Aston Business School
Birmingham

GDL 009 RESEARCH PROJECT

Module Number: GDL 009

Module Title: Research Project

Number of Aston Credits: 20

Total Number of ECTS Credits: 10
(European Credit Transfer)

Staff Member Responsible for the Module:

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Availability: http://wass.aston.ac.uk/wass (online booking system)

Administrator, Basia Nowakowska, SW709 A , Extension 3185

Other Staff Contributing to the Module:

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Availability: http://wass.aston.ac.uk/wass (online booking system)

Administrator, Basia Nowakowska, SW709a , Extension 3185

Pre-Requisite(s) for the Module:

Introduction to Law and Legal Research, GDL 001

Module Learning Outcomes:

This GDL module provides GDL students with exposure to an area of law outside those already studied (Introduction to Law and Legal Research and the 7 Foundation Subjects) but will enable students to build on the legal research and writing skills obtained in the Research module and the building bricks of the law covered in the Foundations, to engage in self-directed learning, with limited supervision, of a new legal subject area related to English Law or European Law. The module requires students to produce a piece of extended legal writing addressing the chosen title, which may be an essay or problem-based research exercise.

The Regulations provide that the Research Project shall comprise a piece of extended legal writing of no fewer than 4500 words and no more than 5000 words in length concerning a topic not studied as part of the Introduction to Law and Legal Research module or the 7 Foundation Subjects but concerning an area of English or European Law.

The GDL course team will issue an approved list of essay or problem-based research projects and students may select one of these titles or problems or devise an agreed title of their own

All students will be required to attend a general guidance session covering how to approach the Research Project and its presentation.
Each student will be allocated a supervisor for their Research Project and must agree their literature review, project plan and work schedule with the supervisor.

The module's aim is to develop the student's capacity for independent research, as well as expanding knowledge of legal principle and enabling the student to become a self-learner and to project and time manage effectively. It also provides a further opportunity to evaluate legal writing and legal presentation skills.

Upon successful completion of the module students will be able to:

(a) Undertake a literature review and be able to interpret and use primary legal source materials, standard textbooks, journal articles and other secondary sources:

(b) Plan a project and produce a project schedule;

(c) Understand the area of law covered by the topic chosen for the Research Project;

(d) Present a well-reasoned and supported piece of extended legal writing beyond the length and complexity of summative assessments for the Foundation subjects;

(e) Engage in doctrinal discourse; providing their own responses to unresolved legal problems/issues and providing cogent and imaginative solutions to difficult issues.

(f) Engage with primary and secondary legal materials, identifying relevant precedents and authorities, use correct form of legal citation (OSCOLA)

(g) Where appropriate, identify and apply relevant legal rules to factual situations, offering advice that is reasoned, accurate and effectively communicated, and informed by independent research and analysis

International Dimensions:

This module is designed to expose GDL students to another area of law (the 8th subject) which may relate to English law or European Law. It may be appropriate to use comparative materials and to consider the influence of European law.

Learning and Teaching Rationale and Methods:

The teaching and learning methods for this module differ significantly from the foundation modules. Primarily this module will make use of Guidance sessions, supervision sessions. However the most significant methods will be self-directed learning, research and writing

Contact and directed learning:

Contact

Guidance session for Research Project	2 hours
Supervision and Specific Guidance	10 hours

Directed learning

Research and private study	138 hours
Writing the Research Project	50 hours

Total	**200 hours**

Ethical Approval:

This module does not require any primary research and no ethical approval will be necessary.

Assessment and Feedback Rationale and Methods:

The module is assessed (100%) by means of the Research Project which is an extended piece of legal writing of between 4500 and 5000 words on a selected topic – essay title or problem-based issue.

Feedback will be provided through supervision.
Common errors identified in generic feedback on the Research Project are posted on the VLE.

Generic feedback on previous years GDL research projects will be posted on the VLE.

Programme Outcomes:

The table below shows how this module contributes towards the achievement of the overall programme outcomes

Module Code	Module Name	A1	A2	A3	A4	B1	B2	B3	C1	C2	C3	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5
GDL009	RESEARCH PROJECT (8th)	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		

Useful Online Sources:

- Westlaw UK
- LexisNexis
- Lawtel
- Hein Online [Law Journals]
- The British and Irish Legal Information Institute: http://www.bailii.org/
- Cardiff Index of Legal Abbreviations: http://www.legalabbrevs.cardiff.ac.uk/
- Statute Law Database: http://www.statutelaw.gov.uk
- Office of Public Sector Information: http://www.opsi.gov.uk