

Module 7: Criminal Practice and Procedure

Headline Information about the module

Module Number	7	Module Title	Criminal Practice and Procedure					
Stage of Principal Programme		1	Semester	2	Duration. <i>(Weeks F/T)</i>	6	ECTS	5
Mandatory / Elective (M/E)	M	Hours of Learner Effort / Week⁸	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				✓		4		
Synchronous				✓		18		
Indirect/Non-Contact Hours								
Asynchronous				✓		3		
Work Based								
Other - Independent				✓		100		
Total						125		

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

⁸ 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	20	Proctored Exam – in person		Practical Skills Based	50
Project	30	Proctored Exam - online		Work Based	
Capstone (Y/N)?		If Yes, describe			

Minimum Intended Module Learning Outcomes (MIMLOs)

MIMLO	Related MIPLO #
On completion of this module a learner will be able to:	
1. Explain the procedural framework governing criminal trials in Ireland.	1
2. Analyse and interpret rules on arrest, bail, disclosure and pre-trial applications, and apply them to resolve factual problem-based scenarios.	2 & 4
3. Draft key criminal procedure documentation to professional standards.	3
4. Evaluate ethical obligations and fairness considerations in criminal practice.	8
5. Participate in a collaborative client consultation and oral application exercise and demonstrate informed judgment in selecting procedural strategies.	6 & 5
6. Critically reflect on their own performance in the workshop, using structured peer feedback to identify strategies for improvement.	7

Indicative Module Content, Organisation and Structure

Criminal Practice and Procedure is a 5 credit module taught by way of 3-hour lectures over the course of 6 weeks in the first semester. It is additionally supplemented by a 4x hour workshop session delivered in-person.

Specifically, the topics covered are as follows:

1. Criminal Jurisdiction of Irish Courts
2. Summary and Indictable Offences
3. Presumption of Innocence and Burden of Proof in Criminal Matters.
4. Powers of Stop, Search, Arrest
5. Detention & Questioning of Suspects
6. Charge Procedures
7. First Appearance in the District Court
8. Bail
9. Legal Aid
10. Disclosure
11. Trial in the District Court
12. Trial on Indictment
13. Applications for Separate Trials
14. Jury Selection Procedure
15. Sentencing, including plea in mitigation.
16. Appeals, including case stated procedure
17. Judicial Review in the Criminal Context
18. The Children's Court
19. The Special Criminal Court

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

Participative lectures introduce the procedural framework governing criminal proceedings, frequently referencing short practical examples to illustrate how rules operate in context. For instance, learners may trace the steps from arrest to first appearance or analyse the requirements of a bail application. These exercises enable learners to apply the doctrinal knowledge gained in Criminal Law to procedural contexts, while also enabling them to consider strategy and ethical obligations throughout the criminal process.

The in-person workshop offers a concentrated opportunity to practise professional skills. Learners complete a simulated client consultation, prepare an oral application and receive structured peer feedback on their performance. These activities help develop communication, time-management and procedural judgement skills.

Weekly online activities reinforce procedural knowledge and support the development of each learner's procedural knowledge bank. Hybrid delivery ensures active participation in discussions and group exercises for all learners, regardless of attendance mode. UDL approaches support learners through the availability of templates, worked examples and recordings of procedural walkthroughs to cater to varied learning preferences.

The assessments reflect the applied nature of the module, focusing on practical drafting, procedural analysis and oral communication skills consistent with professional expectations in criminal practice. Time constraints and role-play formats are used intentionally to mirror the pressures of criminal practice. The assessment design ensures direct alignment with the relevant MIMLOs.

Summative Assessment Strategy for this module

MIMLOs	Technique(s)	Weighting
1 – 4	Drafting Task	30%
1 – 2, 4	Knowledge Bank	20%
3 - 6	Practical Workshop & Reflection	50%

Sample Assessment Materials

See Section 7 of the Assessment Materials Supporting Documentation.

Indicative reading lists and other information resources

1. Dermot Walsh, *Walsh on Criminal Procedure* (3rd edn, Round Hall 2024).
2. Genevieve Coonan, Kate O'Toole & Mary O'Toole, *Criminal Procedure in the District Court* (2nd edn, Round Hall 2022).
3. Rules of the Superior Courts, Circuit Court Rules & District Court Rules, Courts Service.
4. Vicky Conway & Yvonne Daly, *Criminal Defence Representation at Garda Stations* (Bloomsbury Professional 2023).
5. Kevin Sweeney, *Arrest, Detention & Questioning: Law & Practice* (Clarus Press 2019).
6. Garnet Orange, *Police Powers in Ireland* (2nd edn, Bloomsbury Professional 2024).
7. Thomas O'Malley, *Sentencing: A Modern Introduction* (Clarus Press 2025).