Graduate Student Handbook

Academic Year 2019/2020
Taught and Research Postgraduates,
Welcome to the School of Law at the University of Limerick.
The School provides a dynamic, research-led teaching environment. Inspired by the University's mission, we seek to realise the potential of our knowledge and expertise, to provide an excellent legal education to highly capable and motivated students, to contribute to the advancement and dissemination of legal knowledge, to facilitate interaction between legal scholars and practitioners, and to contribute to public affairs.

You are an integral part of this vision.
Postgraduate education differs in important ways from undergraduate study. You will move beyond rote remembrance of laws to a deeper understanding and analysis of their application in complex, changing contexts. You will develop a variety of additional skills: legal reasoning and writing, problem-solving and public speaking, effectively engaging in teamwork and practising self-directed study. Embracing these challenges will enhance your enjoyment, expand your education, and ensure your employability.

While all faculty members are here to help you, your course directors and I have particular responsibility for your time here. Please feel free to contact us with your concerns or feedback.

We are delighted that you have chosen to study with us. We are confident, too, that you will make us proud.

Dr Alan Cusack
Director of Postgraduate Studies
Office: FG-027d Phone: + 353 61 233659 Email: alan.cusack@ul.ie

Note: This handbook is intended to assist students with basic information relevant to their studies in the academic year 2019/2020. It does not replace the official documents of the School of Law, the Faculty of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, the Graduate School, or the University of Limerick. Further information about these official documents can be found on the next page of this handbook.
USEFUL LINKS

Students beginning their postgraduate studies are expected to familiarise themselves with the following materials:

- **Handbook of Academic Regulations and Procedures** (includes information on marks and standards, the UL Code of Conduct, etc.)
- **University Student Handbook** (includes information on timetabling, registration, progression, grading, and Student Academic Administration).
- **Student Affairs** (includes information on student administration, student supports, and student specialised supports).
- **Postgraduate Academic Charter** (including Responsibilities of Students and Supervisors and Taught Postgraduate Programmes).

Additional useful websites include:

- **School of Law Website**
- Facebook @SchoolofLawUniversityofLimerick
- **School of Law on Twitter** (@ULSchoolofLaw)
- **University of Limerick**
- **Campus Map**
- **Graduate School**
- **Careers Service**
- **Glucksman Library**
- **SULIS** (UL’s learning management system)

**Note:** You must familiarise yourself with the contents of this handbook and will be assumed to have done so. It should be read in conjunction with other relevant documentation, including Academic Regulations and Procedures. This and other relevant documents are available on the student portal. The information provided is correct at the time of publication and may be subject to change.
CONTACTS

Head of School: Professor Shane Kilcommins
Office: FG014
For contact information or an appointment, see the School of Law Administrators below.

Administrators

Suzanne Nicholas-Barry is the administrator for the School of Law. She works primarily with the Head of the Law School. She is also responsible for administrative matters connected with the running of the Law School and may be contacted about matters relating to the Head of the School, the Law Graduates network, admissions, and other related issues.
Email: suzanne.nicholas-barry@ul.ie
Phone: +353 61 202344 (2344 internally)
Office: FG-027b

Carol Huguet deals with, among other things, general student queries and appointments for faculty members.
Email: carol.huguet@ul.ie
Phone: +353 61 233688 (3688 internally)
Office: FG-027c

Josephine Conway supports the Director of Postgraduate Studies
Email: josephine.conway@ul.ie
Phone: +353 61 202546 (2546 internally)
Office: FG-027f

School of Law Administrators’ Office Hours Monday–Thursday,
9:00 am to 5:15 pm
Friday, 9:00am to 5:00pm
Closed for lunch each day between 1 pm and 2 pm
Please note notice boards outside FG014 are used to communicate between the faculty and the student body. Students should check them regularly. They should also refrain from removing notices; this is unfair to other students and unethical. Only material authorised by the School of Law may be attached to the notice boards. All other material will be removed.

**Director of Postgraduate Studies**
The Director of Postgraduate Studies has primary responsibility for the School’s research students, chairs the Postgraduate Course Board, and facilitates graduate student gatherings.

**Acting Director of Postgraduate Studies 2018/2019**
Dr Alan Cusack
Office: FG-027d Phone: + 353 61 233659 Email: alan.cusack@ul.ie
Office Hours: Monday, 1.00pm-4.00pm

**LLM/MA Course Directors**
Course Directors ensure the smooth running of their programmes. With Student Representatives, they can be contacted when individual issues arise.

**LLM (General)**
Dr Kathryn O’Sullivan
Office: FG-015 Phone: + 353 61 202533
Note email acting Course director: Eddie.Keane@ul.ie
Office Hours: Thursday 9.30 to 12.30

**LLM/MA in Human Rights in Criminal Justice**
Dr Ger Coffey
Office: FG-010 Phone: + 353 61 202574 Email: Ger.Coffey@ul.ie
Office Hours: Monday: 11:00 – 1:00 and 3:00 – 4:00.
LLM in International Commercial Law
Ms Sinead Eaton
Office: FG-008 Phone: + 353 61 202344 Email: Sinead.Eaton@ul.ie
Office Hours: Monday 1.30 to 3pm and Fridays 11.30 to 1pm

MA in Serious Crime Investigation
Dr Alan Cusack
Office: FG-027d Phone: +353 61 233 659
Email: Alan.Cusack@ul.ie
Office Hours: Monday, 1.00pm-4.00pm

Module Coordinators
Each module also has a Module Coordinator responsible for the teaching of the course, its content, assessment, and feedback. Queries directed towards a particular module should initially be brought to them.

Student Representation
Students in each programme will have representation on the Postgraduate Course Board, where they will be given an opportunity to present any general queries or concerns arising in their programmes. The representative will be elected early in the first semester.
TERMS AND TIMETABLES

Teaching Term Dates 2019-2020

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Examination Period: 06/12/2019 – 19/12/2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inter-Term Break</td>
<td>02/01/2020 – 24/01/2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Weeks 1–12: 27/01/2020 – 24/04/2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Easter Break (Students): 06/04/2020 – 13/04/2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Examination Period: 05/04/2020 – 18/05/2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Modules & Module Coordinators (Autumn Semester)

For full details concerning the modules offered as part of the School of Law's suite of graduate programmes, please see pages 22-25 of this handbook.

Research Programmes

In addition to making relevant modules of the Taught Programmes (i.e., Advanced Legal Research Methods (LA6001) and Dissertation Methodology (LA6002)) available to research students, the School hosts a Research Student Seminar Series on issues related to research study.

Annual Research Review Panels are also used to evaluate the progress of our research students. The panels consist of the student's supervisor, a Chair, and another independent person. The latter two are nominated by the Head of School. Students must prepare a brief outline of their thesis, submit a written sample of work, make a short presentation, and answer questions on their written work and presentation.

Research Centres

Centre for Crime, Justice and Victim Studies (CCJVS)
Co-Directors: Dr Andrea Ryan and Dr Susan Leahy

International Commercial and Economic Law Research Group (ICEL)
Director: Prof. Ray Friel

Research Cluster in Emotions in Society (CUES)
Director: Dr Eimear Spain
Dr Lydia Bracken, BCL, LLM, BL, PhD, Lecturer in Law (FG012)

Lydia is a graduate of University College Cork (UCC) (BCL, 2010; LLM, 2011; PhD, 2015) and the Honorable Society of King’s Inns (BL, 2012). Her PhD thesis, which was funded by a Department of Children and Youth Affairs Research Scholarship, examined the implications of the best interests of the child principle in the context of same-sex parenting in Ireland. Lydia’s research interests lie in the areas of child and family law and European human rights, and she has published nationally and internationally in these areas. In particular, Lydia’s research examines the legal recognition of ‘non-traditional’ families, and it explores how such recognition can be provided in a manner that respects the rights and interests of children. Before joining the School of Law at UL, Lydia acted as the principal researcher for the Law Reform Commission’s project on Contempt of Court and Other Offences and Torts involving the Administration of Justice.

Paul Bradfield, BA, LLB, LLM, Barrister-at-Law

Paul Bradfield is a graduate of NUI Galway (BA, LLB), University College Cork (LLM in Criminal Justice), the Honorable Society of Kings Inns (BL), and is a doctoral candidate at the Irish Centre for Human Rights at NUI Galway.

After being called to the bar in 2009, Paul was a Defence lawyer at the International Criminal Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) in The Hague, and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) in Arusha, Tanzania. He helped to represent Milivoj Petković and Radovan Karadžić at the ICTY, and Idelphonse Nizeyimana at the ICTR, each accused of various counts of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide.

