

Module code	ULAW/6/WAE/19/E	NQF level	6
Credit value	15	Study duration	9 weeks

# Wills and the Administration of Estates

## Module description

This is a 15 credit Level 6 module which is compulsory on the LLB with Business programme. The module focusses on the creation, alteration and revocation of wills and the administration of estates.

## This module aims to:

- Provide students with an understanding of:
  - the principles governing the creation and operation of wills in practice
  - the law governing the administration of estates
  - the professional conduct issues relating to this area of law, and the regulation of legal practice in this area

## Learning outcomes

Students should be able to demonstrate:

- knowledge and critical understanding of:
  - the principles of the law relating to wills
  - the administration of estates
  - professional conduct related to wills and administration of estates
- an ability to research and critically analyse the law from primary resources on specific matters
- they can critically engage with relevant legal concepts, values, principles and rules of English Law explaining the relationship between them in a number of particular areas
- appreciation for the uncertainty, ambiguity and limits of knowledge
- familiarity with relevant research
- they can apply legal research findings to the solution of legal problems
- 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 comprehend and use numerical information
- they can critically discuss legal issues with fellow students and reach a well-reasoned conclusion

## Syllabus

- Wills and intestacy: validity, representatives and professional conduct
- Wills and intestacy: alteration and revocation
- Wills and intestacy: property passing outside the estate
- Probate: grants of representation
- Probate: the administration of estates
- Probate: claims under the inheritance (Provision for Family and Dependents) Act 1975
- Inheritance tax
- Income and capital gains tax
- Regulation: money laundering, financial services and reporting obligations

## 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
Discussion activity/ problem-based assignment question	3 weeks (if assignment 1,500 words)	N/A	20%
End of module assignment: problem scenario advice to client	4,000 words	End term	80%