



NUI Galway  
OÉ Gaillimh

College of Business,  
Public Policy and Law



# Structured PhD

## Overview

The goal of doctoral education is to cultivate a research mindset, to nurture flexibility of thought and intellectual autonomy through an original, concrete research project. It is the practice of research that creates this mindset. The core component of the structured PhD programme is the advancement of knowledge through original research.

The purpose of structuring the doctoral programme is to provide the support and skills that students need to help achieve their academic and professional goals. The structured PhD is a formalized, integrated programme of education, training, research, personal and professional development activities. It enables the development of discipline-specific knowledge and research skills as well as generic transferable skills.

Supervision is by a principal supervisor who is responsible for providing guidance on the research carried out by the student and manages the student's training. The student and supervisor are supported by a Graduate Research Committee (GRC). The GRC formally monitors student progress through an annual review process in line with national and international best practice. (Students whose progress towards a PhD is unsatisfactory may be recommended to submit an MPhil.)

The Structured PhD is a 4-year full time programme (360 ECTS).

*Students who first register for a PhD prior to the academic year 2015/2016:*

Each student must obtain a minimum of **30 ECTS** through structured modules having a taught or skills component, and a maximum of 45 ECTS, over the course of the PhD.

*Students who first register for a PhD from or after the academic year 2015/2016:*

Each student must obtain **30 ECTS** through structured modules having a taught or skills component, over the course of the PhD.

The thesis remains central to the award of the PhD. The remaining ECTS are derived from the research component.

**Part Time:** The traditional research only PhD remains available for those wishing to complete on a part time basis.

## Induction and Orientation

**Induction** is organized by the College of Business Public Policy & Law through its constituent Schools (the School of Business and Economics and the School of Law), and is mandatory for all first year research students. Research process, regulations and ethics, research finances, information/library resources and other general information on the University will be provided to students at Induction.

**Orientation** is a separate event, also mandatory for all research students, which is organized by Graduate Studies and normally takes place prior to induction.

## Governance

The student's Graduate Research Committee is responsible for confirming that modules have been taken and assessed.<sup>1</sup> Module assessment is the responsibility of the student's supervisor or the lecturer delivering the module, as appropriate. The student should provide the GRC, in advance of the annual review, with details of modules taken, results achieved and copies of their assessment as part of their annual progress review. This should include a signed declaration to the effect that the student has not taken these modules previously, either as part of the structured PhD or as part of a master's degree in this or any other institution. The GRC, once satisfied that modules have been taken and assessed, will sign off on the modules in Section 8 of the annual GRC report. This information is passed to the College office for communication to the Graduate Studies Office and recording on the student's transcript. The Dean and the College office have responsibility for oversight of this process.

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<sup>1</sup> See University Guidelines for Research Degree Programmes, section 4.2 and section 5.8  
[http://www.nuigalway.ie/graduatestudies/documents/university\\_guidelines\\_for\\_research\\_degree\\_programmes.pdf](http://www.nuigalway.ie/graduatestudies/documents/university_guidelines_for_research_degree_programmes.pdf)

## Formal Registration for ECTS credits

All students must register for (i) thesis code (programme/discipline identifier) plus (ii) any generic GS modules approved by their supervisor plus (iii) any other modules approved by their supervisor (and module owner in the case of a taught module) plus (iv) a research component RM\*\*\* :

### (i) Thesis Codes (choose one only) – ECTS 0

AY650	Accounting
EC650	Economics
MG650	Management
MK650	Marketing
MS650	Business Information Systems
LW650	Law
LW610	Disability Law and Policy
LW651	Human Rights

### (ii) Generic<sup>2</sup> (Graduate Studies) Modules (5 ECTS each) (see overleaf for full module list):

(A full list with details of the syllabus and learning outcomes for each module is available at: [http://www.nuigalway.ie/graduatestudies/module\\_table.html](http://www.nuigalway.ie/graduatestudies/module_table.html))

GS modules that may be of particular interest are:

GS501	Seminar Programme
GS506	Teaching & Learning
GS507	Statistical Methods for Research
GS508	Formulating a Research Project Proposal
GS509	Participation in Workshops/Courses
GS515	Research Paper Publication
GS530	Graduate Research Information Skills
GS5103	Conference organisation

### (iii) Modules available within the College (see overleaf for full module list):

#### (iv) Research Component

The RM research component is a *balancing* module and needs to be adjusted according to the number of formal module credits a student takes. For example, if a student takes 10 ECTS worth of formal modules (eg GS507 and ME514), they should register for the RM module RM080 thus maintaining their overall credits at 90:

If taking	35 ECTS	of formal modules then balance with	RM055	55 ECTS	= 90 ECTS
If taking	30 ECTS	of formal modules then balance with	RM060	60 ECTS	= 90 ECTS
If taking	25 ECTS	of formal modules then balance with	RM065	65 ECTS	= 90 ECTS
If taking	20 ECTS	of formal modules then balance with	RM070	70 ECTS	= 90 ECTS
If taking	15 ECTS	of formal modules then balance with	RM075	75 ECTS	= 90 ECTS
If taking	10 ECTS	of formal modules then balance with	RM080	80 ECTS	= 90 ECTS
If taking	5 ECTS	of formal modules then balance with	RM085	85 ECTS	= 90 ECTS
If taking	no	formal modules then balance with	RM090	90 ECTS	= 90 ECTS

#### Students must register on line for their selected modules.

1. Go to Online Registration [www.nuigalway.ie/registration](http://www.nuigalway.ie/registration)
2. Login to Online Registration
3. Select My Courses

#### Blackboard 1GST1

All students will be registered for the Blackboard module 1GST1 Graduate Studies Training, where general information on Graduate Studies at NUI Galway is provided: <https://nuigalway.blackboard.com/>

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<sup>2</sup> Note that many GS modules should be evaluated by your GRC or supervisor. Please ensure that they provide an evaluation for this module in **Section 8** of the annual GRC report or you may not receive ECTS credits.

## Modules available in the School of Business and Economics

Module	Description	Semester	ECTS	
<b>EC374</b>	<b>Advanced Econometrics</b>	2	10	
EC506	Econometrics	2	10	
EC515.1	Data Management & Survey Techniques	1	10	*
<b>EC556</b>	<b>Philosophy of Social Science</b>	1	10	*
EC660	Research Seminar I (Advanced Microeconomics)	1	10	
EC661	Research Seminar II (Advanced Macroeconomics)	2	10	
<b>EC5110</b>	<b>Modern Statistical Analysis &amp; Computational Methods</b>	2	5	
MG6111	Innovation Management	2	10	
MG582	International & Cross Cultural Management	1	10	*
				*
MS5101	Research Skills	1/2	10	
MK5103	The Philosophy and Theory of Marketing	1	5	
MK5102	Marketing in Society	1	5	
SPA470	Innovation Policy		5	☒
SPA471	Evaluation for Public Policy		5	☒
SPA480	Communicating Research to Non Specialists		5	☒

### Those in bold will not run in 2015/16

*Not all modules will run every year, please check with the relevant discipline before registering.*

*☒ for SPA modules please check with Angela Sice, Whitaker Institute. These may not run in 2015/2016.*

*\* Modules particularly recommended for Yr 1 PhD students, subject to consultation with your supervisor.*

## **Module descriptors**

### **EC374 Advanced Econometrics**

The objective of this course is to help students understand standard econometric tools and several important advanced econometrics techniques in cross-sections, panel data and time-series models and how they can be used in empirical research and practical applications. Emphasis will be placed on appreciating its scope, understanding the essentials underlying the various methods, and developing the ability to relate the methods to important issues faced by a researcher. On successful completion of this module, students will be able to use computer based statistical packages to analyze data, will understand how to interpret the output and will be confident to drive the analysis process. Emphasis is on being able to use the methods effectively, and on understanding the methods, their appropriateness and their limitations.

### **EC515 Data Management and Survey Techniques**

The objective of this course is to familiarise students with fundamental knowledge of statistics and data management Upon completion of this course you will be able to:

- Understand basic statistical measures such as mean median, variance etc.
- Understand probability distributions and be familiar with those that are commonly applied in econometrics
- Conduct one and two-tailed tests of hypotheses
- Conduct hypotheses tests in paired samples and independent samples
- Apply non-parametric approaches to hypothesis testing
- Conduct statistical analyses using SPSS
- Create and interpret commonly used indices such as the Laspeyres and Paasche indices

### **EC506 Econometrics**

The principal aim of this module is to provide students with a thorough understanding of the core techniques of econometrics and their application, in order to test economic theories and measure magnitudes relevant for economic policy and other decisions. These skills will provide a foundation for subsequent study of quantitative topics in economics and are one of the key elements in the professional training of an economist. The module differs from the standard approach taken in traditional econometrics courses in that it focuses mainly on the issues and challenges that empirical researchers address when they apply econometric methods. Weekly lab sessions form an integral part of the module and will help to develop students' applied econometric skills and their understanding of the methods presented in lectures.

