**Module Specification**

# Forensic Science Research Project

Version: 2023-24, v2.0, 16 Jun 2023

**Contents**

# Part 1: Information

**Module title:** Forensic Science Research Project

**Module code:** USSKFE-60-M

**Level:** Level 7

**For implementation from:** 2023-24

**UWE credit rating:** 60

**ECTS credit rating:** 30

**Faculty:** Faculty of Health & Applied Sciences

**Department:** HAS Dept of Applied Sciences

**Partner institutions:** None

**Field:** Applied Sciences

**Module type:** Module

**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:** 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.

**Outline syllabus:** 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.

## Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

**Teaching and learning methods:** 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.

The following Generic Graduate Skills will be Introduced (I), Practiced (P), or Evidenced (E):

1. Communication (E)
2. Professionalism (E)
3. Critical Thinking (E)
4. Digital Fluency (E)
5. Innovative and Enterprising (E)
6. Forward Looking (E)
7. Emotional Intelligence (E)
8. Globally Engaged (E)

**Module Learning outcomes:** On successful completion of this module students will achieve the following learning outcomes.

**MO1** 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.

**MO2**  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.

**MO3**  Critically evaluate and interpret data from appropriate instrumentation and complex technical information applied to forensic examinations and investigation.

**MO4** 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 openended hypotheses.

**MO5** 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.

**MO6** 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.

**Hours to be allocated:** 600

**Contact hours:**

Independent study/self-guided study = 588 hours

Face-to-face learning = 12 hours

Total = 600

**Reading list:** The reading list for this module can be accessed at readinglists.uwe.ac.uk via the following link https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/usskfe-60-m.html


# Part 4: Assessment

**Assessment strategy:** The Project Report (Assessment 1), 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.  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 is assessment 2 for this module.

**Assessment tasks:**

**Project** (First Sit)
Description: Project research paper  (maximum 10, 000 words)
Weighting: 100 %
Final assessment: No
Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested: MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5, MO6

**Portfolio** (First Sit)
Description: Portfolio of forensic, analytical and transferable skills.
PASS/FAIL
Weighting:
Final assessment: Yes
Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO6

**Project** (Resit)
Description: Project research paper  (maximum 10, 000 words)
Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5, MO6


**Portfolio** (Resit)

Description: Portfolio of forensic, analytical and transferable skills.

PASS/FAIL

Weighting:

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO6


## Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Forensic Science [Glenside] MSc 2023-24