Away from the courts, in 2012, Paul went to northern Uganda to work for the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights as an Irish Aid UN Volunteer. There, he worked on a variety of peacebuilding and transitional justice issues. In 2013, Paul worked for Irish Rule of Law International in Lilongwe, Malawi as a Programme Lawyer. Based in the Legal Aid Department, he worked to increase access to bail for adult and juvenile detainees on long-term remand, as well as training local Magistrates.
From 2013 to 2018, Paul worked as a lawyer for the Office of the Prosecutor at the International Criminal Court in the Hague, working on cases from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda. In this role, he was a courtroom advocate in the Dominic Ongwen case, questioning witnesses in the course of the trial.

In 2016, Paul was awarded a NUI Travelling Studentship to fund his doctoral research, which examines the use of amnesty as a response to the civil war in northern Uganda. As part of this research, he conducted fieldwork in Uganda, interviewing former combatants in the Lord’s Resistance Army and the communities in which they live. He has presented his findings at the American Society of International Law in New York, and at Harvard Law School, where he was a Visiting Researcher in spring 2019. Paul's research has also been published in the *Journal of International Criminal Justice* and the *International Criminal Law Review*.

**Dr Norah Burns, LLB, LLM, PhD**

Norah holds a Bachelor of Laws in Law and European Studies (2010) and a Masters in Law in Human Rights in Criminal Justice (2012) from the University of Limerick. She graduated with a PhD in law from the School of Law Trinity College Dublin in 2017. She also completed postgraduate studies at Kings College London. Norah recently completed a Graduate Diploma in Third Level Teaching Learning and Scholarship. Dr Burns has previously taught in Trinity College Dublin, Technical University Dublin and at the Revenue Commissioners offices in Dublin and Cork. Her areas of interest are minority rights, theories of equality, anti-discrimination law, the European Convention on Human Rights and legal education.

**Dr Laura Cahillane, BCL, LLM, PhD, Lecturer in Law (FG-004)**

Laura is a lecturer in the School of Law, UL. She is a first-class honours graduate of UCC (BCL (Law and French) 2007, LLM (by Research) 2008, PhD 2012, PGCTHLE 2013). Her Research masters examined the topic of disciplining judges and her PhD, for which she was awarded an Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences (IRCHSS) Government of Ireland Scholarship, considered the drafting of the
1922 Irish Free State Constitution. Laura undertook a Post-Doctoral Fellowship in UCC and held lectureships in UCC and Dublin City University. Her research interests lie in the areas of Constitutional Law, Legal History, Judicial Politics, and Comparative Law, and she has published nationally and internationally in these areas.

Dr Gerard Coffey, BA (UL), LLB (NUIG), PhD (NUIG), Lecturer in Law (FG-010)

Gerard graduated from UL with a BA in Law and European Studies and subsequently undertook postgraduate studies in the Faculty of Law, National University of Ireland, Galway (NUIG), where he earned both an LLB and PhD in Law. His doctoral thesis examined the common law principle against double jeopardy and the related principle of ne bis in idem in civil law jurisdictions and international human rights instruments. While at NUI Galway, he was a tutor, part-time lecturer, and research assistant with the Faculty of Law. He was co-editor in the planning and production of volume 4 of the Judicial Studies Institute Journal (2004), which the Faculty of Law was commissioned to produce on behalf of the Judicial Studies Institute. He was awarded a Research Fellowship by the Faculty of Law, NUIG, for the duration of his doctoral research and in 2005 he was awarded second place in the Law Society of Ireland Annual Law Reform Essay Competition for an essay entitled ‘Reforming the Law on Double Jeopardy’. From 2005 to 2007 he was post-doctoral research officer in the Centre for Criminal Justice at the University of Limerick. During this period, he contributed to the Centres’ research activities on the impact of globalisation on criminal law and criminal justice. In 2007, Gerard was appointed to the position of Lecturer in Law. His research interests lie in the areas of criminal law, and related issues pertaining to criminal procedure and the criminal justice process and he has published nationally and internationally in these areas. He has also served as an internal examiner for doctoral and masters by research theses specialising in criminal law and criminal justice. He is a member of the Centre for Criminal Justice. Gerard was recently appointed to the Complementarity on International Criminal Law Committee of the International Law Association. The Committee was established to undertake research and to prepare reports on national efforts to investigate and
prosecute international crimes under the rule of law. The ILA Committee on Complementarity seeks to analyse in-depth the implications of the principle of complementarity in Article 17 of the Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) for the criminal justice systems of ICC states parties, in particular, their ability and will to genuinely investigate and prosecute core international crimes. Some of these implications have been referred to as ‘positive complementarity’ or ‘active complementarity’. The Committee will analyse these concepts within the context of the Statute as well as more broadly with the object of making recommendations.

**Dr Alan Cusack, BCL, LLM, Dip. Emp, PhD (FG-026d)** Alan is a graduate of UCC (BCL, LLM, PhD), UCD (Dip. Emp) and the Law Society of Ireland (Solicitor, 2012). In 2017, Alan completed a PhD in the School of Law at UCC in the area of access to justice for victims of crime with intellectual disabilities. In pursuit of his studies, Alan was awarded a Government of Ireland PhD scholarship from the Irish Research Council as well as a Faculty of Law PhD Scholarship from UCC. Alan is a qualified solicitor and, subsequent to commencing his doctoral research, practised for a number of years with Arthur Cox solicitors in Dublin. In 2013, Alan was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Centre for Criminal Justice and Human Rights at UCC. He is a professional member of The Law Society of Ireland and is also a member of the Society of Legal Scholars and the Socio-Legal Studies Association. In 2015, Alan was an academic visitor at the Centre for Criminology at the University of Oxford. Alan’s research interests lie in the broad areas of criminal procedure, criminal law, victimology, criminology, the laws of evidence, and disability studies.

**Dr Luke Danagher, LLB, LLM, PhD**

Luke Danagher is a graduate of the University of Limerick (LLB 2011; LLM 2013) and King’s College London (PhD 2018). His PhD thesis, which was funded by the Centre of European Law, was entitled *A Normative Theory of Cartel Crime*. Luke’s general research interests lie in the area of regulatory crime and the criminalisation of regulatory offences. His work in the field of cartel crime has been
published in international journals. Prior to joining UL, Luke was a visiting lecturer of EU law at King’s College London.

**Dr Hope Davidson BA, LLM, Teaching Associate in Law (FG-027a)**

Hope Davidson is a former solicitor and an Irish Research Council Scholar. She has a BA in History from Trinity College, an LLM in Health & Care Law from UCC and is currently completing her doctoral research in the School of Law at UL on decision-making in dementia care under the supervision of Dr Eimear Spain and Jennifer Schweppe. Hope’s research interests are in dementia and the law, children and medical treatment, research ethics, and involuntary detention. She has won numerous awards including the 3 Minute Thesis competition for Law Postgraduates, a PhD scholarship from the Irish Association of Law Teachers, the Dean’s award for best paper at the AHSS Postgraduate Conference.

**Dr Laura Donnellan, LLB, LLM, Lecturer in Law (FG-005)**

Laura Donnellan teaches European Law, Sport and the Law, and Comparative Property Law. She has published in the areas of drug testing and the rights of athletes, elder law, the regulation of football agents, TV rights in Irish football, EC competition law, horse racing, and animal welfare in the EU. She graduated with an LLM from UL in 2002. Laura is the author of Sport and Law: A Concise Guide (Blackhall Publishing, 2010) as well as a number of articles in international law journals. She is an Associate Fellow at the Oxford Centre for Animals Ethics and a Consulting Editor for The Journal of Animal Ethics (published by the University of Illinois). Laura is currently an external examiner in Introduction to Irish Law, Employment Law, and Company Law for the Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology. She has co-written Sports Law in Ireland with her colleague Dr Susan Leahy (Kluwer, 2014).
Sinead Eaton, BCL, BL (King’s Inns), Dip. European Law (Bruges), LLM Lecturer in Law, (FG-008)

Sinead Eaton graduated from the National University of Ireland, UCD with a BCL in 1988 and, having graduated from the Honorable Society of King’s Inns with a degree of Barrister-at-Law, was called to the Irish Bar in 1990. Having been awarded a scholarship by the Department of Education, Sinead completed a bilingual course in EC Law at the College of Europe in Bruges, following which she did a ‘stage’ at the DG IV of the European Commission in Brussels. Sinead then spent a total of eight years working as a legal adviser to major Irish financial institutions. During that time, she graduated with an LLM (with a special mention) in Commercial Law from UCD. Before taking up a position at UL, Sinead spent two years at Eversheds O’Donnell Sweeney, solicitors in Dublin and was Head of the School of Law, UL from 2007 to 2010. She co-wrote Competition Law in Ireland, with Mr Pat O’Brien of Arthur Cox, Solicitors (Kluwer, 2015).

