

English for Legal Studies 2020

Course Outline

This is a 60-hour, *mornings-only*, three-week English language course for undergraduate students of Law. The students will work on a range of activities designed to develop their language skills in the context of legal English, broaden their understanding of their subject area, and extending their vocabulary and ability to discuss these subjects. In addition to legal English sessions, students will work on developing their academic seminar skills, spoken communication skills, and pronunciation. In addition to taught morning classes, 2 – 3 afternoon sessions per week will be led by mentors, and will include preparation and study time, optional activities with the mentor and out-of-class visits.

Class time is 20 academic hours per week (Monday to Friday). One academic hour at the University of Edinburgh is defined as 50 minutes.

Course Aims

- to develop reading, listening, discussion and writing skills in legal subjects
- to develop legal English vocabulary in a wide range of legal topics and to improve vocabulary-learning strategies
- to develop research skills, and formal academic presentation skills through a research project
- to develop overall proficiency and confidence in communicating in English
- to raise awareness of English pronunciation and to provide practice and feedback opportunities
- to enhance understanding of UK/Scottish legal system through classroom tasks, out-of-class experiences and research
- to encourage autonomy in learning

Legal English

The following is an outline of content of the legal English component of the course:

The UK Legal Profession

1. The different types of legal professional and their functions in the UK (English/Scottish systems)
2. Comparison with Japanese legal profession

The UK Legal System

1. Court System in the UK (English/Scottish systems)
2. Common (Case) Law system (contrasting with Civil Law i.e. Roman Law-based system)
3. Scottish Politics
4. Tour of the Scottish Parliament

Criminal Law

1. Criminal procedure
2. Landmark criminal cases (significant crimes that have impacted on the law e.g. Woolmington case)
3. Mini seminar-style discussions of situations that may give rise to criminal liability

Court Visit & Scottish Parliament Tour

1. Preparation for visit
2. Visit to see a criminal case in the Scottish courts
3. Tour of the Scottish Parliament

Poster Preparation & Presentation

1. Participants choose a case to research and present (important landmark case, case of particular interest)
2. Poster preparation (incl. online research)
3. Poster carousel Q & A.

Civil Law

1. Civil procedure
3. Landmark civil cases (significant cases that have impacted on the law e.g. the Paisley Snail)
4. Mini seminar-style discussions of situations that may give rise to civil liability

Review of Legal English

Vocabulary and legal concepts quiz

Academic Research Projects

Students will normally work in pairs or groups of to carry out an academic research project on an appropriate law-related topic. Planning for these projects begins in Japan, with students selecting topics related to their subject area, under the guidance of their tutors. *Students will be required to submit a 150-word proposal to their tutor at the University of Edinburgh on their research topic before the course. Guidance will be provided to help with this.*

The research projects will involve background research, questionnaire design, and interviews (minimum of 15 if working in a pair) with Edinburgh university students or members of the public. Teachers will guide the students throughout the process, advising on suitable sources of information and research subjects. Mentors will help with ideas and advice on data collection and delivery of the results. The research projects will be presented in the final week of the course, following input and practice on presentation language and skills in a formal academic setting.

Pre-Course preparation

Before arrival in Edinburgh, students will be required to complete some pre-course tasks. The purpose of this is to help students prepare for the course content through listening, reading and vocabulary tasks, as well as preparing for the course by studying aspects of the Japanese legal system. These will be discussed once in Edinburgh.

Week 1

Session	9:00-9:50	10:00-10:50	11:20-12:10	12:20-13:10	14:00-15:30
Mon	Course Introduction and Orientation	Interview with a teacher & Pre-arrival tasks	Speaking Strategies: Asking and Answering questions	Speaking Strategies: Asking and Answering questions	City Tour
Tues	The UK Legal System Lecture: David Caulton	The UK Legal System Lecture: David Caulton	Language of legal definition & explanation	Research Projects : Introduction	<i>Optional</i> walk around the university Central area with mentor
Wed	The UK Legal Profession Roles of Solicitor, Barrister, Judge	The UK Legal Profession Training and Qualifications	The UK Legal Profession Training and Qualifications	Research Projects: Preparation	Free
Thurs	The UK Legal System The Court System	The UK Legal System The Court System	The UK Legal Profession Training and Qualifications	Research Projects: Preparation	Independent study/Project Preparation (Mentor)
Fri	Discussion skills/ Pre-course Tasks	Discussion skills/ Pre-course Tasks	Feedback & Language Review	Preparation for visit to Scottish Parliament	Scottish Parliament Visit* (with Mentor)

Week 2

Session	9:00-9:50	10:00-10:50	11:20-12:10	12:20-13:10	14:00-15:30
Mon	Sources of Law	Sources of Law	Research Project Presentation Skills	Research Project Presentation Skills	Free
Tues	Criminal Law: Crime and Punishment	Criminal Law: Crime and Punishment	Research Project Presentation Skills : Sounding natural	Research Project Presentation Skills : Sounding natural	Optional activity with mentor
Wed	Criminal Law: The Theft Act	Criminal Law: The Theft Act	Criminal Law (seminar) + Introduction to Poster presentations	Preparation for Court Visit	Court Visit with Teacher and Mentor
Thurs	Poster Preparation Research a Case	Poster Preparation Research a Case	Poster Preparation Research a Case	Presentation skills : Language and Practice	Independent study/Project Preparation (Mentor)
Fri	Poster Presentations	Poster Presentations	Post-Court Visit Review (Guided writing review journal)	Feedback & Language Review	Free

Week 3

Session	9:00-9:50	10:00-10:50	11:20-12:10	12:20-13:10	14:00-15:30
Mon	Academic Seminar Skills	Academic Seminar Skills	Presentation skills : Facts and figures/using visuals	Presentation skills : Facts and figures/using visuals	Independent study/Project Preparation (Mentor)
Tues	Civil Law & Criminal Law 1	Civil Law & Criminal Law 1	Research Project Presentation Skills Practice	Research Project Presentation Skills Practice	Optional activity with mentor
Wed	Statute Law 1 Lecture David Caulton	Statute Law 1 Lecture David Caulton	Statute Law 2	Statute Law 2	Free
Thurs	Research Project Rehearsals and Guidance	Research Project Rehearsals and Guidance	Research Project Final Presentations	Research Project Final Presentations	Free
Fri	Feedback on Presentations	Course Review	Quiz	Farewell	Free

