

# LA359-15 Family Law

**26/27**

**Department**

School of Law

**Level**

Undergraduate Level 3

**Module leader**

Lara Walker

**Credit value**

15

**Module duration**

10 weeks

**Assessment**

100% exam

**Study location**

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

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## Description

### Introductory description

A fascinating and dynamic module that raises important issues of social policy, focusing on the way that the law regulates entry into, behaviour during, and exit from, certain types of adult relationships; and how the law differentiates between different types of adult relationships.

[Module web page](#)

### Module aims

Family law is a fascinating and dynamic subject that raises important issues of social policy. The course focuses on the way that the law regulates entry into, behaviour during, and exit from, certain types of adult relationships. Until relatively recently English law conferred rights on couples only if they were married. Over the last thirty years, however, new rights have been conferred on cohabiting couples (although the rights of such couples remain less extensive than those of their married counterparts), same-sex couples now have the option of entering either into a civil partnership or marriage. One of the fundamental questions addressed in the course is how the law differentiates between different types of adult relationships. Students are encouraged to set the issues in context by reading a wide range of materials and researching the social background to particular legal issues. Students are also encouraged to think about the way in which the law operates in practice.

## 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.

What is 'family law' about? How does the law define and regulate different types of families?

Entry into marriage and civil partnership: who can marry or enter into a civil partnership and how do they do so?

Divorce and dissolution: how does the state regulate exit from formal partnerships?

Domestic violence: the protection offered by the law

The division of assets on relationship breakdown

Cohabitation: the current rights of cohabitants and proposals for reform

## Learning outcomes

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

- Understand which types of adult relationships are regulated by the law, how, and why.
- Identify the relevant sources of key principles of family law. Understand the operation of family law in society and demonstrate a realistic understanding of the current practice of family law.
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- Research a topic in family law using paper and electronic resources and specialist legal materials.
- Work collaboratively to complete a defined task within a limited time
- Understand and use legal concepts, policy principles and theoretical ideas in speaking and writing about law and family practice.
- Analyse past, current and future law and policy developments in terms of theoretical issues and in terms of their impact on individuals & families
- Work independently to gain understanding of material and issues in family law without explanatory lectures

## Indicative reading list

[Reading lists can be found in Talis](#)

[Specific reading list for the module](#)

## Subject specific skills

No subject specific skills defined for this module.

## Transferable skills

No transferable skills defined for this module.

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## Study

### Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	18 sessions of 1 hour (12%)
Seminars	7 sessions of 1 hour (5%)
Private study	95 hours (63%)
Assessment	30 hours (20%)
Total	150 hours

### Private study description

Private study: reading, preparation for seminars and solidifying learning post seminar. You will also have to then revise to prepare for the exam. These hours are in assessment, but also require private study.

### Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

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## Assessment

You do not need to pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Students can register for this module without taking any assessment.

### Assessment group B3

Assessment component	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Centrally-timetabled examination (on campus)	100%	30 hours	No

Family Law will be assessed by means of a 2 hour in-person exam (100%) .

You are permitted to bring an unmarked statute book into the exam hall (i.e. no highlighting, underlining or notes).

**Weighting    Study time    Eligible for self-  
certification**

You will have to answer one question from part A and one question from part B.

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- Answerbook Gold (24 page)
- LA018: Family Law Statutes

Reassessment component is the same

## Feedback on assessment

Generic exam feedback provided via Moodle, with the option for one to one feedback by student request in October.

[Past exam papers for LA359](#)

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## Availability

## Courses

This module is Optional for:

- ULAA-ML34 BA in Law and Sociology (Qualifying Degree)
  - Year 3 of ML34 Law and Sociology (Qualifying Degree)
  - Year 4 of ML34 Law and Sociology (Qualifying Degree)
- UIBA-MN34 Law and Business Four Year (Qualifying Degree)
  - Year 2 of MN34 Law and Business Studies Four Year (Qualifying Degree)
  - Year 3 of MN34 Law and Business Studies Four Year (Qualifying Degree)
  - Year 4 of MN34 Law and Business Studies Four Year (Qualifying Degree)
- ULAA-M300 Undergraduate Law
  - Year 2 of M300 Law
  - Year 3 of M300 Law
- ULAA-M105 Undergraduate Law (3 year) (Qualifying Degree)
  - Year 2 of M105 Law (3 year) (Qualifying Degree)
  - Year 2 of M105 Law (3 year) (Qualifying Degree)
  - Year 3 of M105 Law (3 year) (Qualifying Degree)
  - Year 3 of M105 Law (3 year) (Qualifying Degree)
- ULAA-M301 Undergraduate Law (4 Year)
  - Year 2 of M301 Law (4 year)
  - Year 3 of M301 Law (4 year)
  - Year 4 of M301 Law (4 year)
- ULAA-M106 Undergraduate Law (4 year) (Qualifying Degree)