Dr Margaret Fitzgerald-O’Reilly, BCL, LLM, PhD, Lecturer in Law (FG-012)

Margaret Fitzgerald-O’Reilly graduated from UCC with a BCL degree in 2005 and went on to complete an LLM in Criminal Justice in 2006. She was awarded a scholarship to undertake her PhD in UCC and was awarded her doctorate in 2012 for her PhD entitled The Usual Suspects: The Legal Marginalisation of Ex-Prisoners in Irish Society. She joined the School of Law in 2012. Her research interests are primarily in the field of criminology, penology, and criminal justice. She has published and presented papers in this field at national and international level. She has acted as editor of the ICLJ (special edition) and is a peer reviewer for the Journal of Offender Rehabilitation (Taylor and Francis). She is a co-author of Sexual Offending in Ireland: Laws, Procedure and Punishment (Clarus Press, 2017).
Professor Raymond J Friel, BCL (NUI), LLM (Exeter), Barrister-at-Law, (FG-006)
Raymond Friel graduated from UCC with a BCL and the University of Exeter with an LLM in European Law. He joined the faculty at Limerick in 1989 and was Head of the School of Law from 1996–2002. He held a Visiting Professor appointment at Boston College Law School (2002–2003), and he has also held Visiting and Adjunct Professorships at the University of Kansas Law School (2000) and Franklin Pierce Law Center, New Hampshire (2004). Ray Friel has extensive publications record in the area of contract and commercial law. He is the author of The Irish Law of Contract 2nd edn (2000) and the co-author of Irish Stamp Duty Law 2nd edn (1998) and has published numerous articles on a range of legal topics. He lectures principally in Commercial and Contract Law.

Professor Shane Kilcommins, BA, MA, PhD, Head of the School of Law (FG-014)
Before taking up his Professorship in Law in UL in 2014, Professor Kilcommins taught at the Law Faculty in UCC from 2001. He lectures in evidence law, jurisprudence, and penology. He has co-authored various funded research reports on discrimination, victims of crime, and integrative learning. In addition to publishing in numerous journals, his books include Alcohol, Society and Law (Barry Rose Law Publishers, 2002) (co-editor), The Introduction of Community Service Orders (Barry Rose Law Publishers, 2003), Crime, Punishment and the Search for Order in Ireland (IPA, 2004) (co-author), Terrorism, Rights and the Rule of Law (Willan, 2008), Criminal Law in Ireland (Clarus Press, 2010) (co-author), Regulatory Crime in Ireland (First Law, 2010) (co-editor), and Integrative Learning: International Research and Practice (Routledge, 2015) (co-editor). He is an examiner for the Law Society of Ireland in Criminal Law and Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure and has acted as an extern examiner for Trinity College, UCD, DCU, DIT, and Athlone Institute of Technology. He was appointed to the Office of the Inspector of Prisons in May 2013 and was a Visiting Scholar at Temple Law School in 2008/2009.
**Eddie Keane, LLB, LLM, Lecturer in Law (FG-009)**

Eddie Keane graduated from UL in 2003 with an LLB in Law and 2005 with an LLM in European and Comparative Law. Since 2005, Eddie has worked with the School of Law, initially as a teaching assistant, before becoming a permanent member of the faculty in 2010.

Eddie’s primary teaching interests are in the areas of Commercial and Labour Law. Eddie’s primary research area is employment regulation, in particular, the regulation of atypical work relationships. Eddie’s research has been published in the King's Law Journal, The Irish Employment Law Journal, the Irish Jurist, the Northern Ireland Legal Quarterly and the Quarterly Review of Tort Law. Eddie has also presented at national and international conferences on employment law and related issues.

**Dr Susan Leahy BCL (NUI) LLM (NUI) PhD (NUI) Lecturer in Law (FG-016)**

Susan Leahy obtained a BCL degree from UCC in 2004. She completed an LLM degree in 2005, during which time she undertook a minor thesis on the legal rights of non-marital cohabitees. She holds a PhD in Law from UCC; her PhD thesis was entitled The Rules and Realities of Consent in Irish Sexual Offences Law: Perspectives on Reform. This research was funded at various stages by the Law Department in UCC and the IRCHSS. During her time as a PhD candidate, she also worked as a part-time assistant lecturer in the Law Department in UCC, where she taught various modules including Nursing Law and Public Law. She has also previously served as a teaching assistant in UL, during which time she delivered modules on Company Law, Comparative Law and Criminal Procedure. Susan’s research interests include criminal law and procedure, criminology, law and gender, family law, and medical law.

**Dr John Lombard, LLB, LLM, PhD, Lecturer in Law (FG018)**

John Lombard is a lecturer in the School of Law, UL. John completed his LLB (Law and European Studies) at UL in
2009, an LLM in UCC in 2010, and a PhD in UCC in 2014. His doctoral thesis sought to identify an appropriate legal framework for specialist palliative care in Ireland. Prior to his appointment, John worked in the School of Law and Social Justice at the University of Liverpool, where he lectured in medical law and equity. He has also previously worked as a research assistant in the Governance, Risk, and Compliance Technology Centre based in UCC. His research interests lie in the areas of medical law, bioethics, and intellectual property law.

Professor J Paul McCutcheon, BCL, LLM, LLD (NUI)
Paul McCutcheon is a leading expert in Criminal Law and the Irish Legal System. He is a co-author of Criminal Liability (Round Hall, 2000) and The Irish Legal System (6th edn, Bloomsbury Professional, 2014), and author of The Larceny Act, 1916. He has also published numerous articles in the areas of criminal law and sports law. He served as President of the Irish Association of Law Teachers in 1994 and was a visiting fellow at the Australian National University in 1996–1997.

Dr Kathryn O’Sullivan, LLB, PhD, Lecturer in Law (FG015)
Kathryn O’ Sullivan graduated with a first-class honours LLB in Law and European Studies from UL in 2008 before pursuing doctoral research in the University supported by the Advanced Scholars Programme. She was awarded a PhD in 2012 for her doctoral thesis entitled A Critique of the Legal Protections afforded to the Matrimonial Home in Ireland: Lessons from British Columbia. In 2012, Kathryn also took up a position as Lecturer in Law in the Truman Bodden Law School of the Cayman Islands before returning to Ireland to re-join the team at UL’s School of Law in 2013. Her research interests lie in property law and family law, particularly the point of intersection, family property law. She has published articles in highly respected national and international journals including Legal Studies, the International Journal of Law, Policy and the Family, the Common Law World Review and the Dublin University Law Journal. Kathryn completed the
Specialist Diploma in Teaching, Learning, and Scholarship in UL in 2014, graduating with first-class honours, and has twice been shortlisted for the Excellence in Teaching Award (Large Group) in 2012 and 2015.

**Eoin Quill, BCL, LLB, LLM (NUI), Senior Lecturer in Law (FG-007)**

Eoin Quill has worked at UL since 1991. He is a member of the Society of Legal Scholars, the Irish Association of Law Teachers, the International Commercial and Economic Law Research Group at the UL School of Law, a fellow of the European Centre of Tort and Insurance Law (ECTIL) in Vienna, and the external examiner in Torts for the Law Society of Ireland. His primary area of research is tort, focused on accident compensation and private actions for the enforcement of civil rights. His publications include a treatise, Torts in Ireland (4th ed 2014), a volume in the International Encyclopaedia of Laws, ‘Tort Law in Ireland’, chapters on Irish Tort Law in the Yearbooks on European Tort Law for ECTIL and the Institute for European Tort Law of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, and a number of peer-reviewed journal articles in Irish and international law journals on topics such as causation, affirmative duties, defective buildings, negligent misstatements, and negligently inflicted psychiatric harm.

**Dr Andrea Ryan, BA, Dip Phil, BCL, LLM (NUI) PhD (NUI) Lecturer in Law (FG-003)**

Andrea Ryan joined the Law School in UL in 2002. Her research expertise lies in the areas of EU criminal justice, criminal evidence, comparative criminal procedure, criminal law, and sentencing. She has published widely in these areas, including a monograph, Towards a System of European Criminal Justice: The Problem of Admissibility of Evidence (Routledge, 2014). She has acted as national rapporteur for Ireland on many cross-jurisdictional studies funded by the European Commission, most recently in 2012 in a study on the prospects for the creation of a European public prosecutor. She was awarded her PhD by UCD for her thesis, Is Mutual Admissibility of Evidence across the European Union Attainable? Procedural Differences Explored Through the Prism of
Three Case Studies: Ireland, France and Italy. Andrea is the director of the Centre for Crime, Justice, and Victim Studies at the School of Law.

