

Module Details	
Module Title	Regulation of Financial Technologies and Virtual Assets
Module Code	LAW7078-B
Academic Year	2023/4
Credits	20
School	School of Law
FHEQ Level	FHEQ Level 7

Contact Hours	
Type	Hours
Seminars	32
Directed Study	168

Availability	
Occurrence	Location / Period
BDA	University of Bradford / Semester 2

Module Aims
<p>The aim of the module is to introduce students to the legal frameworks and principles for regulating FinTech and virtual Assets. The law in these areas is emerging and the students will be able to engage with ongoing legal developments, issues and debates. The module covers key areas of FinTech and Virtual Assets.</p> <p>This module is an important element of the LLM Technology and Artificial Intelligence Law programme because fintech and virtual assets are examples of industrial sectors where advanced innovative technologies are being used and legal responses are emerging; part of the LLM International Banking and Financial Technology Law programme, which covers regulation of one of the industries where fintech and virtual assets operate; part of the LLM International Corporate Law and Governance programme because fintech and virtual assets are used to facilitate corporate financial transactions; part of the LLM international Commercial Law, due to the fintech's significance for transactions in electronic commerce covered by the programme; and part of the LLM International Legal Studies as one of the significant modern areas of legal study that students could explore.</p> <p>This module is also suitable for any other postgraduate programme where knowledge of the regulation of fintech and virtual assets can contribute to the achievement of the programme aims.</p>

Outline Syllabus

Selection from one of the following indicative topics:

- Fintech: introduction and main markets.
- The regulation of crowdfunding and crowdlending.
- The regulation of Fintech payments.
- The regulation of Insurtech
- Roboadvisors: legal issues and debates
- The role of regtech Virtual assets: definition and main types and features.
- The regulation of distributed ledger technology and blockchain
- The regulation of Bitcoin and related assets
- The regulation of Stablecoins and Initial Coin Offerings
- Money laundering and terrorist financing issues
- Central Bank Digital Currencies: legal issues and debates.
- Development of a range of transferable skills such as independent study, effective written and oral communication and problem solving.

Learning Outcomes

Outcome Number	Description
1	Demonstrate comprehensive knowledge at a practical and theoretical level of the national and international context in which financial technologies and virtual assets operate.
2	Analyse and critically evaluate the underlying philosophy and legal principles underpinning the regulatory frameworks for Fintech and Virtual Assets and of the main applicable rules.
3	Apply the existing legal principles and frameworks to provide legal solutions to practical problems and to advise clients.
4	Demonstrate initiative and independence in systematic academic inquiry, using relevant techniques to gather, evaluate and manage evidence, data and information from appropriate sources.
5	Generate clear, concise and coherent communication orally and in writing in which style, scope and depth are appropriate to task, purpose and audience, whether working independently or as a group.

Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy

The module uses 32 hours of workshops delivered over 12 weeks to support learning and achievement. The workshops will address the key ethical issues, contributing factors and legal concepts and frameworks related to data protection and privacy law and will include a set of structured learning activities (eg, discussion of pre-read academic materials) that 'scaffold' the learning.

The workshops will also include tasks and discussions on practical aspects of law and ethics, areas of reform and opportunities for further study and self-study.

The learning process is a mix of directed and independent study.

Initially you will be directed to study the topics selected by the module team through the provision to you on the virtual learning environment of relevant materials (lecture slides, reading lists etc). The aim of the directed part of the study will be to introduce you to the fundamental legal concepts and principles of the subject area and of relevant learning resources.

Then you will be guided to study the subjects more broadly and independently with the module team setting in the weekly activities research and other tasks, such as search for solution to real life problems and for legal advice to clients, which require independent research and study by you. independent legal research requires drawing on variety of both primary and secondary materials and written and oral presentations by you. It also requires development of legal arguments and evaluations personal to you.

The weekly interaction in class will facilitate written and oral communication with the student and the lecturer through discussion of legal issues and debates.

Oral feedback will be given in the class and opportunities for written feedback will be provided. Tutors will be available to meet you individually (face-to-face or online) if requested to discuss further feedback opportunities and review your progress. Formative assessment will be made available to help you better prepare for the summative assessment.

The assessment will test your knowledge and understanding of theoretical perspectives of the law and your ability to use theory to provide solutions to real world problems. It will include the submission of a written research report of 4,000 words on a law topic or combination of topics covered by the module. The purpose of the assessment will be to offer, based on your own independent research, a critical account and evaluation of a contemporary legal problem, concept, theory, framework or significant court case about fintech and virtual assets. The report should contain a critical account of up to 500 words where you will have to explain and evaluate the learning process which you followed in order to complete the coursework and meet the learning outcomes which will be included in the overall 4000 word submission. There will be elements of formative assessment which will support your development towards the final summative assessment. A dedicated session on module revision, assessment criteria and assessment preparation will be offered.

The assessment will is suitable to help students to achieve all the learning outcomes of the module and will facilitate the achievement of the learning outcomes of the relevant LLM programmes as follows:

- LLM Technology and Artificial Intelligence Law: LOs 1-3, 6-8, 10.
- LLM International Corporate Law and Governance: LOs 1-5,8.
- LLM International Banking and Financial Technology Law: LOs 1-5, 8.
- LLM international Commercial Law, LOs 1-5, 7,8.

Mode of Assessment

Type	Method	Description	Weighting
Summative	Coursework - Written	Written research report on a law topic or combination of topics covered by the module (4000 words)	100%

Reading List

To access the reading list for this module, please visit <https://bradford.rl.talis.com/index.html>

Please note:

This module descriptor has been published in advance of the academic year to which it applies. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information is accurate at the time of publication, but minor changes may occur given the interval between publishing and commencement of teaching. Upon commencement of the module, students will receive a handbook with further detail about the module and any changes will be discussed and/or communicated at this point.

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