

## **Module Title: Dissertation**

### **Overview and Aims**

The LL.M Research Dissertation involves an in-depth exploration of a specialised area or issue central to International Commercial or International Human Rights Law or both. Drawing on substantial relevant research, literature, concepts and techniques the student will need to combine international legal theory and practice. Through the research proposal, the student will have already devised the research question – this must then be expanded upon using appropriate methodologies and relevant literature, empirical research etc. The student will be supported by a supervisor, who will monitor and review the student's progress throughout the research process.

### **Aims of the dissertation**

- The process of completing the dissertation aims to:
- Provide the student with an opportunity to apply International Commercial Law or International Human Rights Law skills and knowledge to a professional level research project.
- Allow the student to make a significant/original contribution to his/her chosen field of enquiry.
- Provide the student with an opportunity to develop strategic questions, source relevant information, and sharpen his/her analytical and critical thinking processes through a systematic approach to problem solving.
- Advance the student's oral and written presentation and communication skills.

### **Module Content**

As part of this course, all LL.M students are required to successfully complete a research dissertation. This is a major component of the masters degree and as such, is worth 20 credits of the 80 credits awarded overall for the degree at level 9. Prior to commencing the dissertation, students will be required to complete the Legal Research module. This module prepares the student for research work. Thus, at the point of commencement of the dissertation the student should have a well-developed research proposal, have been appointed a supervisor and have had the benefit of the Legal Research and Writing program. It is envisaged that the dissertation will be credited at the level of two modules.

Before undertaking substantive work on the dissertation, the student will have completed the compulsory modules in Public International law and International Human rights law if seeking to attain an award of an International Human Rights Masters or have completed the compulsory modules in Public International Law and International Trade Law if seeking to attain the award of an International Commercial Masters. The student will also have undertaken the module in International Legal Systems and one elective in either International Commercial law or International Human Rights Law.