Dr. Jennifer Schweppe, BCL (Euro Leg Stud), LLM (Research), Grad Dip Academic Practice, Lecturer in Law (CS-1011) Having graduated with a BCL from UCD, Jennifer was awarded an open postgraduate scholarship while completing her graduate research. She completed a graduate diploma in Academic Practice at UL and in 2010 won the Small Group Teaching Award in UL. She was awarded a National Award for Excellence in Teaching by the National Academy for the Integration of Research, Teaching, and Learning in 2011, and was a finalist for the European Award for Excellence in Teaching in the Humanities and Social Sciences in 2012. Jennifer’s research interests lie in the areas of hate crime and reproductive justice, and she has published widely on these topics. Her work in hate crime looks at the criminalisation of bias motivation and explores the potential of introducing hate crime offences to an Irish context. She is co-editor of two major collections in hate crime with Oxford University Press and Palgrave Macmillan. She is currently co-director of the International Network for Hate Studies. She is also founder and co-director of the UL-based Hate and Hostility Research Group; the only academic research group in Ireland dedicated to exploring and understanding hate crime in an Irish context. Her work in hate crime has been funded by the Irish Research Council, the Irish Council for Civil Liberties, and the European Union.

Dr Eimear Spain, BA, PhD, Senior Lecturer in Law (FG-017) Eimear graduated with a BA in Law and Accounting for which she was awarded the University Medal for first place in interdisciplinary programmes upon graduation in 2003. Upon commencing her PhD, she was awarded a University scholarship and a Government of Ireland scholarship by the IRCHSS in 2005, which she held for three years. Following the completion of her PhD, Eimear took up a position as a research coordinator at Macquarie University in Sydney. She was subsequently appointed as a senior lecturer at the University of Northumbria in England before returning to take up a lecturing position in the School of Law in 2010.
In 2015 she was appointed as a senior lecturer in Health Law in a joint appointment post between the Faculty of Education and Health Sciences and the School of Law. Eimear’s research interests lie in health, criminal, and constitutional law. One of her key interest areas is in the field of law and emotions which draws on disciplines such as neuroscience and psychology. She has published numerous books, book chapters, and articles in the areas of criminal, constitutional, and administrative law both nationally and internationally, including a monograph entitled, The Role of Emotions in Criminal Law Defences; Duress, Necessity and Lesser Evils with Cambridge University Press. She is a founding member and co-director of the Centre for the Understanding of Emotions in Society in UL.

**Dr Caroline Sweeney (PhD, LLM, LLB)**

Caroline is a graduate of NUI Galway (PhD, 2019; LLM in International Human Rights Law, 2010) and UL (LLB in Law and European Studies, 2003). Prior to her appointment, Caroline worked as an Assistant Lecturer in Law at the Institute of Technology Carlow and as a Part-time Lecturer in Law at Athlone Institute of Technology. Caroline also worked as a doctoral fellow at the Irish Centre for Human Rights at NUI Galway while completing her doctoral studies. Her doctoral thesis investigated the relationship between international law, international politics and the state using Syria as a case study. She was awarded a Hardiman Research Scholarship and a Write Up Bursary by NUI Galway to complete her doctoral studies. Caroline has taught in areas, including Human Rights Law, Farm Business Law, Introduction to the Irish Legal System and Employment Law. Caroline has also worked as a Human Rights Legal Assistant at the Permanent Mission of Ireland to the UN, Geneva and as a Senior Company Secretarial Administrator with Northern Trust. Caroline’s core research interests lie in the areas of international human rights law, third-world approaches to international law, international criminal law, and the history and politics of Syria.
Dr Una Woods, BCL (NUI), LLM (QUB), PhD (QUB), Solicitor (Law Society), Senior Lecturer in Law (FG-011)

Una Woods graduated with a BCL from UCC in 1995. She was awarded an LLM in Human Rights and Discrimination Law by QUB in 1996. She qualified as a solicitor in 1999 and was awarded the Findlater Scholarship by the Law Society of Ireland. She joined the School of Law, UL in September 1999. In November 2006 she was appointed by the Minister of Justice as a member of the Property Registration Authority (which manages the Irish Land Registry and the Registry of Deeds) and, in November 2010, she was re-appointed for another four-year term. In 2014 she completed her doctorate with QUB on The Irish Law on Adverse Possession: The Case for a Qualified Veto System. She has acted as a consultant to the Irish Law Reform Commission on the law in relation to cohabitants and adverse possession. Her publications focus mainly on land law and conveyancing law.
Taught Programmes

On successful completion of the postgraduate programmes, it is expected that students will be able to:

- Engage critically and analytically with their chosen modules and do so in a multijurisdictional setting, if necessary.
- Respond to a variety of pedagogical approaches and engage in independent research in each of the subjects studied.
- Use research libraries across jurisdictions as well as online and internet materials.
- Produce an original dissertation of sustained, independent research and writing under the supervision of an expert supervisor.
- Apply the knowledge, skills and insights acquired in the master's programme to the demands of professional or doctoral environments.

Students may take these programmes on a full-time (twelve months) or part-time (twenty-four months) basis.

LLM (General)

This programme is designed to give the postgraduate student, or practitioner, a deeper understanding and insight into a variety of subjects across a broad range. It can cover such diverse areas as criminal law, civil obligations, property, human rights, and comparative law. It is suited to those looking for advanced legal education, without wishing to focus on a single branch of law. Students completing this programme will be able to demonstrate specialist, graduate-level understanding of law in elective combinations of the student’s choice.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester 1</th>
<th>Semester 2</th>
<th>Summer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Legal Research Methods</td>
<td>Dissertation Methodology</td>
<td>Dissertation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Electives</td>
<td>3 Electives</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**LLM/MA in Human Rights in Criminal Justice**

This programme is designed to emphasise the inter-relationship between what has traditionally been taught as the two distinct disciplines of human rights and criminal justice. Students will be provided with a comprehensive knowledge of this ever-developing field of law and encouraged to assess the merit of mainstreaming human rights within the criminal justice system. Covering key areas such as policing and human rights and the law of the European Convention on Human Rights, the programme aims to foster general and specific skills with respect to the modern criminal justice system both in Ireland and internationally.

In addition to the learning outcomes listed above, students completing this programme will be able to:

- Demonstrate a clear understanding of the role of human rights in criminal justice institutions.
- Appraise the practical and academic debates that arise from placing human rights at the centre of criminal justice.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester 1</th>
<th>Semester 2</th>
<th>Summer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Legal Research Methods</td>
<td>Dissertation Methodology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comparative International Protection of Human Rights Law</td>
<td>International Criminal Law*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal Justice Processes &amp; Sentencing</td>
<td>Policing &amp; Human Rights*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law of the European Convention of Human Rights</td>
<td>Criminology*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Penology &amp; Victimology</td>
<td>Comparative &amp; European Criminal Justice*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Students select 3 from 4 elective choices*
**LLM in International Commercial Law**

This programme is designed to immerse the postgraduate student in more detailed aspects of commercial law, as well as developing legal research skills in a general way. The emphasis is on those areas of law such as credit and security, intellectual property, and competition law, critical to the operation of any commercial enterprise in the modern world. The programme will also take account of the increasing internationalisation of commerce with modules in international business transactions and international protection of intellectual property.

In addition to the learning outcomes listed above, students successfully completing this programme will be able to:

- Apply the laws critical to the operation of any commercial enterprise in an analytical and strategic way.
- Respond to the international and multijurisdictional aspects of questions of commercial law.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester 1</th>
<th>Semester 2</th>
<th>Summer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Legal Research Methods</td>
<td>Dissertation Methodology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Trade Organisations</td>
<td>Global Competition Law*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Business Transactions</td>
<td>Law of Credit and Security*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law of International Business</td>
<td>International Protection of Intellectual Property Rights*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associations</td>
<td>International Labour Law*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Counter-terrorism and International Business*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>International Tort Law and Business</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Students select 3 from 5 elective choices*
**Master of Arts (MA) in Serious Crime Investigation**

The MA in Serious Crime Investigation, offered by the School of Law, is a one-year, full-time programme designed for graduates of the level 9 Postgraduate Diploma in Serious Crime Investigation, accredited by the University of Limerick or an equivalent programme. The degree has no formal taught element and consists primarily of a substantial piece of original research in the area of serious crime investigation which is conducted under the supervision of a full-time member of faculty. The MA degree can be conducted on a part-time or full-time basis. To be eligible for this degree, students must have achieved a minimum of second-class honours in the Level 9 Postgraduate Diploma in Serious Crime Investigation delivered in the Garda College in Templemore, Co. Tipperary and accredited by the University of Limerick, or an equivalent programme.