### **EC661 Advanced Macroeconomic**

This theory module begins with a treatment of modern growth theory and empirics. Topics include the neoclassical growth model, cross-country convergence, and theories of endogenous growth. We then consider theories of business cycle fluctuations, including both real business cycle and new Keynesian approaches. We then develop dynamic treatments of monetary, fiscal and exchange rate policies, with applications to the Irish and euro zone economies. The module concludes with an exploration of political economy models of macroeconomic policy. On successful completion of this module, students should:

- Be able to explain and critically evaluate theories of endogenous growth, neoclassical growth model.
- Use computer based macroeconomic modelling software to analyse and interpret data.

### **EC660 Advanced Microeconomic Theory**

Advanced Microeconomics is intended to introduce students to topics at the frontiers of research in microeconomic theory. Topics may vary from year to year, but it is expected that they will include:

social choice theory, game theory, the economics of information, networks, contract theory and political economy. The objective of the course is to write a research paper in microeconomic theory.

### **EC556 Philosophy of Social Science**

Philosophy and Social Science: A Conceptual Framework; Major System of Thought in Philosophy: From Rationalism to Post-Positivism; The Social Sciences: Emergence and Philosophical Foundations; Major Developments in Contemporary Philosophy of Science and Social Sciences; Neo-Positivism: Dominance and Decline; Hermeneutics: The Philosophy of Interpretation and Understanding; Critical Theory; Post-Positivist Philosophies; Critical Realism; Causal Holism; and Social Constructivism. On successful completion of this module, students should be able to critically evaluate major systems of thought including rationalism and post positivism, the philosophy of interpretation and understanding, Critical Realism; Causal Holism; and Social Constructivism.

### **MS5101 Research Skills**

This online course provides students with research skills for business research dissertations. Topics may include: research design; research philosophies; formulating research questions; conducting a literature review; academic writing and citing skills; quantitative and qualitative research approaches; research philosophies and methodologies; measurement concepts and research instruments; collecting and analysing data; constructing and writing a dissertation.

### **MG111 Innovation Management**

This module provides students with an introduction to the management and strategy of innovation. Upon completion of this course you should be able to:

- Explain the central importance of effective innovation and technology management for success and growth.
- Identify the role of innovative capabilities in the development and implementation of innovation strategy.
- Critically assess the key processes for the effective organisation of innovation and technology within firms.
- Discuss contemporary developments and challenges in innovation management

### **MG582 International & Cross Cultural Management**

This module aims to develop the awareness, skills and knowledge required by managers seeking to work abroad as international executives. The module provides a key grounding in the nature of management in the global context by increasing awareness and understanding of the soft skills in international management, particularly those relating to cross-cultural management. Upon completion of this course you will be able to:

- Understand the importance of cross-cultural management, and of the major theoretical and empirical studies comparing cultures and institutions.
- Understanding a range of international management practices and how culture impacts upon them: work, motivation, performance appraisal, leadership, cross-cultural communication and decision-making, negotiation and trust, conflict and dispute resolution, ethics.
- Knowledge of comparative management models and their implications for management in different national / regional contexts.
- Apply their understanding of cultural and institutional differences to evaluate the challenges and opportunities of doing business in different countries.
- To analyse and critique theory and research on national cultures, and to convert theory and research into practice.
- Display an understanding of cultural difference in interactions with different nationalities.
- Effectively present in written and oral format in a means appropriate to a professional audience.

### **MK5103 The Philosophy and Theory of Marketing**

We explore the philosophy of marketing theory through the critical examination of the concepts and assumptions which underpin marketing thought and practice, to understand how marketing will develop into the future over your working life time. The main issues are the history of marketing

thought and practice, the scope of marketing theory and thought, the philosophy of marketing and marketing as a science.

After this course you should be able to:-

- Critically discuss the conceptual foundations of marketing theory, its scope and domain.
- Argue the case as to the core concept of marketing – exchange.
- Evaluate whether marketing is a science or an art.
- Question and challenge recent developments in the marketing domain and
- Synthesise emerging areas in marketing together with its historical development.

### **MK5102 Marketing in Society**

The study of “Marketing in Society” allows one to “back away” and consider broader questions about the field of Marketing and what it is doing in the world around us. From this perspective, the option of viewing Marketing from the position of society and its members emerges, a different look from that which views Marketing from more narrow vantage points such as the firm and its managers or individual consumers. Consideration of the “aggregate Marketing system” – that large and complex structure of institutions, actors, and activities that operate to serve the “Marketing” needs of a society is possible. From this perspective, new questions and new discoveries about the field of Marketing arise. The breadth of the societal domain allows for many possible topics and approaches. Reflecting this, separate areas of scholarship have developed over time.

