| BIC4021-B module descriptor | |
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| **Module Title** | The Legal System and Sources of Law |
| **Credit Level** | 20 credits (FHEQ Level 4) |
| **Session** | 2026/7 academic year |
| **BDA occurrence** | Academic Year available at University of Bradford |
| **BDA occurrence** | Non Standard Year available at University of Bradford |

## Transparency notice

This specification for module code BIC4021-B has been generated automatically in advance of the academic year 2026/7. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information is accurate at the time of publication, but changes permitted by our Student Contract Terms and Conditions could be made in the interval between publishing and commencement of teaching; where changes impact the terms and conditions of an applicant's or student's offer, these are communicated to them as soon as possible.

## BIC4021-B module aims

This module will provide you with an introduction to the main primary and secondary sources of law in England and Wales - legislation, case law and, until recently, EU law - and to the key doctrine of precedent.

It also introduces you to the legislative (law-making) process and the different institutions (parliament, the courts and the judiciary) responsible for creating and administering the law as part of the English legal system.

## BIC4021-B module learning outcomes

| No. | Students completing the module will be able to: |
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| **01** | Describe and explain the role of legal institutions/bodies and individuals operating within the legal system |
| **02** | Demonstrate an understanding of key principles and concepts that underpin the functioning of the legal system |

## BIC4021-B module outline syllabus

The module will cover the following topics:

The nature and sources of law: legislation, case law, common law and equity, expert legal opinion, international law, the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR)

The doctrine of precedent and the process of statutory interpretation

The courts: the function of the different bodies that make up the UK courts system: County Court, Magistrates Court, High Court, Crown Court, Court of Appeal, Supreme Court and Tribunals.

The Judiciary and jury system: the role of different figures (judges, magistrates, tribunal members and coroners) in the court system.

Appeals - an overview of the appeals and review processes whereby higher courts reconsider or review verdicts and/or sentences.

The legislative process; the way in which Parliament, members of the House of Commons and House of Lords and the Monarchy introduce, debate and approve new laws.

While the input for the module is focused primarily on UK and international law, students will be expected and encouraged to consider their own home country context and the way that different cultures and values may be reflected in different interpretations of the source of law and the institutions and processes through which it is applied.

For more information, visit the VLE (**Canvas**) page, go to our **Reading Lists webpage for this module** or search **https://bradford.rl.talis.com** for this module.

## BIC4021-B module notional learning hours

- 100 hours Lectures
- 100 hours Directed Study

The overall expected hours may include contact time, scheduled learning activity, directed and independent study and any minimum expectations for placement learning. Most learning at the University of Bradford has some online content and sessions which are delivered fully by virtual means are labelled as "online".

## BIC4021-B module learning, teaching and assessment

Groups are small and classes are student-centred and interactive.

The classroom approach is explicitly designed to help international students acquire new knowledge and skills, to build their confidence and enable them to become more independent learners. By doing this consistently and across all modules, the programme provides them with a strong foundation for further study in their chosen subject area.

The approach is inclusive and recognises that students come from different backgrounds with a range of previous learning experiences and associated expectations, beliefs and behaviours. Teaching and learning methods are clearly explained so students understand why (where appropriate) they need to engage in new ways of learning and why those they have used or relied on up to this point may be less suited to supporting their ongoing development and their chances of success in UK Higher Education.

Formative work is an integral part of the approach. In class, students are set tasks that require them to apply their knowledge and skills, to think critically and solve problems. The level of challenge is gradually increased as the students grow in confidence and Tutors help them to see that experimentation, trial and error are central to the learning process, providing constructive feedback on both what has been achieved and how.

Students are also expected to engage in independent study, to reflect on their own performance and to discuss this with their module tutor or personal academic tutor, who will provide support and advice and, when necessary, draw the attention of Module and Programme Leads to a struggling student using the 'Students of concern' process.

As the students take this module alongside their EAP and Academic Skills module, they will be developing their English and skills in parallel. Tutors on both modules will have access to information about what is being covered in each and are encouraged to look for synergies and opportunities to consolidate and reinforce the development of subject specific knowledge and skills. This module, for example, offers an opportunity to focus on the use of official public sources (e.g., the UK House of Commons Library, the UK Law Commission website) to carry out relevant research.

With summative assessment for this module being exam-based, formative tasks might include a series of progress tests including short-answer questions of the type that students might expect to face in their mid or end-of-module exams.

Summative assessment requires students to demonstrate their understanding of the information and principles/concepts covered in the module.

## BIC4021-B mode of assessment

| Type | Mode | Assessment description | Weight |
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| **Summative** | Examination - Closed Book | Unseen exam consisting of multiple choice and short-answer questions. (90 mins) | 100% |

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