**Research Programmes**

The School of Law is an ideal environment for students to engage in research at postgraduate level. All research students are allocated a personal desk with computer and telephone, have access to world-class library facilities, and are supervised by faculty members who are international experts in their fields. The School offers two opportunities for engaging in postgraduate research: the Master of Laws (LLM) by Research and the PhD by Research.

**Master of Laws (LLM) by Research**

The School of Law offers the degree of Master of Laws (LLM) by research to suitably qualified candidates. The degree has no formal taught element and consists primarily of a substantial piece of original research conducted under the supervision of a full-time member of faculty. Applications from suitably qualified candidates are accepted at any stage during the year. Candidates should usually have at least a 2.1 honours degree. All applications are subject to the School having the capacity and expertise to supervise the student. An LLM by research can be conducted part-time or full time. If full time, the student must be registered for no less than one year and no more than three years. If part time, the student must be registered for no less than two years and no more than four years. On occasion, a student who has started conducting
an LLM by research may decide, in consultation with their supervisor, to progress to a PhD.

**PhD by Research**
The School of Law offers the degree of PhD by Research to suitably qualified candidates. The degree has no formal taught element and consists primarily of a substantial piece of original research conducted under the supervision of a full-time member of faculty. Applications from suitably qualified candidates are accepted at any stage during the year. Candidates should usually have at least a 2.1 honours degree. All applications are subject to the School having the capacity and expertise to supervise the student. A PhD by research can be conducted part time or full time. If full time, the student must be registered for no less than three years and no more than five years. If part time, the student must be registered for no less than four years and no more than ten years if the student does not have an LLM degree, and no less than three years and no more than six years if the student does have an LLM degree. Considerable information is also available in the Graduate School Postgraduate Handbook: [A Guide for Research Students and Supervisors](#) (see Important Links).

**Module Overviews**

**LA5153 Comparative & International Human Rights Law (Dr Ger Coffey)** This module entails a comparative study of the principles, concepts, rules, and procedures underpinning the protection of human rights in international law from a comparative perspective including, in particular:

- rights theory
- universality versus cultural relativism
- legislating for human rights
- status of human rights treaties
- judicial procedures for the enforcement of human rights
- state reporting procedures
- policing compliance with human rights standards
- fact-finding & evidence
- sanctions
• individual rights & freedom
• collective rights.

**LA5172 Comparative Criminal Justice (Dr Andrea Ryan)**

• Historical development of criminal justice systems in common law & civil law countries
• Accusatorial & inquisitorial concepts in criminal justice
• The establishment, status, structure, jurisdictions, powers, & functions of criminal justice institutions
• Initiating a criminal investigation
• Police powers of arrest, detention & interrogation
• Police powers of entry, search & seizure
• Police powers of surveillance
• Controls on police methods
• Initiating a criminal prosecution
• Prosecutorial discretion
• The role of the investigating magistrate
• Discovery & pre-trial disclosure
• Bail
• Legal aid & legal representation
• Pleas & plea-bargaining
• Other pre-trial procedures
• Trial evidence
• Trial procedure
• Sentencing
• Appeals
• Confiscation of criminal assets
• Juvenile justice.

**LA6001 Advanced Legal Research Skills (Dr Alan Cusack)**

The aim of this module is to equip students with the skills necessary to engage in sustained research in law at postgraduate level. The focus will be on assessing the
relative merits of the various methodologies used in legal research, as well as developing research skills of and training in research ethics. The module provides students with the ability to conduct high-level research in both common and civil law systems. Through this course, students will become familiar with primary and secondary source materials in common and civil law jurisdictions, electronic databases, and quantitative and qualitative analysis. On successful completion of this module, students will be able to use research libraries in Anglo-American and Continental jurisdictions as well as online databases (Lexis, Westlaw, Firstlaw, and Justis), the internet, and the European Documentation Centre.

**LA6002 Dissertation Methodology (Dr Alan Cusack)**

This module aims to provide students with the ability to write high-level research. It will cover areas such as writing styles, citation standards, and formatting as well as different methodological approaches. On successful completion of this module, students will be able to: identify the key styles for dissertation research and dissertation writing, differentiate between the key stages in dissertation research collection and the dissertation writing process, and critique the effectiveness of different dissertation writing methodologies.

**LA6021 Law of International Business Associations (Sinead Eaton)**

The aim of this module is to familiarise students with modern international business structures. The module will also examine the importance of corporate governance and the appropriate governance structures in different jurisdictions.

**LA6022 Counter-Terrorism Law & International Business (Prof. Raymond Friel)**

The aim of this module is to expose students to a comprehensive understanding of the global responses to terrorism as it impacts upon the legal environment in which international business takes place.

**LA6031 Law of International Trade Organisations (Eddie Keane)**

The aim of this module is to expose students to a comprehensive understanding of the global trading environment and the legal institutions, laws, rules, and regulations that apply to cross-border transactions.
**LA6032 Global Competition Law (Sinead Eaton)**

The aim of this module is to examine competition law and policy, and its origins in US anti-trust law. The module will also examine the powers of the EU and the role of the EU Member State courts and competition authorities in implementing EU competition law. Students will undertake a study of competition systems and enforcement in the EU and other selected jurisdictions. The interoperability between different regimes will also be examined. In addition, the importance of the application of economic analysis to competition law will be explored.

**LA6042 International Labour Law (Eddie Keane)**

The aim of this module is to enable students to engage in critical analysis of legal regulations affecting employment, including the ability to recognise the social values reflected in the law and the normative character of labour regulations. Students will also consider the practical implications for employers of their legal rights and duties.

**LA6051 Penology & Victimology (Prof. Shane Kilcommins & Dr Alan Cusack)** The purpose of this course is to provide students with an understanding of punishment, criminal justice, and social regulation. In particular, the aims of the module are:

- to provide analyses of the primary penal disposals (both contemporary & historical) utilised in society
- to highlight the various political, social, cultural, & economic determinants that underpin the provision of penal dispositions
- to encourage theorisation about punishment & penal responses
- to highlight the needs and concerns of victims of crime
- to determine how change is possible in the penal complex
  - in particular, how sanctions are modified or supplanted
  - how stakeholders, such as victims, examine new ‘logics’ and ‘discourses’ on punishment and justice as they emerge
- to provide a framework of understanding modern penal systems & the forms of social organisation in which they operate.
**LA6052 Criminology (Dr Susan Leahy)**

The aim of this module is to introduce graduate students to the discipline of criminology; that is, the study of crime as a social phenomenon. Students will be given an opportunity to engage critically with criminological theories. This will enable them to engage more critically with crime as a social construct and enhance their understanding of the operation of the criminal justice system and criminal offending. This module is designed specifically for graduate students and will build upon students’ pre-existing understandings and perceptions of crime.

**LA6062 Comparative & European Criminal Justice (Dr Andrea Ryan)**

This module addresses developments in the field of European Criminal Justice resulting inter alia from the Lisbon Treaty. These developments are not adequately addressed within the existing module of European Criminal Law LA5152 because as that title suggests, it is narrower in focus than European Criminal Justice. The module will take account of developments in criminal justice systems in EU Member State jurisdictions. Thus, it will assess the body of European Criminal Justice within a contextual framework of comparative law.

**LA6072 International Tort Law & Business (Eoin Quill)**

This course will provide an advanced analysis of tort theory and practice in multiple jurisdictions, focused on the relationship between tort and business. It will include both common law and civil law jurisdictions (including USA, UK, EU, Canada, Australia, Ireland, Germany, and France). General theories of liability will be explored as well as rights theory, corrective justice, civil recourse, distributive justice, and economic analysis. Specific causes of action and general conditions of liability, generating potential liability for businesses or protecting business interests, will be examined. Areas considered will be product liability, liability for pure economic loss, employers’ liability, liability for hazardous activities, and commercial personality rights (reputation, goodwill, and confidentiality). The relationship between tort law and the tort process will be considered, including insurance, proof, extra-judicial processes (boards and tribunals), and mass tort claims.
In this module, the roles of various international regulatory bodies such as the WTO will be reviewed. The legal issues arising in cross-border contracts for the sale of goods will also be reviewed, as well as the legal issues in the provision of international finance, especially in light of anti-terrorist legislation. International business litigation and alternative dispute resolution measures will also be reviewed insofar as they affect international commerce.

**LA6102 Law of Credit & Security**

This module will examine the ways in which the creditor/debtor relationship can arise and how it is documented. The module also covers the legal issues arising in the giving of security and the creation of security interests, as well as the enforcement issues which surround these. The use by companies of debentures, secured by fixed and floating charges is also reviewed, as is the matter of priorities.

