

Module Specification

Module Summary Information

1	Module Title	Human Rights and the Environment
2	Module Credits	20
3	Module Level	7
4	Module Code	LAW7134

5	Module Overview
<p>This module examines the relationship between human rights and the rights of the environment. At a time when the effects of climate change are increasingly compromising the realisation of human rights a module such as this is essential to demonstrate the inter-dependence of environmental quality and human well-being. The module will analyse the feasibility of creating rights for a non-legal entity and the extent to which the rights of the environment have already been developed “on the back of” specifically human rights (such as the right to family life). In addition, the potential for conflict between individual human rights and the wider public interest in a clean environment will be analysed in detail.</p> <p>Any course in human rights must be delivered within a political and economic context; and the conflict between economic imperatives and the right to economic development and environmental protection will be examined in depth. The emphasis of the module will be on the international, global aspects of human and environmental rights rather than the domestic situation as such, though it will be essential to examine the way in which international obligations are discharged in domestic jurisdictions. The module will concentrate particularly on the effects of climate change adaptation and mitigation measures and how these have the potential to influence human rights, especially rights to property, life, health and family life. This module is jointly delivered on the LLM International Human Rights and the MA/LLM in Planning law. Thus there will be an emphasis on land use decisions as a vehicle for exploring the principles described below.</p> <p>This module is interdisciplinary in the way it evaluates the legal issues in the context of politics and economic development, and planning.</p> <p>This module will be delivered through face-to-face teaching and VLE provision On campus students will attend weekly student-led/tutor-facilitated seminars and complete various activities. Distance learning students will complete weekly VLE activities. Employability skills are promoted through the use of debate and presentation skills in the delivery of the module, to encourage you to use a broad range of communication skills in their learning.</p> <p>The international focus of this module is in line with the programme aim of internationalisation.</p>	

6	Indicative Content
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rights in general and rights in and for the environment • Can the environment be a legal entity in its own right? • Enforcement of human and environmental rights compared • Environmental rights as human rights • The development of environmental rights – the international dimension • The development of environmental rights – the regional and local dimension and post-Brexit considerations • Conflict between human rights and environmental protection • The emergence of ‘green-on-green’ rights conflicts • Comparison of different countries’ approaches to human rights and environmental protection • Environmental justice • Climate justice and the rise of climate litigation

7	Module Learning Outcomes
	On successful completion of the module, students will be able to:
	1 Appraise critically the importance of the relationships between human rights, environmental protection, economic prosperity and development, and the ethical dilemmas involved.
	2 Elucidate the potential and limitations of human rights provisions in aiding the development of environmental rights.
	3 Critically analyse the conflict (perceived and actual) between the protection of human rights and the protection of the environment.
	4 Evaluate and critically compare the approaches to protection of environmental and human interests in different countries.

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	24	
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	152	
Total Study Hours:	200	