



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

Law of Evidence

Module description

This is an optional 30 credit level 6 module. This module covers the key rules and issues, with insights into the practice, of the law of Evidence.

This module aims to:

- Provide students with a grounding in the key rules and issues, with insights into the practice, of the English/Welsh law of evidence
- Introduce students to the basic concepts in the law of evidence

Learning outcomes

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

- knowledge and critical understanding of the fundamental principles of the law of evidence in criminal proceedings
- knowledge and critical understanding of the fundamental principles of the law of evidence in civil proceedings
- engagement with relevant legal concepts, values, principles and rules of English law explaining the relationship between them in a number of particular areas
- a critical understanding of the uncertainty, ambiguity and limits of knowledge
- they can apply a range of questions in a variety of legal contexts
- the ability to find relevant sources and identify their relevance, weight and quality
- they can present and sustain critical and reasoned arguments and conclusions
- they can communicate complex ideas and sustain arguments in a coherent and effective manner (using appropriate legal terminology) and organise and present information relevant to the intended audience
- they can use information technology, such as word processing, databases and the web effectively, to access legal information and produce well-presented, professional documents
- they can participate in group discussion of legal issues and reach a reasoned conclusion

Syllabus

- Introduction to the law of evidence
- Relevance, admissibility and the burden of proof
- Witnesses: competence, compellability and oaths
- Vulnerable witnesses
- Examination in chief
- Cross-examination and re-examination
- Identification evidence
- Documents and real evidence
- Hearsay in criminal proceedings
- Hearsay in civil proceedings
- Confessions
- Bad character in criminal proceedings
- Good character in criminal proceedings
- Character evidence in civil proceedings
- Expert evidence
- Disclosure in criminal and civil proceedings
- Improperly obtained evidence
- Adverse inferences from silence

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 assignment: case study and preparation of brief	2,500 words	Mid term	30%
End of module project - plan, and prepare a mock trial	3,500 words	End term	50%