After this course you should be able to:

- Critically examine the conceptual foundations, scope, and domain of Marketing in Society, including boundaries of thought within the study of Marketing.
- Identify the key issues involved in marketing decision making.
- Evaluate the Aggregate Marketing System, and responsibilities of organisations to their wider social and economic stakeholders.
- Assess and challenge recent developments in the Marketing and Society domain.
- Synthesise emerging areas of scholarship within Marketing in Society, together with its historical development.
- Reflect on how these research contributions impact Marketing and Policy decision-makers, and the lives of citizenry.

## Modules available in the School of Law

There are three PhD-specific modules available in the School of Law:

Module	Description	ECTS
LW6102	Law Research Skills 1- Preparation, Presentation & Discussion	5
LW6103	Law Research Skills 2- Engaging in Scholarship and Debate	5
LW6101	Legal Opinion or Advice	5

### Module descriptors:

#### Law Research Skills 1: Preparation, Presentation and Discussion (LW6102)

In this module, which you will take in the second year of your structured PhD, you will present your research to date in a seminar to a panel of experts and an audience of your peers, and respond to feedback. The Law Research Skills being assessed in this module include the ability to develop, refine, present and debate your research findings to date at a high level amongst a community of peers and scholars of international standing. Taking feedback, evaluating presentations and refining skills are essential components of this module.

#### Law Research Skills 2: Engaging in Scholarship and Debate (LW6103)

In this module, which you will take in the third year of your structured PhD, having already taken Law Research Skills 1, you will present your advanced research in a seminar to a panel of experts and an audience of your peers, and respond to feedback. You will develop, refine, articulate and debate (to the highest levels) your original research contribution. Engaging with peers and scholars to refine your propositions, identify weaknesses for remediation and develop strategies for future work are the core aspects addressed here, building on earlier skills development.

#### Legal Opinion or Advice (LW6101)

In this module you will be centrally involved in submitting an opinion or advice to a national, regional or international body. The body may be governmental (e.g. the Law Reform Commission), non-governmental (e.g. Amnesty International) or intergovernmental (e.g. Council of Europe, EU or UN). The opinion/advice may include an amicus curiae intervention before a domestic, regional or international court or adjudicative body.

In addition to the PhD-specific modules, all taught LL.M modules are open to PhD students, subject to the consent of the module owner and provided the student has not taken the course before. The following suite of LL.M modules are available:

Module	Description	ECTS
LW475	Field Experience Assignment	15
LW451	Introduction to International Human Rights Law	15
LW417	Contemporary Issues in Human Rights Law II	10
LW432	Business & Human Rights I	15
LW456	Gender and Human Rights	15
LW458.I	International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights	15
LW466	European Convention on Human Rights	15
LW467	Minority Rights and Self Determination	15
LW469	International Peace Support Operations	15
LW470	Conflict & Post Conflict Studies	15
LW474	European Union & Human Rights	5
LW481	Economic, Social & Cultural Rights	15
LW494	Refugee Protection: Refugees and Asylum Seekers (A)	15
LW520	Introduction to International Criminal Law	15
LW525	Counter-Terrorism and Human Rights	5
LW530	Procedure Before International Criminal Courts	5
LW531	Introduction to Public International Law I	15
LW538	Transitional Justice	10
LW546	Contemporary Issues in HR III	5
LW547	Human Rights Field Work: Law and Practice	5
LW548	Human Rights, Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity	5



LW484	Law, Regulation and Policy	10
LW552	Foundational Theoretical Framework in Disability Law and Policy	10
LW562	Regional Disability Law and Policy	10
LW558	Legal Capacity Law and Policy	10
LW550	Advocacy and Access to Justice	10
LW561	Mental Health Law and Policy	10
LW553	Inclusive Education Law and Policy	10
LW551	Contemporary Challenges in Disability Law and Policy	10
LW483	Advanced Legal Research and Methods	10
LW485	Sentencing and Penal Policy	10
LW486	Theories of Judicial Activism	10
LW487	Communications Law: Law, Technology and Change	10
LW488	Processes of Law Reform	10
LW489	Disability Law Reform Challenges	10
LW493	The Criminal Jury	10
LW496	Local Government Law	10
LW439	Advocacy, Activism & Public Interest Law	10
LW566	Immigration Law : Between Sovereignty & Equality	10
LW508	Minors, Minority Groups & the Criminal Justice System	10

### **Module descriptors**

#### **Field Experience Assignment (LW475)**

This module provides an opportunity for students to undertake field missions as part of their LLM studies. It usually applies to Defence Forces personnel or Gardai who undertake a UN or similar peacekeeping mission in the course of their studies (part time) and to submit a written paper on some aspect of their mission abroad. The paper must meet the academic requirements of a Masters Programme and the topic must be approved by the relevant supervisor.

