

# LA403-15 Dissertation for Final Year Law (half course)

**20/21**

**Department**

School of Law

**Level**

Undergraduate Level 3

**Module leader**

Daniel Lowe

**Credit value**

15

**Module duration**

10 weeks

**Assessment**

100% coursework

**Study location**

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

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## Description

### Introductory description

Why do a dissertation?

- It's exciting! You can choose your own topic for research and develop it in line with your interests.
- You can immerse yourself in a topic and gain in-depth knowledge in a field.
- You can choose a dissertation module that works for you. You can choose between a 30 CAT (LA204) and 15 CAT (LA403) dissertation; or even a dramatized dissertation (LA406 / LA407) if you want to develop your creative writing skills.

Will it benefit my career?

- Successfully completing a dissertation shows key skills all employers are looking for: the ability to work independently and think critically.
- It gives you legal research skills you need to succeed in postgraduate studies and as a lawyer.
- You can choose a topic that is directly applicable in the field you want to practice in; or a topic that is cutting-edge and novel which will catch the employers' eye.
- It can help to raise your visibility and profile, making your job and postgraduate applications

standout. Students have in the past presented their research at presenting at BCUR (British Conference of Undergraduate Research) or International Conference of UG Research (ICUR). Some have also published their dissertations with Reinvention, a Warwick student journal.

Acceptance on the module is at the discretion of the Module Convenor. The module convenor will consider all proposals and make decisions acceptance based on the strength and viability of the research proposal.

[Module web page](#)

## **Module aims**

The module provides students with the opportunity to undertake a piece of in-depth research on a topic chosen by them. In developing their dissertations students will identify a research topic, and construct a clear, logically structured, analytical and independently argued 6,000-word dissertation.

This module requires students to take a high degree of responsibility for the learning process and will require them to manage their own learning, reflect on it critically, and seek and use constructive feedback.

## **Outline syllabus**

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

Workshop I: Introduction to dissertation writing, research ethics and managing supervision

Workshop II: Legal research

Workshop II: Writing and processing feedback

## **Learning outcomes**

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Show knowledge and understanding of the main concepts and principles of their area of research
- Develop a clear and critical research question
- Explain the methodological basis employed in their research
- Plan, structure, write, and reference a 6,000 word dissertation on a chosen subject
- Identify and employ a broad range of primary and secondary sources relevant to their topic area
- Critically evaluate different interpretations
- Construct conclusions in a clear, logically structured, analytical and independently argued piece of work

## **Indicative reading list**

The student is expected to identify materials relevant to their research topic.

Legal research specific bibliography includes:

- Lammasniemi L, Law dissertations: a step-by-step guide (Routledge 2018)
- Salter M and Mason J, Writing law dissertations: an introduction and guide to the conduct of legal research (Pearson 2007)
- Knowles J, Effective legal research (2012)

## Research element

Students will write a 6000 word dissertation based on independent research.

## Subject specific skills

By the end of the module the student should be able to:

- Plan, structure, write, and reference a 6,000 word dissertation on a chosen subject;
- Identify and employ a broad range of primary and secondary sources relevant to their topic area

## Transferable skills

No transferable skills defined for this module.

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## Study

### Study time

Type	Required
Project supervision	1 session of 2 hours 30 minutes (1%)
Practical classes	2 sessions of 2 hours (3%)
Private study	143 hours 30 minutes (95%)
Total	150 hours

### Private study description

Independent research

## Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

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## Assessment

You must pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Students can register for this module without taking any assessment.

## Assessment group A1

	Weighting	Study time
6000 word dissertation	100%	

## Feedback on assessment

Feedback via Tabula

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## Availability

### Courses

This module is Optional for:

- Year 3 of ULAA-M300 Undergraduate Law
- ULAA-M105 Undergraduate Law (3 year) (Qualifying Degree)
  - Year 3 of M105 Law (3 year) (Qualifying Degree)
  - Year 3 of M105 Law (3 year) (Qualifying Degree)
- ULAA-M106 Undergraduate Law (4 year) (Qualifying Degree)
  - Year 3 of M106 Law (4 year) (Qualifying Degree)
  - Year 4 of M106 Law (4 year) (Qualifying Degree)
- Year 4 of ULAA-M104 Undergraduate Law (Year Abroad)
- ULAA-M108 Undergraduate Law (Year Abroad) (Qualifying Degree)
  - Year 4 of M108 Law (Year Abroad) (Qualifying Degree)
  - Year 4 of M108 Law (Year Abroad) (Qualifying Degree)
- Year 3 of ULAA-M110 Undergraduate Law with Humanities (3 Year)
- Year 3 of ULAA-M113 Undergraduate Law with Humanities (4 Year) (Qualifying Degree)

This module is Option list A for:

- Year 4 of ULAA-M10A Undergraduate Law with French Law (Qualifying Degree)
- Year 4 of ULAA-M10C Undergraduate Law with German Law (Qualifying Degree)
- Year 4 of ULAA-M113 Undergraduate Law with Humanities (4 Year) (Qualifying Degree)
- ULAA-M115 Undergraduate Law with Social Sciences (3 Year) (Qualifying Degree)
  - Year 3 of M115 Law with Social Sciences (3 year) (Qualifying Degree)
  - Year 3 of M115 Law with Social Sciences (3 year) (Qualifying Degree)