

FSREG TRAINING
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**WORKSHOP ON
ACADEMIC LEGAL WRITING**

Friday 18 September 2020, 12 noon (British Summer Time)

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1. What is an academic legal paper, and which legal papers are law students required to draft?
2. What is research (concepts, theories and models)?
3. Research methodologies (quantitative research and qualitative research).
4. Process of research (1. Identify your goal, 2. Read around the topic, 3. Plan your approach, 4. Present your research proposal, 5. Collect your data, 6. Analyse your data, 7. Discuss your findings, 8. Present your findings).
5. Secondary sources.

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6. Selection of the topic.
7. The title.
8. The aim of the research.
9. Objectives.
10. What and why questions and hypothesis.
11. Research proposal.
12. The structure of an academic paper (Abstract, Introduction, Methodology section, Literature Review (optional), Main body (divided in chapters and paragraphs), Conclusion, Bibliography).

WHAT IS AN ACADEMIC LEGAL PAPER?

An **academic legal paper** is:

- 1) an **extended piece of writing**,
- 2) on a **law-related topic**,
- 3) that is the result of the **author's own independent and in-depth research**.

WHICH LEGAL PAPERS LAW STUDENTS ARE REQUESTED TO DRAFT?

In British, American and Australian law schools, typically students are required to draft essays and dissertations on a regular basis.

They are:

a **piece of writing on a given law-related topic**, sometimes chosen by the students, sometimes chosen by the professors, that is the result of the **student's own independent and in-depth research**.

WHAT IS RESEARCH?

It is a process of:

enquiry and **investigation** that is **systematic** and **methodical**.

It involves:

Review, question, critical thinking, analysis, evaluation and **synthesis** of existing and possibly new knowledge.

CONCEPTS, THEORIES AND MODELS

- Most research is based on concepts, theories and models.
- Your research should be based on a concept, and should investigate, test and apply theories and/or models.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES

- A methodology is the whole approach to the research from the start to the end.
- Two common broad methodologies:
 - **Quantitative** methodology or quantitative research.
 - **Qualitative** methodology or qualitative research.

QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH

- In social sciences, **quantitative research is the systematic empirical investigation of observable phenomena** via statistical, mathematical or computational techniques.
- The **objective** of quantitative research is to **develop and employ mathematical models, theories and/or hypotheses pertaining to phenomena.**
- **The process of measurement is central to quantitative research** as it provides the fundamental link between empirical observation and mathematical expression of quantitative relationships.

QUALITATIVE RESEARCH 1/2

- **Qualitative research is a method of inquiry employed in many different academic disciplines, traditionally in social sciences.**
- **Qualitative researchers are involved in studies of almost any imaginable phenomenon.**

QUALITATIVE RESEARCH 2/2

- **Qualitative methods produce information only on the particular cases studied** and any more general conclusions are considered propositions (informed assertions).
- **Quantitative methods can then be used to seek empirical support** for such research hypotheses.
- A qualitative researcher holds that understanding comes from exploring the totality of the situation and commences with propositions proceeding in a scientific and empirical way throughout the research process.

CASE STUDIES

- A common method of qualitative research is the case study, which examines in depth "*purposive samples*" to better understand a phenomenon.
- Consequently, smaller but focused samples are more often used than large samples which may also be conducted by the same or related researchers or research centres.