



Module title: Business Law

Module code:	BL	NQF level:	Level 6
Credit value:	15 credits	Study duration:	9 weeks

Module description

This module is designed to introduce you to the core foundations of law that regulate businesses. Businesses are required to meet strict legal requirements. The level of the requirements depends upon the type of business, a sole trader would have to meet different requirements to that of a limited company. However, there are fundamental legal issues that face all businesses, contract, employment, tort and business operations. Throughout this module you will be introduced to these elements and understand how a business operates and the legal challenges that it faces.

Aims

- Introduce students to the legal framework in England & Wales and in particular to facilitate an understanding of the sanctions available to the courts to deal with non-compliance by a business of its legal obligations
- Gain a foundation knowledge of the working of four business related areas of law namely - contract, tort, company law and employment law
- Develop individual areas of law which impinge upon businesses in practice
- Stimulate students into adopting an enquiring and critical approach to the law
- Foster a willingness amongst students to accept responsibility for their own learning and to learn independently using initiative and self-discipline

Learning outcomes

On completion of this module students will be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the basic principles of the English Legal system, relevant legal institutions and four principal areas of law relevant to the operation of a business
- Research effectively a number of cases and other sources of information to help interpret the law
- Critically evaluate the impact of the changing legal environment on the business/organization situation
- Identify and investigate 'legal problems' for businesses and suggest solutions to the same.
- Improve self learning skills by being able to effectively analyse a law report and piece of legislation and to tackle comprehensive case studies and problem scenarios.

Syllabus

- Introduction to Legal Framework
 - Court structure and the doctrine of judicial precedent
 - The legal profession and recent reforms
 - Sources of law
 - Rules of statutory interpretation
- Contract Law I - The essential elements in a contract including:
 - Offer
 - Acceptance
 - Consideration
 - Intention to create legal relations
- Contract II - The contents of a contract including:
 - Express terms
 - Implied terms
 - The Consumer Rights Act 2015 (Business to Consumer transactions)
 - Unfair Contract Terms Act 1977 (Business to Business transactions)
- Tort I - The tort of negligence including:
 - Duty of care
 - Breach of duty
 - Damage
 - Remedies for breach of the tort of negligence
- Tort II
 - Professional negligence, consumer protection and vicarious liability
- Employment Law - An introduction to basic employment law principles including:
 - Employment contracts
 - Dismissal - fair and unfair
 - Discrimination in employment
- Companies and other forms of business units
 - Legal personality and the consequences of incorporation
 - Advantages and disadvantages of the following:
 - Sole Trader
 - Partnership
 - Limited Liability Partnership
 - Incorporated Company
 - Public and private companies
 - Formation of a company
 - Pre-incorporation contracts and registration procedures including:
 - Memorandum of Association
 - Articles of Association
 - Off-the-shelf companies



- Company Officers
 - Directors - appointment, removal, ineligibility, duties and sanctions
 - Company Secretary - appointment, duties and registers
 - Auditor - appointment, removal, duties and powers etc
 - Accountability and control
 - Insider dealing
- Finance of an Incorporated Company - Capital of a company including:
 - Types of capital and shares
 - Transfer of shares - distinction between public and private companies
 - Bonuses
 - Alteration of capital
 - Maintenance of capital
 - Dividends, debentures and the borrowing powers of a company

Learning and teaching methods

The Learning and Teaching Methods for the module follow the intended online delivery strategy for the programme as a whole. The module will be delivered through the provision of specified reading materials on the virtual learning platform, which shall be supported by specified discussion forums and lecturecasts, and Tutor support will be available to students via phone, email, and a fortnightly synchronous question and answer (Q&A) session.

Assessment

Description of unit of assessment	Length / Duration	Submission Date	Weighting
Discussion contributions	Fortnight	End of Unit 2 and Unit 6	20%
Mid-module Assignment	1,500-2,000 words	End of Unit 4	30%
Journal Entries	300-500 words	Bi-weekly submission	20%
End of Module Project	1,500-2,000 words	End of Unit 9	30%