



Module code	ULAW/6/FMLW/19/E	NQF level	6
Credit value	30	Study duration	18 weeks

Family Law

Module description

This is an optional 30 credit level 6 module. Students need to choose two of the Level 6 optional modules and are advised to do so on the basis of their areas of interest and/or career aspirations. This module will examine the legal rules and concepts which govern and regulate family relationships.

This module aims to:

- Introduce students to the fundamental objectives of family law
- Provide students with the understanding of the operation of these objectives
- Allow students to assess the effectiveness of the law

Learning outcomes

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

- interpret and appraise the legal principles of family law
- evaluate and apply appropriate legal principles of family law to scenarios relating to marriages and civil partnerships, including issues arising from their dissolution
- critically assess the rules and principles of family law relating to disputes over the care and upbringing of children
- make judgements on family law reform proposals and contemporary social and political debates
- resolve complex problems and give reasoned and comprehensive advice, applying relevant legal principles to both problem and essay questions
- ability to comprehend and use basic numeracy information as part of a problem question

Syllabus

- Introduction to family law
- Marriage and non-marriage
- Civil partnerships
- Cohabitation
- Nullity, divorce and the dissolution of civil partnerships 1
- Nullity, divorce and the dissolution of civil partnerships 2
- Finance and property on divorce and dissolution 1
- Finance and property on divorce and dissolution 2
- Domestic violence 1
- Domestic violence 2
- Parentage and parenthood
- Parental rights and parental responsibility
- Children's rights
- The welfare principle
- Disputes involving children 1
- Disputes involving children 2
- Child protection
- Adoption and special guardianship

Learning and teaching methods

Teaching will be delivered through the provision of specified reading materials that will be provided on the University of Essex Online learning platform, and will be supported by specified discussion forums, pre-recorded lecturecasts and biweekly live seminars (using synchronous communication software and application sharing facility).

Students will be provided with indicative guidance on and encouraged to look at relevant websites which are appropriate to the learning outcomes, and to identify and share appropriate web-based resources (as learning support references) with their fellow students.

The pre-recorded lecturecasts and the online question and answer sessions will include referenced use of selected case studies which will be drawn from the reading materials and the practice-based and professional/educational contexts and experience of the tutors.

There will be also provision for weekly meetings with tutors in their office hours supplementing online students' self-managed learning, discussing their individual queries, and directing them to require and indicative reading.

Description of unit of assessment	Length/Duration	Submission date	Weighting
2 assessed discussion activities	2 weeks	N/A	20%
Regular assignments	2,500 words	Mid term	30%
End of module project	3,500 words	End term	50%