International Trade and Commercial Law Dissertation

Module description
This module provides students with an opportunity to conduct an original research project on a topic of interest, aligned to a relevant area within international trade and commercial law. Students will submit a research proposal in their research methods module and this proposal will be used to identify an appropriate member of staff to act as the student’s supervisor. The module is 36 weeks in duration and by the end of the module, successful students will produce a piece of research using appropriate research methods for a piece of independent work at level 7.

This module aims to:
- Develop an independent research on a legal topic of student’s choice, under the guidance of a supervisor
- Explore a legal issue in-depth, reviewing and critically analysing legal opinions, whether judicial or otherwise
- Critically analyse a legal issue in order to develop and justify a person position on that legal issue
- Develop skills in planning and organising a legal research project, especially enhancing student’s ability to muster appropriate primary and secondary legal materials
- Plan, organise and communicate detailed material in a coherent readable way

Learning outcomes
On completion of this module, students will be able to:
- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the particular legal issue which you have selected as the subject of your dissertation, in particular knowledge of the substantive legal position as identified and derived from primary legal materials on that issue
- be able to write a convincing research proposal appropriate for postgraduate research
- evidence competence in research retrieval, evidence synthesis and presentation
- carry out a focused critical and analytical reading and synthesis of accessed information on the topic
- systematically structure and effectively present in written form a synthesis of accessed information relevant to the research topic

Supervision
This module is research based and as a result students will not receive a taught syllabus. Rather students will be provided with a dissertation supervisor who will guide the student throughout the duration of their thesis. Students can expect to have up to six hours of one to one supervision, which will be conducted through an online meeting room. In addition, students will also be able to access supervisor support via phone and email.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description of unit of assessment</th>
<th>Length/Duration</th>
<th>Submission date</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research proposal</td>
<td>2,500 words</td>
<td>Within 6 weeks of module start</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dissertation</td>
<td>12,000-14,000 words</td>
<td>Within 36 weeks of module start</td>
<td>70%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Viva</td>
<td>15-20 minutes</td>
<td>Within 4 weeks of thesis submission</td>
<td>15%</td>
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