



MODULE SPECIFICATION

Part 1: Information			
Module Title	Forensic Science Research Project		
Module Code	USSKFE-60-M	Level	M
For implementation from	September 2020		
UWE Credit Rating	60	ECTS Credit Rating	30
Faculty	Health and Applied Sciences	Field	Applied Sciences
Department	Department of Applied Sciences		
Contributes towards	MSc Forensic Science - Compulsory		
Module type:	Professional Practice		
Pre-requisites	None		
Excluded Combinations	None		
Co- requisites	None		
Module Entry requirements	None		

Part 2: Description
<p>In this project module students use an enquiry-based research project to develop and demonstrate advanced skills in forensic scientific research, alongside those of professionalism in this context. The project topic will be in an area of forensic science, of interest to the student and negotiated with stakeholders.</p> <p>Students will be trained in research methods and governance and supported throughout their research by their academic supervisors. Other stakeholders may include those in professional practice or external partners. Students will undertake a casework-driven enquiry, which may be laboratory, field or desk- based and will include robust statistical analysis. Active engagement by students in their research community will support their personal and professional development.</p> <p>Throughout the module students will collect a portfolio of evidence of the forensic, analytical and transferable skills that they have gained or developed. This portfolio will form the basis of personal development planning discussions with the academic personal tutor and will be submitted as part of the assessment for this module.</p>

Generic Graduate Skill	<i>Specific strand (eg presentation) - Optional</i>	Introduced	Practiced	Evidenced
1. Communication		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. Professionalism		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3. Critical Thinking		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4. Digital Fluency		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5. Innovative and Enterprising		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6. Forward Looking		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7. Emotional Intelligence		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
8. Globally Engaged		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Part 3: Assessment: Strategy and Details

The Project Report, will be presented as a contemporary research article in a peer-reviewed journal, to encourage and facilitate subsequent publication. The article will include a critical evaluation of the potential impact of the project outcomes on the practice of forensic science.

Formative assessment opportunities are present throughout the project, through 1-2-1 meetings with the project supervisor. Formative feedback will also be given on the research proposal (including project hypothesis & rationale, forensic strategy, a review of the literature and proposed methodologies, time and resource management, ethical scrutiny, research governance and health & safety) submitted as a gateway to starting project work & prior to inclusion in the final report. A formative feedback opportunity is also available on the final report or paper (without the discussion section) prior to submission.

Plagiarism is designed out by the bespoke nature of the project.

Throughout the module students will collect a portfolio of evidence of the forensic, analytical and transferable skills that they have gained or developed. This portfolio, which also contains evidence collected from all preceding modules, will form the basis of personal development planning discussions with the academic personal tutor and will be submitted as part of the assessment for this module.

Identify final timetabled piece of assessment (component and element)	A	
% weighting between components A and B (Standard modules only)	A:	B:
First Sit		
Component A (controlled conditions) Description of each element	Element weighting (as % of component)	
Portfolio of skills	P/F	
Component B Description of each element	Element weighting (as % of component)	
Resit (further attendance at taught classes is not required)		

Project Research Paper (maximum 10, 000 words)	100
Component A (controlled conditions)	
Description of each element	Element weighting (as % of component)
Portfolio of forensic, analytical and transferable skills	P/F
Component B	
Description of each element	Element weighting (as % of component)
Project Research Paper (maximum 10, 000 words)	100

Part 4: Learning Outcomes & KIS Data

Learning Outcomes	<p>On successful completion of this module students will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Show a self-critical awareness in the recording of observations and experimental methodology in the form of structured notes (including photography) in a logical, comprehensive and contemporaneous manner (A); 2. Demonstrate a deep understanding of issues governing good practice in connection with Research Governance and Quality, method validation, safe working practices and the function of validation and peer review (A and B). 3. Critically evaluate and interpret data from appropriate instrumentation and complex technical information applied to forensic examinations and investigation (A and B). 4. Demonstrate an open and innovative attitude to the planning and execution of a series of suitable tests or case-related experiments for hypothesis testing and to aid in the interpretation of analytical results; being self-directing and original in applying and adapting problem-solving skills to unfamiliar, complex and open-ended hypotheses (B). 5. Demonstrate the ability to effectively identify and search relevant proprietary and open databases, including, where appropriate, frequency of occurrence of evidential materials to enable critical evaluation (B). 6. Write robust, balanced, impartial, logical and transparent reports, which are unbiased, comprehensive and comprehensible for the intended recipients; showing a balanced and unbiased approach to writing (A and B). 																
Key Information Sets Information (KIS)	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="5">Key Information Set - Module data</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td colspan="4">Number of credits for this module</td> <td style="border: 2px solid black;">60</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>					Key Information Set - Module data					Number of credits for this module				60		
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Contact Hours	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Hours to be allocated</th> <th>Scheduled learning and teaching study hours</th> <th>Independent study hours</th> <th>Placement study hours</th> <th>Allocated Hours</th> <th></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="color: red;">600</td> <td style="color: red;">12</td> <td style="color: red;">588</td> <td style="color: red;">0</td> <td style="color: red;">600</td> <td style="text-align: center;">✔</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The table below indicates as a percentage the total assessment of the module which constitutes a;</p>					Hours to be allocated	Scheduled learning and teaching study hours	Independent study hours	Placement study hours	Allocated Hours		600	12	588	0	600	✔
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600	12	588	0	600	✔												

Total Assessment	<p>Written Exam: Unseen or open book written exam Coursework: Written assignment or essay, report, dissertation, portfolio, project or in class test Practical Exam: Oral Assessment and/or presentation, practical skills assessment, practical exam (i.e. an exam determining mastery of a technique)</p>			
	Coursework assessment percentage			100%
	Practical exam assessment percentage			0%
				100%
Reading List	<p>Forensic Science Research Project Reading List</p>			

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First Approval Date	19 November 2019		
Revision CAP Approval Date <i>Update this row each time a change goes to CAP</i>		Version	<i>Link to RIA</i>