



Module code	LRSM	NQF level	7
Credit value	20	Study duration	12 weeks

Legal Research Skills and Methods

Module description

This is a 20 credit level 7 module which forms part of the core of the LLM in International Trade and Commercial Law. This module provides students with an advanced understanding of the research designs commonly employed within International Trade and Commerce research. It combines both a theoretical and a practical approach to learning, which enables students to develop the research skills that are essential for completing their LLM dissertation. Students will be taught doctrinal legal research along with Empirical, socio-legal and international law methods to legal research through structured units that cover the entire research process from design to write up.

This module aims to:

- Equip students with a practical knowledge of how to:
 - design an appropriate piece of research suitable for their LLM dissertation
 - undertake a chosen research design using an appropriate methodology
 - write up the findings of their research in an academic style suitable for publication

Learning outcomes

On completion of this module, students will be able to:

- have an advanced understanding of the range of research methodologies available to investigate any given research question
- be able to conduct and report a rigorous and advanced search for peer reviewed research
- critically appraise research papers and construct a literature review
- demonstrate the ability to collect and analyse qualitative and quantitative data paying particular attention to: ethics, sampling, and analysis.

Syllabus

- Principles of research and research methods
- Doctrinal legal research 1
- Doctrinal legal research 2
- Socio-legal research 1
- Socio-legal research 2
- Empirical legal research 1
- Empirical legal research 2
- Researching in international law
- Critical appraisal and reviewing research literature
- Credibility, responsibility and ethics
- Writing research proposal 1
- Writing research proposal 2

Learning and teaching methods

The module will be delivered by reading materials available on the learning platform supported by discussion forums and online lecture-casts. Students will be encouraged to identify and share relevant web-based resources. Self-directed learning will supplement the lecture-casts and discussions and tutors will provide students with direction on required readings.

Description of unit of assessment	Length/Duration	Submission date	Weighting
Discussion activity	2 weeks	n/a	20%
Mid module assignment	2,500 words	Mid term	40%
End of module project	2,500 words	End term	40%