- Year 2 of M106 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-M355 Undergraduate Law (European)
- Year 4 of ULAA-M107 Undergraduate Law (European) Qualifying Degree
- ULAA-M104 Undergraduate Law (Year Abroad)
  - Year 2 of M104 Law (Year Abroad)
  - Year 4 of M104 Law (Year Abroad)
- ULAA-M108 Undergraduate Law (Year Abroad) (Qualifying Degree)
  - Year 2 of M108 Law (Year Abroad) (Qualifying Degree)
  - Year 2 of M108 Law (Year Abroad) (Qualifying Degree)
  - Year 4 of M108 Law (Year Abroad) (Qualifying Degree)
  - Year 4 of M108 Law (Year Abroad) (Qualifying Degree)
- UIBA-MN31 Undergraduate Law and Business Studies
  - Year 2 of MN31 Law and Business Studies (Three-Year)
  - Year 2 of MN31 Law and Business Studies (Three-Year)
- ULAA-ML33 Undergraduate Law and Sociology
  - Year 3 of ML33 Law and Sociology
  - Year 4 of ML33 Law and Sociology
- Year 4 of ULAA-M10A Undergraduate Law with French Law (Qualifying Degree)
- Year 4 of ULAA-M10C Undergraduate Law with German Law (Qualifying Degree)
- ULAA-M110 Undergraduate Law with Humanities (3 Year)
  - Year 2 of M110 Law with Humanities (3 year)
  - Year 3 of M110 Law with Humanities (3 year)
- ULAA-M111 Undergraduate Law with Humanities (3 Year) (Qualifying Degree)
  - Year 2 of M111 Law with Humanities (3 year) (Qualifying Degree)
  - Year 3 of M111 Law with Humanities (3 year) (Qualifying Degree)
- ULAA-M112 Undergraduate Law with Humanities (4 Year)
  - Year 2 of M112 Law with Humanities (4 year)
  - Year 3 of M112 Law with Humanities (4 year)
  - Year 4 of M112 Law with Humanities (4 year)
- ULAA-M113 Undergraduate Law with Humanities (4 Year) (Qualifying Degree)
  - Year 2 of M113 Law with Humanities (4 year) (Qualifying Degree)
  - Year 3 of M113 Law with Humanities (4 year) (Qualifying Degree)
  - Year 4 of M113 Law with Humanities (4 year) (Qualifying Degree)
- ULAA-M114 Undergraduate Law with Social Sciences (3 Year)
  - Year 2 of M114 Law with Social Sciences (3 year)
  - Year 3 of M114 Law with Social Sciences (3 year)
- ULAA-M115 Undergraduate Law with Social Sciences (3 Year) (Qualifying Degree)
  - Year 2 of M115 Law with Social Sciences (3 year) (Qualifying Degree)
  - Year 2 of M115 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)
- ULAA-M116 Undergraduate Law with Social Sciences (4 Year)
  - Year 2 of M116 Law with Social Sciences (4 year)
  - Year 3 of M116 Law with Social Sciences (4 year)

- Year 4 of M116 Law with Social Sciences (4 year)
- ULAA-M117 Undergraduate Law with Social Sciences (4 Year) (Qualifying Degree)
  - Year 2 of M117 Law with Social Sciences (4 year) (Qualifying Degree)
  - Year 3 of M117 Law with Social Sciences (4 year) (Qualifying Degree)
  - Year 4 of M117 Law with Social Sciences (4 year) (Qualifying Degree)
- UPHA-V7MW Undergraduate Politics, Philosophy and Law
  - Year 2 of V7MW Politics, Philosophy and Law
  - Year 2 of V7MW Politics, Philosophy and Law
  - Year 3 of V7MW Politics, Philosophy and Law
  - Year 3 of V7MW Politics, Philosophy and Law