

Module Details	
Module Title	Foundations of Law and Skills (DL)
Module Code	LAW6029-Z
Academic Year	2024/5
Credits	N/A
School	School of Law
FHEQ Level	FHEQ Level 6

Contact Hours	
Type	Hours
Project Supervision	20
Directed Study	80

Availability	
Occurrence	Location / Period
DLA	University of Bradford / Semester 1
DLA	University of Bradford / Semester 2

Module Aims

This module is part of the induction to all the LLM programmes of the School of Law. The aim is to provide an introduction to the English and International Legal Systems, the institutions and sources of Law, as well as key academic skills, including research, critical thinking and analytical skills and encourage participative, independent and reflective learning and the development of personal and professional skills.

The Foundations of Law and Skills (FLS) module is compulsory to all students who are joining a LLM programme and is particularly useful to you if you have not previously studied law or you have come from a non-common law background. The module will equip you with knowledge of sources and institutions in English and international law, which is essential for the successful completion of the LLM programme.

The module aims to provide students with an understanding of both substantive and procedural aspects of English and international law instruments, examining their sources, principles, and elements. The module provides students with skills to conduct and evaluate research and advanced scholarship in all aspects of the LLM programmes. This includes the capacity to evaluate existing theories and methodologies and, where appropriate, propose new hypotheses in different fields.

The module helps students to develop the ability to work with their knowledge of legal principles and apply them to new situations in order to arrive at imaginative and innovative solutions and interpretations.

It aims to support students to develop excellent communication skills including writing and legal research skills commensurate with LLM level study and advanced scholarship.

The module will examine based on sets of multiple-choice questions (MCQs) to encourage students to reflect on the nature, function, sources and institutions of English and International Law, as well as the application of the law in different contexts.

The FLS module is mandatory, this means that the module is compulsory for all students who wish to undertake any of the LLM postgraduate programmes. Without attempting this module an award of an LLM Postgraduate degree will not be possible.

Outline Syllabus

Topics to be covered will include:

- introduction to common law systems and to international law.
- Sources of English law and of international law.
- The structure of English courts.
- Introduction to key international courts and their jurisdiction.
- Essentials of legal analysis (legal research methods, critical evaluation, analysis of legislation and case law etc).

Learning Outcomes

Outcome Number	Description
01	Explain and discuss the key features and doctrines of common law and international law.
02	Explain the structure and functions of English courts and of significant international courts.
03	Understand the sources of English and international law.
04	Understand and analyse the essential elements of legal analysis.
05	Apply acquired knowledge to develop sound legal arguments.
06	Learn about your mode of studies (in-person or distance learning education) and the use of relevant learning technologies to support them.

Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy

Learning will be supported through pre-recorded online presentations that can be assessed at any time. This module is assessed through a closed book test. The test will contain a list of multiple choice questions (MCQs).

The FLS module utilises a practice test at the end to establish a baseline of knowledge to target additional support.

All students must attempt the main test.

If a student fails the test, a learning support plan will be put in place to ensure the student is able to meet the learning outcomes by the end of the semester.

The learning materials and activities cover the underlying theory and consider issues of

- critical evaluation of the sources and institutions of English law through a combination practical questions and case studies on courts and international institutions for settlement of disputes
- requires independent legal research drawing on variety of both
- primary and secondary materials on basic research skills relevant at the postgraduate level
- oral feedback is given in class.
- revision and drop-in sessions are organised dates, times and venues are announced on canvas

A practice test will be made available to help you better prepare for the final exam/assessment. An online module manual provides an outline of the module structure, content, learning and teaching strategy and assessment format.

The manual is complemented by more detailed study guides which provide guidance on weekly topics for study and contain the learning materials (pre-recorded lectures, slides, tutorial tasks, self-study tasks) the reading lists, and other useful information for each week.

Learning will be directed, supported and reinforced through catch-up/revision sessions.

All teaching will be supported by information supplied on the virtual learning space, Canvas.

The module is assessed by a practice test and main exam. Students will provide answers to sets of multiple choice questions (MCQs) This will provide evidence that can be used to assess students' understanding and/or ability to analyse and synthesize information.

Mode of Assessment			
Type	Method	Description	Weighting
Summative	Attendance requirement	Attendance/attempt of the main Test (1 hour) (Pass/Fail)	100%
Formative		A practice closed-book test (60 minutes) aimed at establishing a baseline of student knowledge. 1 hour	N/A

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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