

Module specification

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Module Code	LAW409
Module Title	Legal Skills, Ethics and Professional Standards
Level	4
Credit value	20
Faculty	FSLS
HECoS Code	100485
Cost Code	GACJ
Pre-requisite module	N/A

Programmes in which module to be offered

Programme title	Core/Optional/Standalone
LLB (Hons) Law	Core

Breakdown of module hours

Learning and teaching hours	36 hrs
Placement tutor support hours	0 hrs
Supervised learning hours e.g. practical classes, workshops	0 hrs
Project supervision hours	0 hrs
Active learning and teaching hours total	36 hrs
Placement hours	0 hrs
Guided independent study hours	164 hrs
Module duration (Total hours)	200 hrs

Module aims

To develop students' legal skills and their abilities to understand and navigate the contextual, moral, ethical and professional backdrop of legal practice in England and Wales.

Module Learning Outcomes

At the end of this module, students will be able to:

1	Apply foundational legal principles to factual scenarios to construct structured legal arguments.
2	Demonstrate effective advocacy skills, including clear oral communication and appropriate courtroom etiquette.
3	Demonstrate ethical awareness and professional conduct in the preparation and delivery of legal advocacy.

Assessment

Indicative Assessment Tasks:

This section outlines the type of assessment task the student will be expected to complete as part of the module. More details will be made available in the relevant academic year module handbook.

Assessment 1:

Students will complete a moot in pairs. Each pair will be given a legal problem in advance and assigned opposing roles as either Claimant or Defendant.

Students must prepare and present legal arguments, respond to the opposing side's submissions, and answer questions from the examiner, who will act as the judge.

Although completed in pairs, students will be assessed individually on preparation, legal understanding, presentation, and ability to respond to judicial questioning.

Further details are available in the Module Handbook.

Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Duration/Word Count	Weighting (%)	Alternative assessment, if applicable
1	1 - 3	Practical	25 minutes	100%	N/A

Derogations

None.

Learning and Teaching Strategies

Learning and teaching is facilitated alternately in whole group and then a small group learning sets. As a cohort, students will receive a formal input on a key legal skill (interviewing; advocacy; mediation; mooting; ethics) and then be directed towards additional reading/exemplar videos and to consider a particular case study/legal encounter. In the subsequent week, in a small group, they will demonstrate the skills in a short, recorded, 10-minute simulated encounter and receive feedback on the recording from their small group peers.

Students will also be guided in undertaking independent legal research using primary and secondary legal sources, including case law, legislation, and academic commentary. This includes an introduction to research approaches (such as doctrinal research) and is supported by library resources and services.

In preparing for the assessment, students are required to undertake independent legal research to identify and apply relevant legal authorities in support of their arguments.

Welsh Elements

The module will operate in accordance with the University's Welsh language policy. While delivery will be through the medium of English, students may access institutional support, resources, and assessment submission in Welsh where required.

Indicative Syllabus Outline

- Introduction to legal research, including identifying and using primary and secondary legal sources
- Case law and statutory research, including the use of legal databases, such as Westlaw, and citation of legal authorities
- Interviewing
- Advocacy
- Mediation
- Persuasive communication
- Mooting
- Client care and client service
- The legal profession: history, organisation and regulation
- Professionalism and theories of legal ethics
- Role-differentiated ethics
- Duties to clients: competence and care
- Confidentiality
- Conflicts of interest
- Duties to the court and to others
- Duties to the community: legal services and pro bono
- Fee structures and funding of legal services
- Reform and developments in the legal profession (including business structures and multidisciplinary practices)
- Professional qualification pathways (SQE and BTC)

Indicative Bibliography

Please note the essential reads and other indicative reading are subject to annual review and update.

Essential Reads:

Finch E and Fafinski S, *Legal Skills* (10th edn, Oxford University Press 2025)

Other indicative reading:

Browne K and Kempton J, *Written Skills for Lawyers* (5th edn, University of Law 2025)

Browne K and Kempton J, *SQE2 Oral Skills for Lawyers* (5th edn, University of Law Publishing 2026)

Students will be expected to consult a range of law journals and selected e-journals from WestLaw with a view to developing appropriate legal research skills and to access important supplementary readings in preparation for assessments.

Administrative Information

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Initial approval date	May 2021
With effect from date	September 2022
Date and details of revision	April 2026: AM2 modification to reclassify the module from Level 5 to Level 4, with associated changes to programme titles, module hours, learning outcomes, assessment strategy, and indicative syllabus. December 2024: Updated assessment strategy with immediate implementation January 2022: BA (Hons) Law and Business included in programme titles
Version number	04