

Module Code	Pre-requisite Module codes	Co-Requisite Modules code(s)	ISCED Code	Subject Code	ECTS Credits	NFQ Level (CPD)#
CMPU 3031					10	7
Module Title	Professional & Legal Issues in IS & IT					

Professional and Legal issues in IS and IT

School Responsible:	School of Computing
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Module Overview:

This module provides a broader perspective of the domain of the IS professional and introduces management, ethical, social, legal, and organisational issues. The module provides the students with the core knowledge to complement their practitioner experience to enable them to contribute as IS professionals in the modern workplace.

Learning Outcomes (LO):

On Completion of this module, the learner will be able to

1	Explain the structure and role of Professional Institutions and codes of conduct and practice appropriate to IS professionals.
2	Explain the key components of contract law, the contractual implications & liabilities for practitioners and ecommerce activities.
3	Identify and explain the various intellectual properties rights that exist in the ICT domain and the implications for stakeholders.
4	Evaluate Irish data protection principles alongside the new EU regulation and discuss the implications for data controllers, processors and subjects.
5	Discuss the principal legislation that applies to the systems profession and recognise situations to which it is relevant.
6	Explain interdisciplinary issues that impact the IS professional's domain
7	Discuss the impact of Disability legislation for systems designers, developers and procurers.
8	Explain interdisciplinary issues that impact the project manager's domain

Indicative Syllabus:

Professional Institutions

- The role of professional institutions and their characteristics: established by Charter, self-governing, controlling entry to the profession and maintaining discipline; reservation of title

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and reservation of function. Some familiarity with the best-known professional institutions (law, medicine, engineering, computing and accounting).

Professional codes of ethics

- Professional codes of Conduct and Practice. Their strengths and weaknesses. Ethics in Information Systems. Duty of care. Standard of accountability for IS professionals (e.g., Sarbanes-Oxley Act 2002). Care for public safety. Continuing professional development. Consultancy and calculation of charge out rate.

Organisations and their Structure

- Limited companies, Partnership and sole trader and the roles of directors and members; the advantages of limited company status for commercial organisations. The concept of delegation and specialisation. Management structures: structure by function, by product, and by region. Professionals in the organisation, Theory of needs (Maslow, McClelland), Belbin's team roles.

The Legal System

- Historical evolution - Brehon law, Common law, Constitution of Ireland and Courts specific Articles, Executive, Legislature, Judiciary and the separation of powers; Structure and hierarchy of Irish Courts system.
- Vocabulary - (e.g., Writ, Statutory Instrument, Bill, Act, law, court, justice, judge, jury, plaintiff, defendant, solicitor, barrister, DPP, tort, civil, criminal, litigation, arbitration);
- Irish Statute Book; Irish Courts in action - Examples of Court cases and seminal judgments in the ICT sector.

Legal Acts that impact the IS professional

- Defamation Act, 1961, 2009; Data Protection Act, 1988, 2003; EU Council Directive on Display Screen Equipment, 1990; Criminal Damage Act, 1991; Patents Act, 1992; Trademarks Act, 1996; Non-Fatal Offences Against the Person Act, 1997; Child Trafficking and Pornography Act, 1998; Intellectual Property Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1998; Employment Equality Act, 1998; Health and Safety Act, 1998; Copyright and Related Rights Act, 2000; Electronic Commerce Act, 2000; Data Protection (Amendment) Act, 2003; Human Rights Act, 2003; Disability Act 2005.
- The Irish Statute Book - Office of Attorney General. Data Protection in the Telecommunications Sector (Data Protection and Privacy Regulations, 2003) Relevant provisions (i.e. those relating to liability) of these Acts. EC Directives on systems. The nature of contracts. Escrow. The new EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

Intellectual Property

- The concept of intellectual property; software, documentation and designs as intellectual property. Intellectual property ownership. The mechanisms available to protect intellectual property. International Copyright, Relevant Acts that relate to the protection of intellectual property.

Standards

- International and de facto standards. The role of professional institutions in defining standards.

Human Resources

- Team building theory and practice, structures and responsibilities. Skill sets; recruiting, motivating, managing and retaining IS teams. Project management, interpersonal and transferable skills. IS employee Contracts of employment. Confidentiality clauses. Health and Safety issues. Human causes of project failure. IS project risk.

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Learning and Teaching Methods:

The course delivery involves a combination of lectures and labs which may incorporate the use of blended learning techniques as appropriate throughout the delivery.

Total Teaching Contact Hours	39
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Total Self-Directed Learning Hours	148
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Module Delivery Duration:

This module is delivered over one semester.

Assessment

Assessment Type	Weighting (%)	LO Assessment (No.)
Written Assessment	70	1-8
Continuous Assessment	30	1-8

Module Specific Assessment Arrangements (if applicable)

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| (a) Derogations from General Assessment Regulations | |
| (b) Module Assessment Thresholds | |
| (c) Special Repeat Assessment Arrangements | |

Essential Reading

Bott, F. (2014) 2nd Edition - Professional Issues in Information Technology, British Computer Society, UK

Doolan, B. (2011), 8th Edition, Principles of Irish Law, Gill and Macmillan

Holt, J., and Newton, J., (2011) 2nd Edition, A Manager's Guide to IT Law, British Computer Society, Wiltshire, UK

Supplemental Reading

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Bott F. et al, Professional Issues in Software Engineering, (Latest Ed.), UCL Press, ISBN 1-85728-450-X PB.

Yeates D. & Cadle J., (Latest edition) Project Management for Information Systems, Pitman, ISBN 0-273-62019-3.

Jon Fell (editor), John Antell et Al. (2007), IT Law: An ISEB Foundation, British Computer Society, UK

Myers C. (Ed), Professional Awareness in Software Engineering, McGraw-Hill, 1995, ISBN 0-07-707837-3

Myers C., Hall T. and Pitt D., (Eds), The Responsible Software Engineer: Selected Readings in IT Professionalism, Springer, 1997, ISBN 3-540-76041-5.

BCS Code of Conduct and Code of Practice.

Software Engineering Code of Ethics produced by the Joint Task Force of the IEEE

Computer Society and the ACM at <http://www.computer.org/tab/seprof/code.htm>.

Anderson R. E., et al, Using the New ACM Code of Ethics in Decision Making. Comm. ACM,36 (2) pp 98-107. February, 1993[PARA]

Benn P., Ethics, UCL Press, 1998, ISBN

Lloyd, Ian, (2014), 7th Edition, Information Technology Law, OUP

Web references, journals and other

The Irish Statute Book - Office of Attorney General <http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/>

Version No:		Amended By	
Commencement Date		Associated Programme Codes	

Modules that are to be offered as Stand-Alone CPD Programmes must have an NFQ level assigned

*Details of the assessment schedule should be contained in the student handbook for the programme stage.

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Date of Academic Council approval

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