#### **Introduction to International Human Rights Law (LW451)**

The course seeks to provide post-graduate students with a general introduction to the sources, systems and foundations of international human rights law. The course combines lectures and tutorial group meetings. Students are expected to prepare for the lectures and seminars by reading the materials recommended in the syllabus.

#### **Business and Human Rights 1 (LW432)**

The course engages post-graduate students with the topic of business and human rights, exploring questions regarding the extent to which business entities such as multinational corporations have human rights obligations. It considers developments at the international and domestic level to promote accountability and ensure compliance with emerging standards.

#### **Gender and Human Rights (LW456)**

The course aims at providing students with the knowledge of the relationship between gender and human rights. It explores origins, development and challenges of integrating gender into human rights law discourse and practice. Focusing on international protection of women's human rights as an example, the course introduces students to relevant international bodies and instruments. It also introduces students to the critical analysis of law through the study of feminist legal methods within the context of women's rights protection.

#### **International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights (LW458.I)**

This module provides students with an understanding of the legal regimes pertaining to the use of force and armed conflict. It focuses on the rules and principles that apply in situations of armed conflict, such as the principles of distinction, proportionality and military necessity. Topics covered include the distinction between international armed conflicts and non-international armed conflicts, the laws of occupation, the laws applicable to prisoners of war, the laws applicable to peace support operations etc. The module also deals with the enforcement of international humanitarian law.

### **European Convention on Human Rights (LW466)**

This course will critically engage the underpinnings of the Convention and the Strasbourg case law. The course will explore the influence of the Convention as well as the extent to which politics informs the law and law, the politics. Whilst some Convention rights will be dealt with on an article-to-article basis, the methodological leanings of this course will be an examination of rights on an issue-by-issue basis.

### **Minority Rights and Self Determination (LW467)**

The module introduces students to the legal framework pertaining to minorities and indigenous peoples. It also focuses on the right to self-determination in the context of minority groups and indigenous peoples. It presents the legal framework in a sociological and political context and explores the challenges to the protection of the rights of minorities and of indigenous peoples under international, regional and national laws. In particular the module focuses on the protection of minority and indigenous language, religion and culture and how these issues have been developed through international and regional jurisprudence.

### **International Peace Operations (LW469)**

This module provides an introduction to Peace Operations. It examines the legal framework of such operations and the UN Charter. The course examines peace operations from a thematic and case study basis. Issues addressed include the protection of civilians, peace operations and international humanitarian law and human rights law, the use of force and the role of regional organisations.

### **Conflict & Post Conflict Studies (LW470)**

This course is designed to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of the dynamics of intra-state conflict as well as an understanding of the legal, political, and structural underpinnings that sustain conflict. The course will evaluate the emerging issues and challenges confronting HRL and IHL, including challenges posed by the remnants of the 'war on terror' discourse and will focus on two particular conflicts, Northern Ireland and Israel/Palestine, unpacking the complexities inherent in them, and seeking to provide direction as to the relevant outstanding post-conflict issues.

### **European Union and Human Rights (LW466)**

The objective of this course is to consider the evolution of the foundational doctrine of the EU as a community based on respect for human rights before proceeding to a detailed examination of the promotion of human rights as an objective of EU external relations policy. The Treaty on European Union and the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union claim respect for human rights as a foundational doctrine of the EU, committing the EU to the protection and promotion of human rights both internally and externally.

### **Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (LW481)**

This course explores economic, social & cultural rights, as a vehicle for the material means to attain satisfactory standards of living in an egalitarian society, and the socio-cultural agency to influence an enlightened society. An expansive reading of economic, social & cultural rights thus implies a radically progressive politics, structural social change and distributive justice. The course considers relevant treaty law, as well as national and international jurisprudence.

### **Refugee Protection: Refugees and Asylum Seekers (LW494)**

This course explores the international, regional and domestic systems for the protection of asylum seekers and refugees. Beginning with the seminal 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, the course focuses the definition of a refugee and the grounds for ceasing and excluding refugee status. Next, the course explores how international human rights law has developed to supplement refugee law in a number of key areas. Focus then shifts to one of the major systems of regional protection in the world, namely, the EU Common European Asylum System. Students will analyse whether this system adds to or detracts from the protection provided by the 1951 Convention. The peculiarities of the Irish asylum system are then discussed, drawing the experience of a number of practitioners in Irish asylum law. Finally, the course will look at some contemporary issues in refugee protection, such as the treatment of internally displaced persons, child refugee claimants, war refugees and particular

challenges faced by refugees in the Global South.

