

**Master of Law (International & Comparative Business Law)**

**List of Modules Academic Year 2023-24**

**Semester 1**

All students must take the foundation module; **LW483 Advanced Legal Research and Methods. Optional Modules** (Full-time students must choose **2** modules*;* Part-time students must choose **3** modules across the two semesters)

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| **Lecturer** | **Module** | **ECTS** |
| **Mr Larry Donnelly** | **LW483 Advanced Legal Research and Methods** | **10** |
| Ms Anna-Louise Hinds | LW5201 EU Competition Law  | 10 |
| Dr Connie Healy | LW5209 Legal Skills: Commercial Practice, Advocacy and Dispute Resolution | 10 |
| Ms Ursula Connolly | LW5212 Vis Moot. Please note this module is a year-long module and taught over semester 1 & 2 | 10 |

**Semester 2**

**Optional modules** (Full-time students must choose **3** modules*;* part-time studentsmust choose **3** modules across the two semesters)

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| **Lecturer** | **Module** | **ECTS** |
| Ms Ursula Connolly | LW5212 Vis Moot. Please note this module is a year-long module and taught over semester 1 & 2 | 10 |
| Dr Maureen O’Sullivan | LW5205 Advanced Intellectual Property Law and Development | 10 |
| Dr Peter O’Loughlin | LW5208 European Consumer Law and Policy | 10 |

## LW483 Advanced Legal Research and Methods – Core Module

**Module Co-ordinator: Mr Larry Donnelly**

This module will build on the research skills already acquired by students in their primary law degree programmes. The module will be closely linked with and designed to facilitate the writing components and the minor thesis requirement of all students on the programme. The emphasis will be on practical exercises which will include elements of the following: textual analysis, database training, literature review, research presentation, abstract writing, report writing and research evaluation.

**ELECTIVE MODULES – SEMESTER 1**

**LW5201: EU Competition Law**

This module examines EU competition law, focusing on the control of private power by economic actors to protect competition in the market. The module is designed to provide a broad overview of the legal framework and the substantive and procedural aspects of EU competition law rules. The module aims to bestow students with: a comprehensive knowledge and a clear understanding of EU competition law; the skills to evaluate the underlying goals and structure of EU competition law; and, the skills to apply and evaluate the rules and their application. To this end, the module entails an examination of the substantive and procedural rules of EU competition law.

**LW5209 Legal Skills: Commercial Practice, Advocacy and Dispute Resolution**

The objective of this course is to examine the expanding alternatives to court based litigation in the resolution of disputes. After a review of civil practice and procedure in the Irish courts, the course concentrates on the philosophy and methodologies of alternative dispute resolution (ADR). This includes a detailed analysis of domestic arbitration law.

The course also deals with other forms of binding ADR, e.g. international commercial arbitration, mediation - arbitration (med-arb), and adjudication; as well as non-binding forms such as mediation \ conciliation and collaborative law. An important element of the course is that dealing with the principals of negotiation, in particular the Harvard Negotiation Method.

By the end of this module, the student will be familiar with the arbitration process and its practical use as an alternative to litigation. The student will also be aware of the difference between negotiation, mediation, conciliation, arbitration, collaborative law and litigation. The student will be able to assess the relative advantages and disadvantages of these various forms of alternative dispute resolution when trying to resolve a dispute.

**LW5212 Vis Moot**

This module is a year-long module and taught over semester 1 & 2.

The module is a clinical legal education module where participating students compete as a team in the prestigious Vis Arbitration Moot. The module enables students to develop their knowledge and skills in international commercial arbitration. This includes: developing their knowledge of the substantive and procedural rules of international commercial arbitration, deepening their critical reasoning, research and writing skills, and developing their advocacy, public speaking, and team working skills.

**ELECTIVE MODULES – SEMESTER 2**

**LW5205 Advanced Intellectual Property Law and Development**

This module examines and analyses international laws and rules in relation to intellectual property which impact on economies and livelihoods in least developed, developing and developed countries. The module will scrutinise the roles played in international intellectual property/trade law by institutes such as the WTO, WIPO and the WHO. The module will also consider the activities of international NGOs and their influence over the enforcement of intellectual property rights. This module will consider the groundswell of political participation in developing countries, its extension in the developed world and its potential for reform of international institutions. The module adopts a critical approach to the current status quo and examines participatory and deliberative models of democracy. It is a holistic approach to the subject(s) and is, of its nature, interdisciplinary (crossing boundaries between law, economics, political science, sociology and philosophy).

**LW5208 European Consumer Law and Policy**

Consumer law and policy is a significant and rapidly developing area of EU regulation. This module aims to provide a critical understanding of the development of EU Consumer policy including its legal basis in the EU treaties. It will explore the various theories of regulation that underlie EU legislative measures and will examine and discuss methods of regulation. The module will then focus on specific areas of consumer protection regulation such as unfair terms, unfair commercial practices, and consumer rights in the digital environment. The module will examine the activity of the European Community legislature, the case law of the European Court of Justice and the relationship between the European Community system and domestic legal regimes. The module will also examine the theory and practice of enforcement of consumer rights and consumer redress.

**LW5200 Commercial Legal Placement**

The purpose of this module is to introduce students to ‘law in action’. Interested candidate applications are sent to the participating law firms. The law firms select the candidates they wish to interview and advise as to the candidate chosen for placement. It is the final decision of the firm on successful selection of students.

Being selected for these placements will give students an opportunity to utilise their legal training in a suitable work environment for ten weeks over the summer months.

Commercial clients need to balance costs, risk, practicality and a number of other factors on a daily basis in order to decide which legal solution is the best way to proceed. These placements provide students with an insight into how business clients engage in decision-making and to see the implications of law in practice.

The module will open with an introductory seminar, in which students will be informed generically as to the nature and scope of their responsibilities, and close with an interactive seminar during which students will share their individual experiences. This reflection is very important in a student’s development. Assessments will be predicated on a final reflection paper. Also, satisfactory written evaluations from host supervisors are a prerequisite to successfully completing the module.