



Module Specification

Wildlife Forensics

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Wildlife Forensics

Module code: USSKM9-15-M

Level: Level 7

For implementation from: 2021-22

UWE credit rating: 15

ECTS credit rating: 7.5

Faculty: Faculty of Health & Applied Sciences

Department: HAS Dept of Applied Sciences

Partner institutions: None

Delivery locations: Frenchay Campus

Field: Applied Sciences

Module type: Project

Pre-requisites: None

Excluded combinations: None

Co-requisites: None

Continuing professional development: No

Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements: None

Part 2: Description

Overview: Not applicable

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: Wildlife Forensics aims to teach students about the application of forensic science to help enforce legislation to protect wildlife in the UK and internationally. It also encompasses the use of wildlife as forensic evidence.

Outline syllabus: Forensic Ecology:

The potential and realised contribution of animals, plants, fungi and their derivatives in investigating serious crimes such as rape, murder and serious pollution events.

UK Wildlife Crime:

Current priorities of the National Wildlife Crime Unit: Raptor persecution, badger persecution, bat persecution, poaching. Drivers of these crimes and legislation used to prevent and prosecute them. The use of morphological examinations and biological and chemical analyses in these investigations.

International Wildlife Crime:

The illegal pet trade including trade in primates, birds and tortoises. The illegal trade in animal parts for food, 'medicine' and ornamental artefacts including ivory, rhino horn, reptile skin, shark fins, bush meat, dolphin meat and tiger and bear derivatives. Drivers for international wildlife crime and the role of CITES, community initiatives and international organisations in combating wildlife crime. The use of morphological examinations and biological and chemical analyses in these investigations.

Transferable Skills:

Development of skills in the chemical and biological analysis and morphological examination have broad, beyond subject applications. Critical evaluation of scientific literature. Data analysis and presentation. Engagement with current issues in Wildlife Forensics.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: The theoretical underpinning of the module is delivered through an interactive lectorial series.

Module Learning outcomes:

MO1 Critically evaluate the realised and potential role of animals, plants and fungi in forensic investigation

MO2 Analyse forensic wildlife evidence, originating from the laboratory e.g. analytical or the results of microscopic examination; computer databases.

MO3 Appraise the scale and nature of international and national wildlife crime and links to other types of serious crime

MO4 Evaluate the drivers for national and international wildlife crime and how this informs strategies for prevention and prosecution

MO5 Critically evaluate the contribution of forensic science, legislation and community-based initiatives in the prevention and prosecution of wildlife crime and also in 'damage limitation'

Hours to be allocated: 150

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 114 hours

Face-to-face learning = 36 hours

Total = 150

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at [readinglists.uwe.ac.uk](https://uwe.rl.talis.com/index.html) via the following link <https://uwe.rl.talis.com/index.html>

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: The assessment for this module is a 3000 word wildlife crime case study. This assignment will be based on the the processing and critical evaluation of forensic evidence, in order to determine key facts relating to the case. Formative opportunities underpinning this assessment include a dedicated assessment support sessions which will include introduction to the coursework and marking scheme and timely support for assessment completion.

Assessment components:

Case Study - Component A (First Sit)

Description: Wildlife Forensics Case Study

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5

Case Study - Component A (Resit)

Description: Wildlife Forensics Case Study

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Forensic Science [Sep][FT][Frenchay][4yrs] MSci 2018-19