### **Introduction to International Criminal Law (LW520)**

The course introduces post-graduate students to the subject of international criminal law. During the course, students will explore the history and development of international criminal law, the established crimes under international law, the mechanisms of international criminal justice and general principles of international criminal law.

### **Counter-terrorism and Human Rights (LW525)**

This course introduces students to how the protection of human rights may be affected by counter-terrorism laws, policies and practices. It explores the relevance of – and the relationship between – international human rights law and international humanitarian law in the context of counter-terrorism. Students will also consider contentious debates in the area of counter-terrorism, i.e., the justifiability of the use of torture/the lawfulness of targeted killings/restrictions on freedom of expression.

### **Procedure before International Criminal Courts (LW530)**

The module introduces students to the laws of procedure and evidence before international criminal courts and tribunals. The module focuses in particular on the law and practice of the International Criminal Court. It explores the rights of the accused in international criminal law and analyses the law of evidence and procedure throughout the various phases of international law cases, at the pre-trial, trial, appeal and sentencing stages.

### **Introduction to Public International Law 1 (LW531)**

The course introduces students to basic concepts of public international law and equips students with skills required in order to envisage legal dimension of international issues. The main objective of the course is to provide students with an overview of the fundamental notions and methodology of public international law. The course will equip students with the skills required in order to envisage legal dimensions of human rights issues. Being targeted at postgraduate students, it also aims at developing students' critical analysis skills.

### **Transitional Justice (LW538)**

The course introduces post-graduate students to the debates, concepts and dilemmas in the relatively new field of transitional justice, exploring the various accountability mechanisms that exist in addition to international or domestic criminal prosecution. It encourages students to critically evaluate transitional justice mechanisms in light of stated objectives such as justice, truth, peace and reconciliation, and compliance with human rights law

### **Contemporary Issues in Human Rights III: Islam and Human Rights (LW546)**

The course aims at providing students with the knowledge of the relationship between Islam and human rights. It explores the relationship between cultural relativism and universalism claims taking Islam as an example. The course introduces students to relevant theories and methodological tools for developing a constructive dialogical attitude with regard to cultural claims. A brief introduction to basic notions of Islamic law is followed by a study and critical analysis of a series of apparent tensions between Islam and human rights: Islamic criminal justice system and traditional punishments, freedom of religion and treatment of minorities and women's rights.

### **Human Rights Field Work: Law and Practice (LW547)**

Human rights field work is a professional exercise engaging law, ethics and more or less settled methodologies. This module will explore this developing area, with focus on such operational contexts as human rights monitoring, analysis, reporting, advocacy, intervention and capacity building. Attention will be made to the measurement of the impact of human rights work and of the related indicators. An examination of the relationship of law, theory and practice will underpin all module content.

### **Human Rights, Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity (LW548)**

In this course we will first examine the experience of human rights violations perpetrated against members of sexual minorities and then locate the international human rights legal protection framework. Following an examination of such intellectual categorisations as "sexual orientation" and "gender identity", attention will be paid to the application of the international human rights treaties and the operation of the international (especially of the United Nations) supervisory mechanisms.

### **Law, Regulation and Policy (LW484)**

This foundation course will examine the role of law in the formulation and implementation of regulation and policy in various fields of the law. The role of law in facilitating activities, in providing a framework and structure within which they can operate, and in establishing a basis for regulatory norms and practices, will be discussed. The role of regulatory bodies in devising regulation (goal setting, establishing criteria, engaging in consultation processes etc.) and implementing it (monitoring, compliance, adjudicating, advocacy, etc.) will be considered, as will various forms of regulation (regulation, co-regulation, self-regulation, etc.). The focus of the course will range from national to European (EU and Council Of Europe) and international level. Topics may vary from year to year.

### **Foundational Theoretical Framework for Disability Law and Policy (LW552)**

This foundation course will examine the role of law in the formulation and implementation of regulation and policy in various fields of public law. The role of law in facilitating activities, in providing a framework and structure within which they can operate, and in establishing a basis for regulatory norms and practices, will be discussed. The role of regulatory bodies in devising regulation (goal setting, establishing criteria, engaging in consultation processes etc.) and implementing it (monitoring, compliance, adjudicating, advocacy, etc.) will be considered, as will various forms of regulation (regulation, co-regulation, self-regulation, etc.). The focus of the course will range from national to European (EU and Council Of Europe) level and cover a variety of topics, for example law and governance in the context of the EU. Topics may vary from year to year.

