

Module Specification

Module Summary Information

1	Module Title	Independent Research Project
2	Module Credits	20
3	Module Level	7
4	Module Code	GDL7005

5	Module Overview
<p>The Independent Research Project is a core module on the programme. This module enables you to pursue a detailed study of a particular topic within a field of law or jurisprudence (the theory or principles behind the law) that is of particular interest to you where the School of Law has expertise. The module accommodates the specific requirement of the professional bodies of one other area of legal study, in addition to the study of the seven foundations of legal knowledge which must be successfully completed by anyone wanting to proceed to the next stage of training for entry into the legal profession.</p> <p>The module enables you to explore key aspects of legal scholarship and provides you with insight into and practice in core skills of academic legal writing and composition of sustained argument and analysis. It provides scope for you to explore policy or doctrinal debate within a particular field of law in subjects outside the Foundations of Legal Knowledge. The Independent Research Project offers you an opportunity to demonstrate an ability to research and analyse detailed material, to work closely with a variety of sources, to apply reasoning skills, and to set concepts, rules and propositions in a particular context. The module is a strong contributor to preparation for Dissertation writing in the Masters stage of the programme.</p> <p>The aim of this optional module is to foster legal research skills and legal scholarship in a context of independent and self-motivated learning. In accordance with the practice-led, knowledge applied philosophy of the programme, the Independent Research Project enables you to explore substantive rules of English law in your chosen area of research in a political, historical, global, economic or institutional context. In accordance with the interdisciplinary and internationalising philosophy of the programme, the Independent Research Project provides an opportunity to foster your critical understanding of law in its relation to law-connected disciplines and to analyse law in the context of contemporary, social, cultural and economic factors within local, national or international contexts.</p> <p>The Independent Research Project is employability-driven in that it will prepare you to undertake law, jurisprudence or policy research in an employment environment. The independent project focuses on self-sustained research grounding you in the skills of planning, organising, drafting and constructing a viable research project – transferable skills for professional or academic work in or around a variety of disciplines.</p> <p>Learning is primarily self-driven with supervision by academic staff. You will be supported by initial teaching sessions focused on guiding you through fundamental aspects of the Independent Research Project process. There is a series of 1 hour face-to-face meetings with the relevant Independent Research Project supervisor, distributed throughout the Module to help facilitate and monitor your progress, and to give you feedback on how your research is developing.</p>	

6	Indicative Content
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to write a research proposal • Setting aims & objectives • What is extended writing? • Legal research • OSCOLA Referencing and the bibliography • Critical Analysis

7	Module Learning Outcomes		
	On successful completion of the module, students will be able to:		
	1	Critically investigate and appraise an area of law, policy or jurisprudence in detail using an appropriate range of research resources.	
	2	Construct a coherent and sustained scholarly argument through a piece of academic writing on the chosen area of law, policy or jurisprudence.	
	3	Critically analyse and evaluate norms, arguments, or concepts in the chosen area of law, policy or jurisprudence.	
	4	Present a scholarly analysis of the chosen area of law, policy or jurisprudence in a format compliant with OSCOLA.	

8	Module Assessment		
Learning Outcome			
	Coursework	Exam	In-Person
1 - 4	X		

9	Breakdown Learning and Teaching Activities	
Learning Activities	Hours	
Scheduled Learning (SL) includes lectures, practical classes and workshops, peer group learning, Graduate+, as specified in timetable	18	
Directed Learning (DL) includes placements, work-based learning, external visits, on-line activity, Graduate+, peer learning, as directed on VLE	24	
Private Study (PS) includes preparation for exams	158	
Total Study Hours:	200	