

Module 4: Law of Torts

Headline Information about the module

Module Number	4	Module Title	Law of Torts						
Stage of Principal Programme		1	Semester	1	Duration. (Weeks F/T)	12	ECTS	10	
Mandatory / Elective (M/E)	M	Hours of Learner Effort / Week⁵	3						
Analysis of required hours of learning effort									
Teaching and Learning Modalities					✓if relevant to this module	Approx. proportion of total (hours)			
Contact Hours									
In person face-to-face									
Synchronous					✓	40			
Indirect/Non-Contact Hours									
Asynchronous					✓	6			
Work Based									
Other - Independent					✓	204			
Total						250			

Pre-Requisite Module, if any. Module # and Title	N/A	
Co-Requisite Module, if any. Module # and Title	N/A	
Maximum number of learners per instance of the module	80	
Specification of the qualifications (academic, pedagogical and professional/occupational) and experience required of staff working in this module.		
Role e.g., Tutor, Mentor, Lecturer, Research Supervisor, etc.	Qualifications & experience required	Staff - Learner Ratio X:Y
Lecturer	Lecturers expected to hold at minimum a Level 8 legal qualification, preferably with a professional legal qualification. It is an advantage to have completed the Certificate in Education, Learning and Development provided by Griffith College. Industry experience is beneficial but not a requirement.	1:80
Tutor	Tutors expected to hold at minimum a Level 8 legal qualification, preferably with a professional legal qualification.	1:40

⁵ Average (over the duration of the module) of the contact hours per week i.e. effort while in contact with staff

Assessment Techniques – percentage contribution					
Continuous Assessment	40	Proctored Exam – in person	60	Practical Skills Based	
Project		Proctored Exam - online		Work Based	
Capstone (Y/N)?		If Yes, describe			

Minimum Intended Module Learning Outcomes (MIMLOs)

MIMLO On completion of this module a learner will be able to:	Related MIPLO #
1. Explain the foundational principles and functions of tort law within the Irish legal system.	1
2. Analyse liability in specific torts and evaluate available remedies.	2
3. Apply tort principles to varied factual scenarios, demonstrating informed judgment.	4
4. Evaluate complex tort law problems that involve overlapping legal issues.	5
5. Conduct legal research on tort issues using authoritative sources.	3
6. Produce academic writing which critically analyses a tort law issue and demonstrates clarity, precision and professional writing standards.	3
7. Evaluate the social and ethical implications of tort law on public safety and policy.	8

Indicative Module Content, Organisation and Structure

Law of Torts is a 10 credit module taught by way of 3-hour lectures over the course of 12 weeks in the first semester. It is additionally supplemented by two 2x hour tutorial sessions.

Specifically, the topics covered are as follows:

1. **The Nature and Function of Tort Law.**
2. **Wrongful Interference with Constitutional Rights**
3. **Negligence**, including:
 - a. Duty and Standard of Care
 - b. Causation and Remoteness
 - c. Types of Damage including Nervous Shock and Economic Loss
 - d. Proof of negligence and *res ipsa loquitur*.
4. **Public Authority Liability**
5. **Medical Negligence**
6. **Professional Negligence**
7. **Employer's Liability**
8. **Vicarious Liability**
9. **Affirmative Duties**
10. **Occupier's Liability**
11. **Liability for Defective Products**
12. **Defamation**
13. **Economic Torts** including passing off.
14. **Nuisance**
15. **Trespass to Land and Trespass to the Person**

- 16. **The Rule in *Rylands v Fletcher***
- 17. **Defences** including contributory negligence, assumption of risk and illegality.
- 18. **Limitation of Actions**
- 19. **Damages**

Work-based learning and practice-placement (if applicable)

There is no work-based learning or practical placement in the module.

Specific module resources required (if applicable)

Requirements are for a fully equipped classroom. The classroom has Wi-Fi access and is equipped with a PC with Zoom and Microsoft Office. In addition the classroom has digital recording facilities and digital projector. No other software is required for this module. The College library has a dedicated law section and online legal research tools including V-Lex Justis, Westlaw, Bloomsbury Professional and Hein Online.

Application of programme teaching, learning and assessment strategies to this module

The module is delivered using participative lectures that focus on the practical application of tort law principles. Lectures often involve analysing short hypothetical scenarios to determine duty, breach, causation and the availability of defences. Learners are encouraged to critically discuss how small factual changes alter potential liability, supporting the programme’s emphasis on applied problem-solving. Analytical skills developed in this module prepare learners for the application of tort principles within procedural contexts in the Civil Litigation and Drafting module.

Tutorials offer structured opportunities for deeper engagement with multi-issue tort questions. Learners might work in pairs to identify the elements of negligence in a given scenario, rewrite an existing answer for clarity or compare differing judicial approaches in key cases. These exercises help learners develop the ability to structure arguments clearly and logically. The ILAC structure is used consistently across the programme to support clear and transferable analytical skills.

Weekly online tasks encourage steady engagement by prompting learners to distinguish between similar torts, identify relevant case principles or test their understanding of defences. Hybrid delivery continues to prioritise active participation, with breakout rooms used for collaborative case analysis and short problem-based tasks. UDL principles are addressed by providing multiple representations of tort concepts, such as diagrams, case-flow visuals and short annotated examples.

Formative feedback throughout the module prepares learners for the summative assessments, which balance research-based analysis with applied problem-solving through the examination. This assessment structure is aligned to the MIMLOs and supports the development of both doctrinal understanding and applied legal reasoning.

Summative Assessment Strategy for this module

MIMLOs	Technique(s)	Weighting
1, 5 – 7	Research Assignment	40%
1 – 4, 7	Closed-Book Exam	60%

Sample Assessment Materials

See Section 4 of the Assessment Materials Supporting Documentation.

Indicative reading lists and other information resources

1. Bryan McMahon & William Binchy, *Law of Torts* (5th edn, Bloomsbury Professional 2025).
2. Val Corbett, *Tort Law: Cases and Key Principles* (Clarus Press, 2025).
3. Eoin Quill, *Torts in Ireland* (4th edn, Gill & Macmillan 2014).
4. Neville Cox & Eoin McCullough, *Defamation: Law and Practice* (2nd edn, Clarus Press 2021).
5. Kirsty Horsey & Erika Rackley, *Tort Law* (8th edn, Oxford University Press 2023) [[UK Text](#)].