### **Regional Disability Law and Policy (LW562)**

This module will give an overview of various regional approaches to disability law and policy as a way of transposing the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and as a way of stimulating region-wide reform. While the main focus will be on European disability law & policy reform, (European Union, OECD, Council of Europe), the course will also address regional developments elsewhere such as those occurring in the Asia/Pacific region, the Organisation of American States (OAS), the African Union (AU). Of particular focus will be development aid as a way of underpinning global change. There will therefore be coverage of the World Bank and its related activities.

### **Legal Capacity Law and Policy (LW558)**

The focus of this course is on international, regional and national law reform of legal capacity laws. Key issues will include supported decision-making and the assessment of legal capacity.

### **Advocacy and Access to Justice (LWLW550)**

This module will address the broad scope of access to justice for people with disabilities (including access to information, and to the systems and procedures used in the administration of justice). It will highlight how people with disabilities experience barriers in accessing justice, and how these barriers can be redressed, through statutory advocacy services and other innovative rights-enforcement mechanisms.

### **Mental Health Law and Policy (LW561)**

The purpose of this course is to explore the key challenges facing mental health law and policy at the international, regional and national level. Based on the inherent equality of all persons, this course will examine the legitimacy of laws and policy priorities that effect the confinement and forcible treatment of persons from a civil and criminal law perspective.

### **Inclusive Education Law and Policy (LWLW553)**

The purpose of this course is to explore the key challenges facing the process of inclusive education reform that is underway worldwide as well as in Ireland. Effectively, this is a law reform process that seeks to accommodate human difference within the education system, and is premised on the inherent equality of all persons and a rejection of the 'separate but equal' segregationist doctrine. This move towards mainstream education, to truly inclusive education is not without its critics, with some championing the necessity for separate provision in certain situations (e.g. deaf community, and parents of children with autism).

### **Contemporary Challenges in Disability Law and Policy (LW551)**

The aim of this course is to engage students in the very latest issues and themes of debate in the area of Disability Law and Policy. This course will provide a forum for the discussion of current issues in Disability Law and Policy from the point of view of law, philosophy, economics and sociology from both a theoretical and practical perspectives. Topics may include: Development Aid, Administration and Management of Disability, Aging and Disability and Family Support and Disability. As the emphasis is on contemporary issues, precise themes addressed may vary from year to year.

### **Advanced Legal Research and Methods (LW483)**

This course will build on the research skills already acquired by students in their primary law degree programmes. It 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, research evaluation.

### **Sentencing and Penal Policy (LW485)**

This course begins with a detailed analysis of the moral justifications for punishment and their current relevance. This will be followed by a study of the historical development of selected penal practices and institutions, including imprisonment, probation and community based sanctions. The latter part of the course will concentrate on judicial sentencing practices, with particular emphasis on the general principles of sentencing developed by courts in common law jurisdictions, and on the strategies more recently adopted by governments and courts in other Western countries to structure sentencing discretion. Sentencing theory and policy has been enriched by contributions from many disciplines including philosophy, social theory, law and history. The reading required for this course will draw on all of those disciplines.

### **Theories of Judicial Activism (LW486)**

This course critically examines the role of the courts as agents of change within society. It explores the phenomenon of 'judicial activism' in Irish Constitutional law from a comparative perspective. Such activism is inherently suspect given the ambiguity of many important constitutional provisions to begin with and especially given the centrality of the legislature as the main democratic forum for addressing profound social and moral issues. The focus of our enquiry will be on competing theories concerning the legitimacy of activism as a process distinct from its result in any given case. The principal comparison will be with the United States and especially with the case law of the Warren Court. It will explore both conservative and liberal theories of activism and the possibility of mediating between the two through the concept of 'public reason'. It will include an assessment of the contribution of various

Irish and American judges as well as various theorists such as Oliver Wendell Holmes, Judge Cardozo, Herbert Wechsler, Alexander Bickel, Judge Skelly Wight, Bruce Ackerman, Robert Bork, and Ronald Dworkin among others.

### **Communications Law: Law, Technology and Change (LW487)**

This course focuses on the legal issues surrounding communications, particularly mass media, at a time of rapid technological, economic and social change. Advances in technology have spawned new services and new platforms for delivery of content, have opened up new possibilities and markets for advertising, archiving and other methods of information storage and management. Convergence of technologies has led increasingly to convergence also of regulation and regulators. In this new environment, key questions facing regulators and policy-makers include how to accommodate technological and economic developments, how to safeguard democratic values and meet social objectives, ensure pluralism and diversity, and protect the citizen as citizen as well as consumer. The course will consider approaches to legal regulation and policy-making in the communications field.

