

## Dissertation

|  |                              |                        |                  |                          |                  |                         |                             |
|--|------------------------------|------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Stage</b>                                   |                              | 3                      |                  |                          |                  |                         |                             |
| <b>Semester</b>                                |                              | 1 and 2                |                  |                          |                  |                         |                             |
| <b>Module Title</b>                            |                              | LLBH-D                 |                  |                          |                  |                         |                             |
| <b>Module Number</b>                           |                              | 32                     |                  |                          |                  |                         |                             |
| <b>Module Status</b>                           |                              | Elective               |                  |                          |                  |                         |                             |
| <b>Module ECTS Credits</b>                     |                              | 10                     |                  |                          |                  |                         |                             |
| <b>Module NFQ level</b>                        |                              | 8                      |                  |                          |                  |                         |                             |
| <b>Pre-Requisite Module Titles</b>             |                              | None                   |                  |                          |                  |                         |                             |
| <b>Co-Requisite Module Titles</b>              |                              | None                   |                  |                          |                  |                         |                             |
| <b>Capstone Module?</b>                        |                              | No                     |                  |                          |                  |                         |                             |
| <b>List of Module Teaching Personnel</b>       |                              | Dr Tanya Ní Mhuirthile |                  |                          |                  |                         |                             |
| <b>Contact Hours</b>                           |                              |                        |                  | <b>Non-contact Hours</b> |                  |                         | <b>Total Effort (hours)</b> |
| 12   |                              |                        |                  | 188                      |                  |                         |                             |
| <b>Lecture</b>                                 | <b>Practical</b>             | <b>Tutorial</b>        | <b>Seminar</b>   | <b>Assignment</b>        | <b>Placement</b> | <b>Independent Work</b> |                             |
|  |                              |                        | 12               |                          |                  | 188                     | 200                         |
| <b>Allocation of Marks (Within the Module)</b> |                              |                        |                  |                          |                  |                         |                             |
|  | <b>Continuous Assessment</b> | <b>Project</b>         | <b>Practical</b> | <b>Final Examination</b> | <b>Total</b>     |                         |                             |
| <b>Percentage Contribution</b>                 |                              | 100                    |                  |                          | 100              |                         |                             |

## Intended Module Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this module, learners will be able to:

1. Identify a research question and outline the approach in which it is to be answered.
2. Demonstrate extensive and up-to-date knowledge of the chosen field.
3. Utilise advanced research skills to investigate, interrogate and critique the chosen field.
4. Critically evaluate the law on the chosen topic.
5. Critically analyse the theoretical and philosophical underpinning of the law in the chosen field.
6. Conceptualise and communicate legal arguments with clarity and precision.

7. Take responsibility for self-directed learning and management of a major research project.
8. Critique the law and, where appropriate, offer suggestions for reform.

### **Module Objectives**

1. Enable learners to learn from the experience of researching and writing a substantial work on a legal topic.
2. Provide the learner with an opportunity to develop strategic questions.
3. Inculcate in learners the ability to source relevant information to answer problems.
4. Facilitate learners in sharpening their analytical and critical thinking processes through a systematic approach to problem solving.

### **Module Curriculum**

Before commencing work on this module learners submit a proposal and outline of their prospective submission for verifying by the Faculty. It must include evidence of research into their subject and the methods they intend to employ, or that their chosen topic entails. The proposal must also contain argument as to the validity of this work. To facilitate production of this proposal, learners will be supported by a suite of front loaded lectures on dissertation drafting and legal methodologies which may prove useful in conducting the research process.

When the Course Committee has approved proposals, each learner is assigned a dissertation supervisor by the Programme Director. Each supervisor is responsible for giving guidance and direction during the duration of the dissertation. Attendance and action points arising from the meetings are recorded with work targets and schedules agreed upon and signed off by both parties.

A programme of planning meetings then takes place.

### **Reading lists and other learning materials**

Reading lists are largely be determined by the learners own area of research.

#### **Primary Reading:**

Salter, M. & Mason, J. (2007) *Writing Law Dissertations: An Introduction and Guide to the Conduct of Legal Research*. London: Pearson

#### **Secondary Reading:**

None

## Module Learning Environment

Learners are also supported with resources to offer structure and guidance. Learners also have access to Moodle, the College's Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) which contains general notes on the dissertation process. Dissertation support classes are also held in the first semester and cover the following topics:

- Regulations and Dates: Overview of Guidelines
- Assessing your strengths and weaknesses
- The importance of developing a productive routine
- How to Research Effectively
- Research Methodologies
- Previous Learner Experiences
- Developing a Research Proposal: Final Tips and Checklist. Setting Goals & Targets
- Maintaining Motivation and Keeping the Momentum Going
- Working with a Supervisor: The Learner Supervisor Relationship
- Supervisors Allocated. How to deal with feedback constructively

## Accommodation

### Library

All learners have access to an extensive range of "physical" and "remote access" library resources. The library monitors and updates its resources on an on-going basis, in line with the College's Library Acquisition Policy. Lecturers collaborate with the library in updating reading lists for this course on an annual basis as is the norm with all programmes run by Griffith College.

## Module Teaching and Learning Strategy

This module consists of learners undertaking a supervised self-directed piece of research. Throughout this process, learners draw upon the full resources of the Law Library in order to research independently an essay on an approved topic with support from their assigned supervisor. The work must then be marshalled, written and presented, according to the standard legal conventions, regarding organisation and terminology.

## Module Assessment Strategy

| Element No. | Weighting | Type         | Description   | Module Learning outcomes |
|-------------|-----------|--------------|---|--------------------------|
| 1           | 100%      | Dissertation | Learners research and write a substantive essay (circa 8,000 words excluding reasonable footnotes) on a topic approved by the Course Committee. | 1-8                      |