**LA6111 Criminal Justice Processes & Sentencing (Dr Ger Coffey)**

This course will consider the various stages of the criminal justice process from arrest to trial, to sentence, and the various disposal mechanisms. These will be analysed through a framework of human rights to identify the strengths and weakness of the different stages and assess the compatibility of the Irish system with human rights obligations. What human rights are involved in the criminal justice system? How are the rights of the accused and the victim balanced within the system? What challenges does the system face in an increasingly diverse Ireland? How can deficits in human rights standards be addressed? Other jurisdictions will be looked at as comparators in efforts to answer these questions.

**LA6112 International Protection of Intellectual Property Rights (Dr Alan Cusack & Dr John Lombard)**

The module will review the different forms of intellectual property – patent, trademark, and copyright — and the methods by which rights arise. The limitations of those rights will also be reviewed as well as the constraints arising from the exercise of those rights. Methods of registration of IP rights will also be examined as will the international protections available for IP rights and the remedies available for
breaches of the various types of IP rights. Industrial designs and the EC initiatives in IP will also be covered.

**LA6121 Law of the European Convention on Human Rights (Dr Andrea Ryan)** The module will explore the influence and progress of the most developed regional mechanism for human rights protection. Convention rights will be examined on an article-by-article basis providing a critical assessment of the development of each right and its treatment by the European Court of Human Rights. At the end of the course, students will be familiar with the articles and case law of the European Convention on Human Rights, and the additional protocols and will have gained a comprehensive understanding of the practice and procedure of the European Court of Human Rights.

**LA6132 International Criminal Law (Dr Ger Coffey)**
This module will explore the development and influence of international criminal law and critically engage with the established principles of international law as they relate to the protection of human rights. The emphasis will be on practical elements such as the engagement of international criminal law in attempts to redress gross violations of human rights. Recent developments such as the establishment of the United Nations ad hoc tribunals and the ICC will be examined and assessed.

**LA6142 Policing & Human Rights (Dr Ger Coffey)**
Unlike traditional courses on policing, this course places human rights at the core of the issue. It works from the premise that at the heart of policing is the need to balance the rights of all members of society (as Patten said ‘policing is human rights’). Considering first the history of policing, questions as to the functions of the police, and thereby the role of human rights, will emerge. Three core issues will then be covered: police occupational subculture, police powers, and police accountability. Each will be analysed from a rights-centred approach, encouraging students to analyse traditional police studies more critically. Taking Ireland as the central country of analysis, systems and research from other countries will also be discussed.
**LA6154 Regulation of International Trade**

The aims and objectives of the module are to deepen the student’s understanding of international regulations of trade. This course will address some of the issues associated with the governmental regulation of international trade. The impact of globalisation will also be considered. A number of areas will be explored, including tariffs and non-tariff barriers to trade, domestic responses to import competition, trade regulations, and international economic relations. These are topics that potentially concern any business dealing internationally, from global multinational corporations to small start-up ventures desiring to expand abroad.
Communications With Staff
Please listen to, and follow, instructions given by faculty. In the event that many individuals in a class do not understand something or cannot locate class materials, please ask the class representative to contact the lecturer on behalf of the entire class, rather than doing so individually.

Students contacting members of faculty or administrators by email are expected to write in a polite, clear, and formal manner. Failure to maintain polite and professional standards of communication will be regarded as a disciplinary matter.

While students may request feedback from their lecturers on assignments, it is inappropriate to contact lecturers and make representations about exam performance. Communications outlining to lecturers the consequences for a student of receiving one grade or another, or any lobbying as regards grade recheck requests, are highly inappropriate.

In the event that a lecturer is put under such pressure by a student making representations (or anyone else doing so on their behalf) their exam script can be directed to another internal or external faculty member for assessment, at the discretion of the Head of the School of Law.

Students may approach faculty members for academic references when applying for further study or jobs. We recommend first approaching your academic adviser as they will generally have had the most contact with you and will be most familiar with your work.

Teaching & Learning
In the taught programmes, individual Module Coordinators determine how to teach their classes. Most, however, are conducted through a combination of lectures and seminar discussions. There is a heavy emphasis on independent research.

Students should read assigned texts in advance of their classes and be prepared to constructively discuss the readings in class. Students are expected to contribute in class in the appropriate, academic manner and to listen and respond respectfully to the views of others.
The School has a strict policy on non-discrimination, and discriminatory comments will not be tolerated by members of faculty. The aim is to create a positive learning environment in which all students are free to express and discuss their informed opinions. Assessment for each module (including penalties for late submission of work) will be determined by the Module Coordinator and should be outlined early in the semester. Most classes require written assessment and presentations, but examinations are also possible. The School of Law operates an extensive external evaluation of exam scripts. A recheck facility is available by submission of a form which can be obtained from Student Services. In general, due to the role of the external examiner, it is normally true to say that grades are seldom changed after a recheck form has been submitted. Students should note that the deposit paid to Student Services for the recheck is not refundable if the grade is unaltered by the lecturer. In addition, they should be aware that the relevant grade may be lowered as the result of the recheck. Repeat examinations are available in accordance with the rules prescribed in the Undergraduate Student Handbook.

Computing & Email
Students will have access to computing facilities in the main library. Students will be provided with a University email address on registration. This is the email address to which all course-related correspondence will be sent. Therefore, students are expected to check this regularly (ideally daily) otherwise you may miss notifications about changes to schedules, or emails from your supervisor etc.

Supporting Materials
Lecturers may use SULIS to distribute supporting course materials. Sulis is a virtual learning environment designed to enhance teaching, learning, collaboration, and communication. In addition to posting course materials, lecturers can post links to relevant materials, audio files, and websites, post information notices, and encourage interaction through chat rooms and forums. Your student number and password provide access. In addition to the hand-out on the Sulis front page, there will be a drop-in session for students every Wednesday from 5–6 pm in GLG-033 (small pc training room in the library) starting in week 2. These are organised by the Centre for Teaching and Learning, who also provide study skills training.
Pattie Punch is the librarian for the Law Library, which can be found on the second floor of the library. She can assist you in looking for particular texts or conducting more general research. The library has a wide range of law reports and academic texts. As criminal justice is an interdisciplinary area, many of the related texts are shelved in different areas. The government documents area may also be of use to you. Many of the law reports, law journals and sources are now available electronically, but a good grounding in the paper versions will make searching electronically more accurate and efficient. Familiarity with paper and electronic sources are complementary. Through the UL Library website, you can gain access to a vast number of documents, including case reports and academic journals. UL subscribes to the following:

- Firstlaw. Irish unreported judgements and legislation.
- Hein Online. Extensive back runs of legal journals, American legislation, and case law.
- Westlaw. EU, UK, US and international legislation and cases, legal journal index, and full-text links to journal articles.

Institutional Websites also provide authoritative access to full texts, usually starting from 1996, check out International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and ICTR as examples for what is possible for institutions born in the digital age. Many institutions are re-engineering their archives for electronic access; it is an enormous task, so seek e-versions first and know that we can deliver paper versions through inter-library loans if the e-version is not yet available. To achieve this, students should go directly to a relevant research institution’s website and then search its archives from there. General search engines often cannot index the content of institutional databases and give false-negative results.
Google is emerging as a distribution process for academic materials, but it does not aim to be complete, so exercise extreme caution and judgement. Use Advanced Google and refine by format, or domain, almost all official publications will be in PDF format but check to be sure that the sites you retrieve information from are institutional or authoritative. Use Google Scholar to search for academic articles, use Google Print to search for digitised books. Use it from within UL, and you will have full-text access to many of the journals we subscribe to. **Use it from home and those links will not work because Google recognises the UL IP address.** Google is not a shortcut to serious legal research skills, nor is it stable, mature, or as reliable as the databases and journals; it has both uses and limitations!

**Remote Access or Access from Home**
The UL library seeks to make electronic information accessible off campus as much as possible. Go the [Glucksman Library website](#) and follow the links from there. We use a secure server and your current UL ID and password to validate access to the databases through the UL remote access gateway. The library information desk phone 061202166 will help with access problems from 9.00–21.00hrs. Anybody accessing remote access from a company system could face problems from the company's firewall, please check with your company's IT expert about their firewall.

**Training in Legal Information Databases**
Library staff can help solve problems with one-to-one or class training/workshops. Faculty normally organise class training or workshops as appropriate during the term so check with them and call to the information desk in the library with individual problems.

**Borrowing Rights**
As a postgraduate student, you have the following borrowing rights at any one time:

- General Lending 10 items
- 3 Day Loan 1 item
- Short Loan 1 item
- Reprints 1 item
In addition, when you are looking for an item which is not in the UL library, postgraduate students are entitled to up to five inter-library loans in the academic year. The inter-library loan office is situated on the ground floor of the library on the left just as you walk in, and they can order books, theses, or articles from other libraries for you. Journal articles can be delivered electronically where available; otherwise, you will be given a hard copy which you can keep. The borrowing period on books or theses will vary between 1–6 weeks.

