different subjects and different countries, hence students will develop skills that will be of a global reach. With regard to the intended learning outcomes, in particular 8.3, 9.1, 9.2 and 9.3, the target learning outcomes within this module are applicable internationally as they aim to develop students’ abilities to critically assess a legal framework (whether national or international) and to develop an independent research project. With regard to subject content, the material within the syllabus has been developed by academics from different background and nationalities for British and non-British students and take into consideration international legal development in the discipline. The reading list has reference to international research. The aim of the module is to address the needs of international students and to provide them with global skills (critical thinking, independent research and advanced writing/editing of their work) that will enable them to become global citizens who will be principled decision-maker with a broader understanding of the social and political life of their community.

**FACULTIES SUPPORT OFFICE USE ONLY**

**Revision record – all revisions must be recorded in the grid and full details of the change retained in the appropriate committee records.**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date approved | Major/minor revision | Start date of the delivery of revised version | Section revised | Impacts PLOs (Q6 & 7 cover sheet) |
| 23/01/2018 | Major | September 2018 | 7, 12, 13, 14 |  |
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