BIC4023-B module descriptor	
Module Title	Public 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
BDA occurrence	Semester 2 available at University of Bradford
BDA occurrence	Semester 3 available at University of Bradford

Transparency notice

This specification for module code BIC4023-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.

BIC4023-B module aims

This module will provide you with an introduction to the defining features of the British Constitution including the concepts of the rule of law and the separation of powers.

You will examine the role and function of the main organs of state, identifying the sources of power and the role of key individuals and groups participating in the democratic process. The module will give you a better understanding of current constitutional debates, of the Crown and the role of prerogative powers, and the privileges of Parliament.

BIC4023-B module learning outcomes

No.	Students completing the module will be able to:
01	Describe and explain legal institutions, rules, principles and underlying concepts.
02	Apply legal knowledge accurately and analytically to solve legal problems.
03	Conduct effective research into primary and secondary legal sources, providing accurate and consistent references.
04	Communicate legal knowledge, understanding, and argument accurately and effectively.

BIC4023-B module outline syllabus

The module will cover the following topics:
* The organisation, powers, duties, and functions of public authorities of all kinds engaged in administration
* The key features of the constitution (UK)
* The sources of constitutional law
* Royal prerogative
* Constitutional conventions
* The institutions of state
* The separation of powers
* The rule of law
* Parliamentary sovereignty, ministerial responsibility, parliamentary privilege and public interest immunity
* Judicial review.

Students will be encouraged and expected to reflect on and relate the module content to their home country context, considering the extent to which rule of law is established both in principle and in practice, and the way in which public law may have evolved differently to public law in the UK.

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.

BIC4023-B module notional learning hours

- 50 hours Lectures
- 150 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".

BIC4023-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.

A formative task specific to this module might require students to work together in small groups to identify, research and present a case for review of a specific aspect of public law that is seen as imperfect or inadequate in some respect - either in the UK or in their home country. The proposals for judicial review would be made orally in class with students providing one another with peer feedback.

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 opportunities for students to do comparative research using a range of academic and non-academic (official) sources and make oral presentations based on their findings.

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

BIC4023-B mode of assessment			
Type	**Mode**	**Assessment description**	**Weight**
Summative	Coursework - Written	A portfolio of tasks which require students to critically evaluate specific aspects of Public Law (1500 words)	100%

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