



Media Law and Ethics

INSTITUTE FOR PROFESSIONAL AND EXECUTIVE DEVELOPMENT

www.iped-uk.com

UNIT SPECIFICATION



Designed in England,
United Kingdom

Unit Title

Media Law and Ethics

Credit value

The credit value for this unit is 30

30 credits equivalent to 300 hours of teaching and learning
(10 hours is equivalent to 1 credit)

Guided learning hours (GLH) = 50 hours

GLH includes lectures, tutorials and supervised study. This may vary to suit the needs and requirements of the learner and/or the approved centre of study.

Directed learning = 50 hours: This includes advance reading and preparation, group study, and undertaking research tasks.

Self-managed learning = 200 hours: This includes completing assignments and working through the core and additional reading texts. It also includes personal research reading via other physical and/or electronic resources.

Assessment methods

Written examination under clocked supervised conditions. Maximum 3 hours

Examination questions will be practical, application-based and be focused at an operational level. According to the nature of the subject matter, a variety of question styles and approaches will be included in the examination. Questions might be based on case study materials and require a discursive answer, a report or a series of shorter answers.

Students will typically be required to explore and compare the technical aspects of an issue or topic or to apply their understanding to, for example, solve a problem or provide a recommended solution.

Examination questions will be set, administered, assessed and internally verified by IPED in the United Kingdom by IPED assessors and internal verifiers.

Minimum entry requirement(s)

Please refer to the statement of entry requirements

Methods for teaching and learning

Centre based study

Lectures: Formal lectures to be provided at and by an approved centre

Class discussions: which should include analysis and review of various case studies

Group discussions: where students are advised to actively engage and contribute

OR

Distance learning:

Learner studies on his/her own, either at home or at a suitable location – reading, watching or listening to material supplied, doing activities and assignments with regular support from an assigned IPED tutor or other appropriate personnel. Guided learning hours to be fulfilled through online communication such as chat forums.

Course monitoring and review

The module will be regularly reviewed by the Academic Advisory Board (AAB) to ensure that it remains fit for purpose. The work of the tutors and examiners will be closely monitored for the purposes of maintaining standards and for improvement. The IPED Suggestion and Feedback System will be used to collect information from users of the qualification to make informed decision on quality improvement.

Grading system

[All figures are expressed in percentage (%)]

Grade A	90-100	Distinction
	70-89	Excellent
Grade B	60-69	Merit
Grade C	50-59	Pass
Grade D	40-49	Marginal pass
Grade F	39-0	Fail

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This module covers:

[>] The Nature of Law

- Definition of Law
- Classification of Law: Public Law and Private Law; Civil Law and Criminal Law; Common Law and Equity
- Legal Liability: Civil Liability (Contractual Liability and Tortious Liability); Criminal Liability
- Law of Property (Ownership; Possession)
- The Work of Solicitors, Barristers and Public notaries
- The Work of Legal Executives and Licensed Conveyancers
- Methods of Dispute Settlement: The Judicial System of Courts and Tribunals
- Classification of Criminal Offenses: Summary Offences; Indictable Offenses; Either-Way Offences

[>] The Judicial Process

- The Civil Lawsuit: Complaint; Answer; Denials; Counterclaims; Filing of Motions; Pre-trial Motions; Discovery; Depositions; Interrogatories; Written Depositions; Subpoenas; Privileged Discovery; Pre-trial conferences
- The Civil Trial: Jury selection; Sequestration; Opening Statements and Burden of Proof; Presentation of Evidence (types and forms of evidence); Direct Examination and Cross Examination; Use of Expert Witnesses; Closing Arguments; Jury Deliberations; The Verdict; Determining Damages; Final Judgement
- The Criminal Trial: Similarities and differences in procedures and proceedings in a civil trial and criminal trial; Ways in which criminal charges are brought against an individual or legal entity; Arrest Warrant; Preliminary Hearing; Arraignment; Settlement Prior to Trial; Discovery; Sentencing
- Alternative Dispute Resolution: Summary Jury Trial; Arbitration; Mediation

[>] Ethical Dilemmas, Issues and Concerns in Mass Communication

- The Issue of Credibility in Journalism
- Reasons behind public distrust of the media (as examined by Professor Charles Self, University of Oklahoma)

- Journalists Role in Democracy
- Why Journalism's Ethical Problems are Different
- Approaches to Ethics: The Teleological Approach and Deontological Approach; Use of Ethics Codes; A Reporter's Duty; The Journalists Code
- Ethical Principles for Journalists
- Plagiarism and Fabrication in Journalism
- The Case for Protecting Sources

[>] Libel

- Explanation of Defamation; Definition of Libel and Slander
- Elements of Libel: False and defamatory statement concerning another; Publication; Negligence or greater fault on the part of plaintiff; Actual injury arising from publication of the statement (harm)
- Defences to Libel

[>] Indecency and Obscenity

- Explanation of Indecency and Obscenity
- Regulation of indecent and obscene content in journalism

[>] Right of Privacy

- Explanation of Right of Privacy
- Invasion of Privacy:
 - > Examination of the four torts relating to Invasion of Privacy:
 - "Appropriation" of a person's name or likeness for the benefit or advantage of another;
 - Defences to appropriation
 - "Intrusion" upon an individual's physical solitude or seclusion;
 - Defences to intrusion

- “Public disclosure” of highly objectionable private facts;
 - Defences to public disclosure of highly objectionable private facts
- Publicity that places an individual in a “false light” in the public eye
 - Defences to publicity that places an individual in a “false light” in the public eye

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Recommended learning resources

Indicative reading	<p>Media Law and Ethics 6th Edition by Roy L. Moore et al; 2021. ISBN: 9780415894630</p> <p>Media Law and Ethics by M. Neelamalar; 2009. ISBN: 9788120339743</p> <p>Access to other relevant text is strongly encouraged.</p>
Study manual	<p>A learning resource material is provided to guide the learner/tutor and to serve as a quick reference point for contents of the programme. The student is advised not to be over reliant on the study guide but to access the relevant textbooks or other academic materials as much as possible to help him/her with the course.</p>