As a postgraduate student, you are also entitled to two cards (ALCID and SCONUL) which will help you gain access to libraries in other universities should you wish to visit to do research. The ALCID allows access only to university libraries in Ireland, excluding Maynooth and DCU. The SCONUL research extra card allows research students, PhD or full master’s students to visit and borrow books in 125 libraries across the UK and Ireland (though not Trinity College Dublin, where ALCID is accepted). Details on the above cards can be found on the library website and applied for at the Library Service Desk.

Many North American and European libraries allow visiting use, but some charge for access and others are very strict. Check the library webpage of any library you would like to visit or use. Be aware also that access rules can change at exam times or the start of terms or holidays. The library can provide letters of introduction or make email contact. Library visits will not include access to licensed electronic information or their network.

**Institutional Repositories**

More and more academic institutions are providing institutional repositories for their scholars to make publications and conference papers more accessible. More faculty are seizing the opportunity to distribute articles and conferences there. The general rule is the last version before formal publication, so the version will be proofread and reviewed. Most repositories are searchable through Google Scholar, but it is worth going directly to a specific institutional repository for a scholar’s work.
ABSENCE FROM LIMERICK

Any periods of absence from the University longer than two weeks, with the exception of the Christmas vacation, should be brought to the attention of the Course Director. Equally, a dissertation supervisor should bring to the attention of a student any lengthy absences from the University and where necessary, make alternative supervision arrangements.

Change of Address

Students should inform the School of Law and Student Academic Administration of any change of address, or other communication details, immediately.

Illness/Exceptional Personal Circumstances

Should any personal matters arise that interfere with a student’s progress on one of the School’s graduate programmes, he or she should speak immediately with the Course Director as assistance may be available. If illness affects the writing of an essay, for example, a student should contact the Module Coordinator. Similarly, if a student falls ill during the summer months, he or she should contact the appointed supervisor immediately as this may impede his or her work. Extensions may be possible on the production of a medical certificate.

AWARDS & PRIZES

The School of Law offers an excellent opportunity and motivation to our Law students. Winning any one of these prizes and scholarships will greatly enhance your CV, and we are all very grateful to the sponsors of these prizes for their altruism and generosity.

Eversheds Solicitors

This international corporate law firm offers a very generous scholarship to the student registering for the LLM in International Commercial Law with the highest undergraduate degree award.
DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES

The University of Limerick is committed to providing equal access to learning opportunities for students with documented disabilities. To ensure reasonable accommodations are in place during your programme of study, please contact Disability Support Services to engage in a confidential conversation about the process for requesting reasonable accommodations in the classroom, exams, and clinical settings. Reasonable accommodations are not provided retrospectively. Students are encouraged to register with Disability Support Services as early as possible. The University of Limerick encourages students to access all resources available through Disability Support Services for consistent support and access to their programmes. More information can be found online at Disability Support Services. Contact can also be made with the office by phone on 061 213478 or by email at disabilityservices@ul.ie

DISSERTATIONS/THESSES

Taught Programme Dissertations
Research and writing are both essential to graduate study. Based on independent research under the supervision of a member of faculty, LLM and MA students will complete a dissertation approximately 15,000 words in length (including footnotes, but not the bibliography and annexed material).

The dissertation should comply with University Regulations for Masters Degrees. Two hard-bound copies must be submitted by the end of the September following the completion of the programme’s taught modules. The late submission of a dissertation can result in missing the January graduations and/or additional fees.

Choosing a Topic
Full-time students should choose a dissertation topic as early as possible in the second semester of their study. They may choose a topic linked to their taught modules, but they are not limited to those subjects.

Dissertation topics may involve:
• Hard law, i.e. the examination of cases and legislation with a view to enhancing the understanding of law on a given subject
• Law and policy, i.e. the critical examination of political, economic, or social policy behind the law on a given subject
• Law and society, i.e. the critical examination of how the law on a given subject operates in practice and/or its social implications
• Law and philosophy, i.e. the critical examination of philosophical perspectives on law generally or on specific areas of law

This list is neither exhaustive nor exclusive. Dissertations will frequently combine these different possibilities.

While some detail will be required at the outset, your topic need not be comprehensively outlined at that point. Often the particular focus of the dissertation will only become apparent after substantial research. Nevertheless, the earlier a student begins to consider their work, the more efficiently they will organise their research and the more likely it is that they will produce competent work in a timely fashion.

It is not sufficient, for example, if a student wants to complete a dissertation on competition law. They have to know the area of competition they want to focus on. Alternatively, if their interest is on competition law generally, they will need to know the perspective they want to take on an analysis of competition regimes. It may not even be sufficient to know the area of competition you want to focus on. For example, ‘The Law Relating to Abuse of a Dominant Position’ may be too broad. The student will want to know which aspect of that law they want to focus on or what perspective they want to take on it.

The difficulty defining a topic usually relates to what the student wants to research about the topic, as opposed to identifying the topic itself. In other words, they might have no difficulty in saying that they want to do a dissertation on the abuse of a dominant position or on the legal definition of abuse in the context of a dominant position but have no idea what issue or issues they are going to research on that topic (beyond what the actual law is). The value of the dissertation lies primarily on what new perspectives the student can offer. Therefore, it is essential that they have a reasonably clear idea at the outset what it is about the chosen topic that they wish to research, i.e. the dominant theme or issue to be investigated.
This theme or issue can vary widely. It may be, for example, that the student wants to investigate a perceived difference in Anglo-American and Continental approaches to the topic. Alternatively, they may see a conceptual difference in the approach taken in two jurisdictions and wish to investigate how that is reflected in their respective laws, how it came about, and what the implications are. Yet again, the student might feel that the laws in several jurisdictions reflect certain underlying policy choices that conflict with concepts of justice or economic theory or the practice of the market, etc. Perhaps an empirical study of some aspects of the operation of the laws will form the centrepiece of the dissertation. And so on; the possibilities are almost endless. The bottom line is that the student should not merely identify a fairly narrowly defined topic, but should also know, at least broadly, what they want to research about that topic. Ideas will come from a wide variety of sources. They may be triggered by class, an academic article, a textbook, a case report, a newspaper article, proposed or enacted legislation, public debate, their employment, discussion with your colleagues and faculty, etc.

Once the student has identified a possible idea, they should discuss it with anyone prepared to listen, ideally (but not solely) a potential supervisor. Usually, they will have to do some preliminary reading to assess what might be involved and whether there is scope to do a useful dissertation on it. Attempting to describe their research in writing is probably the most effective means of thinking critically and realistically about it. An adviser and/or potential supervisor will also be able to offer more concrete and valuable advice on the basis of a written proposal.

On the basis of preliminary research and the advice of colleagues and faculty, a one-page outline proposal will be prepared for submission to a supervisor. In doing this, it is a good idea to line up a potential supervisor. Students should discuss proposed dissertation topics with as many relevant faculty members as possible.

**The Outline Proposal**

The proposal should be structured as follows:

1. Introduction
2. Objective
3. Methodology
4. Bibliography
The introduction should give the reader a context in which they can appreciate the importance of the law and issues that will be discussed in the dissertation. The student should approach it from the basis that the reader is an intelligent person with an understanding of law and legal issues, but no specific knowledge of the substance or the role of the law relevant to the dissertation topic. In the case of a dissertation on some aspect of the law, abuse of a dominant position, for example, the introduction should sketch very broadly what competition law is in terms of content, where it is laid down and what role it plays. It should also give background information necessary to understand the relevance of the particular issues to be discussed in the dissertation. The objective should identify precisely what the student will be researching and discussing in the dissertation. It is best to get as much intelligible detail in here as possible, including a statement of the area of law, the problem, policy, perspective, issue, etc. to be addressed concerning the law, the significance of that problem, policy, etc., and the jurisdictions to be covered. It is not necessary to flag the conclusions the student expects to reach. If relevant, however, it might be useful to state what you expect to find in terms of a thesis. It is not necessary at this stage to identify specific chapters. Nevertheless, it should be possible to deduce from the statement of objectives how many chapters there are likely to be and, very broadly, their subject matter.

More often than not, the methodology will be confined to library research through primary and secondary sources, electronic databases, the internet, etc. For some dissertations, interviews and/or empirical research will be necessary. Where this is the case, the student should explain their relevance to the dissertation and the way in which they will be conducted. Do not underestimate the time that it takes to do these things properly. As a general rule, the student should not state that they are going to do interviews or empirical research unless it is justified given the subject matter of the dissertation.