### **Processes of Law Reform (LW488)**

This course examines the process of democratic law reform. It will look at how effective arguments for law reform can be made and the various interests that must be balanced in order to achieve sustainable and legitimate change. It will explore the various mechanisms available to identify and prioritise particular law reform challenges in the public law sphere. Its scope will be comparative in nature and will look particularly at the role and critical success factors of law reform commissions worldwide. It will explore the parliamentary committee system and the link between parliamentary reform and the law reform process. It will consider the use of special government commissions as well as other public interest bodies such as equality bodies and human rights commissions.

### **Disability Law Reform Challenges (LW489)**

The purpose of this course is to explore the key challenges facing the process of disability law reform that is underway worldwide as well as in Ireland. Effectively, this is a law reform process that seeks to accommodate human difference and is premised on the inherent equality of all persons and a rejection of the 'separate but equal' segregationist doctrine. It is taking place in fields as diverse as mental health, civil commitment, incapacity law, education law, employment law, housing law, etc. The course will look at a shifting menu of contemporary issues such as the drafting of the UN treaty on the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities, the growing relevance of EU anti-discrimination law, relevant Council of Europe instruments and the relevance of the 'rights-based' approach to service delivery.

### **The Criminal Jury (LW493)**

The purpose of this module is to consider differing methods of criminal adjudication in the common law. The primary focus of the module will be on the criminal jury - its role, development and its strengths and weaknesses. The module will consider historical, contemporary and comparative materials. Through an examination of the development and principal characteristics of jury trial, we will consider the reasons for the decline since the nineteenth century of the jury as the principal dispositive mechanism in the criminal law. We will also consider the implications of a structured system of plea-bargaining and juryless trials, and the benefits of trial by jury. Other issues such as jury nullification, the regulation of juries, representativeness of juries, and juror misconduct will be examined. There will also be a critical examination of the jury reform in a number of common law jurisdictions including Ireland. We will consider why in an age when jury trial is apparently in decline, there is a redoubling of efforts to reform it? The module will be examined through a writing assignment and a moot court exercise.

### **Local Government Law (LW496)**

This course will explore key areas of legal and institutional change within local government in Ireland. It will examine the theoretical, constitutional and legal background of local government and its role as an organ of the State in contemporary society. The historical development of the institution itself in the Republic of Ireland will be appraised. The operation of the Local Government Act 2001 and other recent law will be appraised within the representative, regulatory and service provision functions. Key transformations in the managerial and service delivery elements of local authorities will be evaluated. Important questions arise in the context of the obligations on local authorities under the European Convention on Human Rights Act 2003, and the development of applicable tools for human rights proofing of local government policies and practices will inform a central aspect of the module. The role, outcomes and potential development of the Ombudsman's Office in relations with local authorities will be analysed and evaluated, together with relevant legal developments.

### **Activism, Advocacy and Public Interest Law (LW439))**

This new module will examine the role of advocacy and the dynamics of activism in advancing diverse forms and aspects of "the public interest". In particular it will look at the advancement of the public interest through public interest law and litigation. Selected themes will be used to examine how the public interest, as understood broadly or by sectional interests, is advanced by recourse to public interest law. Practical concerns in the area of public interest litigation - such as *locus standi*, class and derivative actions and protective costs orders - will be discussed with a view to exploring the unrealised potential of public interest litigation in Ireland drawing on comparative experience in other jurisdictions. The module will also focus on the regulatory issues concerning non-governmental organisations, their relationship with the state, and selected themes, such as media reporting of public interest issues. There will be contributions from a diverse range of guest contributors including one or two small panels of speakers who will be invited to debate particular issues with participation by the class.

### **Immigration Law: between sovereignty and equality (LW566)**

This course examines the burgeoning area of immigration law and policy. Immigration law has a multi-level structure, covering domestic law, EU law and public international law (notably human rights and refugee law). The course explores how these levels interact. In particular, it investigates how the concept of State sovereignty, whereby States are free to control immigration, has been curtailed by the ceding of sovereignty to the EU as the latter has developed competence in the areas of immigration and asylum. It also explores the extent to which domestic and EU immigration law are curtailed by international human rights law which require that everyone - regardless of legal status - is entitled to certain minimum standards of treatment. In short, the course examines how the competing forces of sovereignty and equality impact on the regulation of immigration.

### **Minors, Minority Groups and the Criminal Justice System (LW508)**

This course explores the experiences of children; members of the Traveller / Roma community; persons with mental health problems and/or intellectual disabilities; non-Irish citizens; women and older persons, who come into contact with the criminal justice system. There is a significant comparative element to this course with consideration of relevant law and policy across a number of different common law jurisdictions. Throughout the course there will be a consideration of Ireland's obligations under international and regional human rights law.