University of the Built Environment
EST. 1919

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# Professional Practice Capstone: Construction Dispute Hearing

## Module Descriptor

| | |
|---|---|
| Module Code: | PPC7DHO |
| Version: | V1.00 |
| Status: | Final |
| Date: | 20/10/2026 |

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# Summary Module Details

## Module details

**Module Title:** Professional Practice Capstone: Construction Dispute Hearing

**Module Leader:** James Beckwith

**Module Mode:** Supported online learning

**Semester:** Autumn (UK) and Spring (UK)

**Level:** 7

**Credits:** 40

**Learning Hours:** 400

## Contact & Study Hours

**Directed Study Time:** 120 hrs (30%)

**Self-directed Study Time:** 160 hrs (40%)

**Assessment Study Time:** 120 hrs (30%)

## Assessment Type

**Professional Submission, Hearing Participation, Award/Determination and Reflective Professional Analysis:** 100%

# Module Summary

This module provides a practice-based capstone experience delivered fully online, structured around a progression of guided preparation, an online hearing simulation, and post-hearing assessment. In the preparation phase, students undertake guided pre-hearing activity focused on evidence development, case strategy and individual submissions. This is followed by an intensive online mock hearing simulation involving collaborative group work, role-based participation and evidential challenge. Following the hearing, students complete a period of structured online activity culminating in individual assessment submissions comprising a formal award and reflective analysis.

Whilst the module is termed 'hearing', it is the intention that this hearing be able to address skills required in adjudications, arbitration, mediation, and conciliation, and focusses on ADR processes, evidence and advocacy. Terminology such as 'award' or 'hearing' are used, but these are intended to be interchangeable with appropriate terms for other resolutions methods.



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## Taken on which Programmes

LLM Construction Law **(C)**

**Core (C) or Elective (E)**

# Module Aims

This module aims to:

- Integrate programme learning across pre, hearing and post phases;
- Develop mediation, expert witness and adjudication skills in an online environment;
- Enable effective evidential analysis, presentation and group collaboration;
- Develop award writing aligned to professional standards; and
- Support reflective professional development.

# Module Learning Outcomes

LO1. Critically analyse a complex construction dispute, and synthesise relevant legal, contractual, technical and commercial issues.

LO2. Prepare professional-standard pre-hearing documentation, including a statement of case, evidence summary and legal argument.

LO3. Conduct and participate in a dispute hearing, demonstrating advanced advocacy, examination and procedural competence.

LO4. Produce a reasoned award or determination that applies legal and contractual principles to the evidence.

LO5. Critically reflect on professional practice, judgement and ethical conduct in dispute resolution.

# Indicative Module Content

## Module topics

- Pre-hearing online preparation and individual submissions.
- Case development and evidence preparation.
- Online dispute hearing with group work and submissions.



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- Mediation and expert witness practice.
- Evidence presentation and challenge.
- Award writing and decision-making.
- Post-hearing online work including individual award and reflection.

This content will be reviewed and updated regularly to reflect the legal, moral and financial changes in professional standards and practice.

# Overview of Summative Assessment

| Module learning outcomes | Assessment | Word count or equivalent | Weighting |
|---|---|---|---|
| LO1 & LO2 | **Assessment 1**<br>Pre-hearing submission | 3,000 | 30% |
| LO1 & LO3 | **Assessment 2**<br>Live hearing participation | 3,000 | 30% |
| LO1, LO4 & LO5 | **Assessment 3**<br>Post hearing reasoned award/determination plus individual reflective professional analysis | 4,000 | 40% |

**Module Pass Mark (as a weighted average of all assessments): 50%**

# Key Module Learning Resources

## Core Sources and Texts

The core reading resources within each module will be provided via the specific Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) module pages and within the e-Library.

The module delivery includes facilitated sessions, simulations and collaborative tools. Additional reference material and supplementary resources to support your studies are available through the University e-Library.



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## Module tools

Students will have access to study materials, dedicated academic support, student forums, and learning activities via an online learning platform (VLE).

The module page on the VLE is broken down into structured study weeks to help students plan their time, with each week containing a mixture of reading, case studies, videos/recordings and interactive activities to go through. Online webinars/seminars led by the Module Leader can be attended in real time and provide opportunities to consolidate knowledge, ask questions, discuss topics and work through learning activities together. These sessions are recorded to support students who cannot attend and to enable students to recap the session and work through it at their own pace. Module forums on the VLE provide further opportunities to discuss topics with other students, complete collaborative work and get extra help from the module team. In addition, specific module tools will include:

- Virtual hearing platform with breakout rooms for parallel hearing groups;
- Collaborative document draft and digital case-file/evidence repository;
- Asynchronous discussion forums and mini-moot exercises;
- Online platform for recorded evidence and advocacy submissions; and
- Digital bundle management for pre-hearing submissions.

## Professional online resources

The e-Library provides access to trusted, quality online resources, selected by subject specialists, to support students' study. This includes journals, industry publications, magazines, academic books and a dissertation/work-based library. For a list of the key industry specific and education resources available please visit the VLE e-Library.

## Other relevant resources

Access is also provided to further information sources that include the British Library and Open University UK catalogues, as well as providing a monthly current awareness service entitled, ***Knowledge Foundations*** - a compendium of news, research and resources relating to the educational sector and the Built Environment.

The module resource list is available on the module VLE page and is updated regularly to ensure materials are relevant and current.



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