In your bibliography, identify the main sources—both primary and secondary—that you anticipate using at this stage.

**Supervision**

Once you submit your proposal, a supervisor will be assigned to you. Additional information will be provided in the Dissertation Methodology module, but students should aim to submit proposals no later than the end of week four of the second
semester. Students should arrange to meet with their supervisor soon after they have been allocated and maintain regular contact with them. It is the student’s responsibility to arrange meetings. The role of the supervisor is to guide in planning and conducting the research, to ensure that the project is manageable, to advise on relevant literature and research methods (where necessary), and to read and comment on a draft of each chapter and/or one complete draft of the thesis. It is not the job of the supervisor to provide a topic, an outline, or a reading list. Both the supervisor and student have rights and responsibilities and should discuss the supervisory relationship in their first meeting.

**Working on the Dissertation**

It is important for the student to work closely with their supervisor, especially in the early stages. Ideally, the student should identify a concrete issue or chapter in the dissertation that they can begin to research and write on immediately. They should attempt to write up the issue or chapter in draft form as research on it occurring. At the first opportunity—no later than one month—submit a draft to their supervisor for critical comment. They should continue this process until they are in a position to submit a final draft of the entire dissertation to the supervisor. This must be done well in advance of the final submission deadline in order to allow the supervisor time to read and reflect on the draft and provide feedback to the students.

Students might also consult Jennifer Schweppe, Ronan Kennedy, and Larry Donnelly, *How to Think, Write and Cite: Key Skills for Irish Law Students* 2nd edn (Round Hall 2016). The text provides useful advice on legal study and research and includes OSCOLA Ireland. A companion website ([www.legalwriting.ie](http://www.legalwriting.ie)) contains additional resources and assessment tools.

**Format**

The dissertation should be presented in the following format:

- Typed
- A4
- 1.5 spacing
- Times New Roman 12
- Sufficient margin on the left to ensure that it can be read after binding (4cm left/2.5cm right)
• Title page
• Acknowledgements
• Author’s Declaration
• Statement of Ethics: ‘I understand the ethical implications of my research, and this work meets the requirements of the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Research Ethics Committee.’
• Contents
• Concise summary
• Chapters, in numerical order, title and chapter number at the top of page, footnotes at the bottom of page, numbered pages, use headings and subheadings
• Annexes, only if strictly necessary, do not annex material that is easily accessible in the library, e.g. Irish legislation
• Bibliography

Research Theses
Information on thesis supervision, research and writing, completion, submission, and examination is available in the A Guide for Research Students and Supervisors (see Important Links).

Areas of Supervision

Dr Lydia Bracken
• Child & Family law
• European human rights
• Reproductive law

Dr Laura Cahillane
• Constitutional law
• Legal history
• Judicial politics
• Comparative law

Dr Gerard Coffey
• Criminal law, justice & procedure
• Codification of the criminal law
• History & development of criminal law
• The sentencing process
• International criminal law
• Judicial review
• The criminal process

Dr Alan Cusack
• Criminal process
• Victimology
• Disability law
• Jurisprudence
• Penology
• Access to justice
Laura Donnellan
- Sport and the Law
- Animals and Sport
- Animal Welfare
- EU Law

Sinead Eaton
- Commercial Law
- Company Law
- Competition Law
- Corporate Finance

Dr Margaret Fitzgerald-O’Reilly
- Criminal justice
- Criminology
- Penology
- The treatment & management of offenders
- Social & legal exclusion
- Techniques of punishment
- Sentencing
- Crime control policies

Prof. Raymond Friel
- Commercial law
- Contract law
- Anti-trust/competition law
- EU Law
- Legal education

Eddie Keane
- Employment law
- Commercial law
- Tort law

Prof. Shane Kilcommins
- Penology
- Criminology
- Criminal justice history
- Criminal Procedure
- Evidence Law
- Legal Philosophy
- Victimology

Dr Susan Leahy
- Criminal justice with an emphasis on sexual violence & victims of crime
- Family law with a particular emphasis on domestic abuse & marriage

Dr John Lombard
- Medical Law
- Bioethics
- Intellectual property

Prof. Paul McCutcheon
- Criminal law, in particular principles of the general part, theories of criminal responsibility, & interdisciplinary approaches
• Legal theory, approaches to adjudication
• Sports Law

Dr Kathryn O’Sullivan
• Family Law
• Property Law
• Succession Law

Eoin Quill
• Tort focusing on the methodology and structure in the analysis of the legal principles governing compensation claims
• Civil obligations encompassing contract torts and restitution.

Prof. Sean Redmond
• Youth crime & youth justice (with emphasis on serious crime and criminal networks)
• ‘Wicked’ and complex policy problems
• Programme evaluation
• Research & evaluation methodologies
• Governance in public services
• Practical Theory
• Evidence3-informed policy-making

Dr Andrea Ryan
• Comparative Criminal Justice
• EU Criminal Justice
• Law of evidence
• Sentencing
• Criminal Law

Jennifer Schwepppe
• Hate crime
• Reproductive justice
• Hate studies
• Hate crime
• Minoritised communities and the law
• Abortion and the law
• Medical consent
• Criminal procedure

Dr Eimear Spain
• Health law
• Criminal law
• Constitutional law
• Intellectual property law
• Law and emotions
• Administrative law

Dr Una Woods
• Property law
• The law of trusts
• Conveyancing law
• Succession law
• Matrimonial property law
CITATION & PLAGIARISM

OSCOLA IRELAND
OSCOLA Ireland (http://legalcitation.ie/) is the Law School’s house style. It provides writing style requirements appropriate to law, a standard system of citation, and general information on citing your sources.
Students are required to follow it in their writing.
Adequate referencing is essential in written work. It is important to present the evidence for arguments made and establish that they are based on credible sources. Referencing also allows the reader to follow up on the sources to which a reference is made. Finally, unreferenced work is open to the charge of being unoriginal, derivative, or plagiarised. Poorly referenced work is unimpressive, fails to convince and, in an academic context, loses marks.
The University also offers two reference manager packages, RefWorks and Endnote, which work with Word and allow you to cite while you write. Endnote has a filter for OSCOLA, that allows students to store their legal bibliographies. Access and training for both of these are provided through the library. Graduate students are strongly encouraged to familiarise themselves with one of these packages. This will be invaluable for the extensive work done on a graduate course, especially the dissertation.

Plagiarism
Students should note that plagiarism is the representation, whether intentionally or through negligence, of the words or ideas of another as your own and is an offence under the UL Code of Conduct and Academic Regulations.
The use of direct quotations must be indicated in the text (by quotation marks or, where appropriate, a block quotation) and in a pinpoint citation in a footnote. Use of the ideas of others may be paraphrased but must also be cited in a footnote. Information that could reasonably be considered common knowledge need not be attributed to a single author unless that author is the source of your information on the subject. Do not cite originals unless you have read them yourself.
The following are examples of instances in which a footnote must be given:
• Where factual information or data found in a source is used
• Where a word-for-word quote is given (quotation marks also required)
• Where another author’s ideas, opinions, interpretations or conclusions are summarised, paraphrased, or otherwise used

• Where a source’s distinctive structure, organising strategy, or method is used

• Where some aspect of another author’s work is mentioned, even in passing. All sources are to be identified through footnotes in the body of the essay and a bibliography at the end. The latter alone is insufficient.
APPENDIX: RESEARCH ETHICS

Ethical Considerations in Research
The fundamental principle underlying the guidelines is that all research activities involving the use of human beings participating in research must be reviewed and approved by the FAHSS Research Ethics Committee. Researchers may not solicit participation or begin data collection until they have received ethical approval from the Research Ethics Committee (REC).

It is the duty of all students to ensure that their project is ethically sound. Where the research does not involve human participants, this will be done as part of the Author's Declaration, which should include a statement to the effect that 'I understand the ethical implications of my research, and this work meets the requirements of the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Research Ethics Committee.' All applications that require ethical approval are sent to FAHSSEthics@ul.ie by the deadlines posted on http://www.ul.ie/artsoc/ethics. The student would fill out the same application form, whether they are answering 'Yes' or 'No' to any of the questions.

Applications that have 'Yes' to any of the questions are the ones that the REC review. Applications that have 'No' answered to all the questions are the ones sent by REC Administrator to each department representative for them to review and send their comments back to the Chair of the REC.

Where students have sought and received ethical approval, they should include evidence of this (such as an email from the Committee) in their thesis.

If any student conducts research on human participants without ethical approval, this could be a disciplinary matter and may have an impact on the grade received. The actual decision will be made on a case-by-case basis and decided by the relevant course board.