



Course Code & Title	LISS291 Reading Legal Texts				
Convenor(s)	Sarah Court-Brown				
Institution	QMUL	Department		LISS DTP	
Academic Year	2020-21	Term		Spring	
Number of sessions	4	Research Platform	• Knowledge Exchange & Co-generation (KEC)	Length of Session(s)	2 hours
Day, Date		Start : End		Room Location	
Tuesday 2 March 2021, 12-2pm Tuesday 9 March 2021. 12-2pm Tuesday 16 March 2021, 12-2pm Tuesday 23 March 2021, 12-2pm		1200 : 1400		Via Zoom	
Enrolment Links:	Register opens on Skillsforge on 25 th January 2021 Click here for the link to this course on Skillsforge				

Course Description:

This course will provide students with the skills required to find and understand UK legal texts (legislation, case law, commentary) quickly and efficiently. It is designed to assist those without a UK legal background, who may need to refer to UK law or legal texts in their research. The convenor is a practising UK solicitor and previous legal research trainer for one of the UK legal databases. She intends to share some practical research tips.

The four sessions will cover:

1. An outline of the UK’s legal system – placing UK legal texts in context and in the hierarchy of the UK’s legal and constitutional system.
2. An introduction to the main legal research databases in the UK – how to navigate these and use them to find legal texts and pertinent information relating to legal texts. This will include a practical demonstration.
3. How to find and read UK primary and secondary legislation.
4. How to find, read and understand UK case law quickly and efficiently.

By the end of the course, students should feel confident locating UK legal texts, reading them, and placing them in context. Clearly, the course will not qualify students to provide legal advice, however it should help them to feel comfortable referring to UK law and legal texts in non-legal research.

Reading List:

There is no required reading, but it would be helpful if students could glance through a piece of UK legislation and a UK judgment in advance and come ready to discuss areas of uncertainty, including for their own research if relevant. Legislation can be accessed at www.legislation.gov.uk (for example, try searching



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“Equality Act 2010”). Case law can be accessed from the British and Irish Legal Information Institute repository (www.bailii.com). For example, try searching “*Ali v Capita* [2019] EWCA Civ 900”.

Eligibility:

This course is open to all PhD students using social science methodologies, but it will be most beneficial to those who are likely to come across UK law or legal texts in their research.

Pre-course preparation:

None

Number of students:

Maximum 25