

Law of Torts

Module Status: Mandatory Elective

Credit Rating: 7 Credit Level:

Pre-requisite Modules:	Co-requisite Modules:
Module 1	
Total Contact Hours:	
Lecture: 24 hours	Independent Study: 116hours
Total Student Effort: 140 hours	

Module Aims

This module aims to:

- Introduce students to the fundamental principles of tort law.
- Provide students with an understanding of general principles of negligence.
- Familiarise students with some of the personal interests protected by the law of torts.
- Acquaint students with the defences available to tort actions.
- Describe the remedies available in tort.
- Enable students to apply tort law principles to different factual scenarios.

Module Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of the module, students should be able to:

- Assess and evaluate the characteristics of specific torts.
- Distinguish between the different types of torts.
- Appraise the key elements of these torts.
- Evaluate the remedies available in tort.
- Analyse factual scenarios and apply their understanding of Irish tort law to them.

Indicative Module Content

TOPIC	DISCUSSION
Introduction to Tort	Definition of a Tort; the function of the Law of Tort; Tort law contrasted with contract and criminal law; fault liability.
Negligence	The duty of care, the standard of care, causation, remoteness, <i>novus actus interveniens</i> , <i>res ipsa loquitur</i> , defences to negligence, pure economic loss, psychiatric damage, professional negligence, employer's liability and vicarious liability
Defamation	Libel, slander, reputation, identification, innuendo, defences, reform.
Torts related to land	Trespass to land, Occupier's Liability, Nuisance, the Rule in <i>Rylands v Fletcher</i> .
Liability for Defective Products	The common law position, the Liability for Defective Products Act 1991, strict liability.
Limitation of Actions	Limitation periods generally, limitation periods for personal injuries actions, accrual of the cause of action and persons under disabilities.
Remedies	General Damages, special damages, aggravated damages and exemplary damages.

Teaching / Learning Methodology

This module will be delivered through a series of lectures, tutorial-style discussions, group work sessions and exercises, and supplemented by structured web-based resources and reading.

Assessment

Theoretical knowledge will be assessed at the end of the module by examination (100%). The examination will consist of a mixture of descriptive, analytical and application questions, taking the form of essay style questions, which place emphasis on the students' demonstrating analytical skills; and problem style questions, which assess the student's ability to apply the law to practical factual scenarios.

Required Reading

Griffith College manual, *Law of Torts* (Dublin: Clarus Press, updated annually)

Secondary Reading

Burke, Philip & Val Corbett (2002) *The Law of Torts*, Tompson Roundhall

Cane, Peter (1993) *Atiyah's Accidents, Compensation and the Law*, Butterworths.

Fleming, John (1998) *The Law of Torts (9th Edition)*, LBC Information Services.

Healy, John (2006) *Principles of Irish Tort Law* Clarus Press, 2006

Heuston, RFV & Richard Buckley (1996) *The Law of Torts*, Sweet & Maxwell.

Kerr, Anthony (1993) *Civil Liability Acts 1961-64*, Round Hall Press.

McMahon, Bryan & William Binchy (1991) *Casebook of Irish Law of Torts*, Butterworths

McMahon, Bryan & William Binchy (2000) *Irish Law of Torts (2nd Edition)*, Butterworths

Quill, Eoin (1999) *Torts in Ireland*, Gill and Macmillan.

Whyte, Gerry (1993) *Remedies for Personal Injuries & Death*, Butterworths.