



MODULE SPECIFICATION

| Part 1: Information | | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Module Title | Interpretation, Evaluation and Presentation of Forensic Evidence | | |
| Module Code | USSKFB-30-M | Level | |
| For implementation from | September 2020 | | |
| UWE Credit Rating | 30 | ECTS Credit Rating | 15 |
| Faculty | Health and Applied Sciences | Field | Applied Sciences |
| Department | Applied Sciences | | |
| Contributes towards | MSc Forensic Science - Compulsory | | |
| Module type: | Standard | | |
| Pre-requisites | None | | |
| Excluded Combinations | None | | |
| Co- requisites | None | | |
| Module Entry requirements | None | | |

| Part 2: Description | |
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| <p>The focus of this module is on the role of the forensic expert witness within the Criminal Justice System as outlined in the Ministry of Justice Criminal Procedure Rules and Criminal Practice Directions, specifically rules contained in part 19: Expert Evidence. The role of adherence to the Forensic Science Regulator's Codes of Practice and Conduct in ensuring scientific quality standards is considered in depth. Factors affecting the interpretation and evaluation of forensic evidence will be explored in theory and practice, culminating in the student presenting in court in the role of a Forensic Expert Witness. The module covers the Casework Assessment and Interpretation Framework for the evaluation of evidential value and the Streamlined Forensic Reporting Process. The potential impact of factors such as unconscious bias and 'the CSI effect' on juror understanding and evaluation of evidence in criminal trials.</p> <p>Interpretation, Evaluation and Presentation of evidence is delivered through a mixture of lectures and interactive scenario workshops. Students will be strongly encouraged to visit both Magistrates and Crown Courts to support their learning on the module. Facilitated group sessions will be held to enable students to reflect upon and share</p> | |

their experiences. Teaching is delivered as six hours of theory and six hours of practice per week for six weeks, followed by the final assessment.

Throughout the module students will collect a portfolio of evidence of the forensic, analytical and transferable skills that they have gained or developed from their practice. This portfolio will form the basis of personal development planning discussions with the academic personal tutor and will be added to in the follow on module, Forensic Research Project.

| 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 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

Students will produce a full evaluative report, and present the interpretation and evaluation of complex forensic evidence appropriately and articulately to a lay jury audience. Students will undertake the assessment in the role of a Forensic Expert Witness in a mock court room under cross examination.

Students will practice these skills in a court preparation week.

Identify final timetabled piece of assessment
(component and element)

A

% weighting between components A and B (Standard modules only)

A:

100

B:

First Sit

Component A (controlled conditions)

Description of each element

1. Oral presentation of forensic evidence in the mock courtroom (30 minutes)

Element weighting

(as % of component)

100

Component B

Description of each element

Resit (further attendance at taught classes is not required)

Element weighting

(as % of component)

Component A (controlled conditions)

Description of each element

1. Oral presentation of forensic evidence in the mock courtroom (30 minutes)

Element weighting

(as % of component)




100

Component B

Description of each element

Element weighting

(as % of component)

| Part 4: Learning Outcomes & KIS Data | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| Learning Outcomes | <p>On successful completion of this module students will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Demonstrate a critical awareness of the global accreditation standards for forensic science in the UK and the role of the Forensic Science Regulator's Codes of Practice in maintaining and raising the quality of Forensic Science in the UK. 2. Use the Casework Assessment and Interpretation Framework to synthesise the results of forensic analysis and research. 3. Present the results of forensic analysis to other professionals and a lay audience, in a mock courtroom scenario, in a manner commensurate with an understanding of the Ministry of Justice Criminal Procedure Regulations (Part 19), including the role of Streamlined Forensic Reporting. 4. Demonstrate an understanding of the potential biases and preconceptions of the lay jury, issues relating to conflict of interest and legal privilege. 5. Understand the requirements of continuity of evidence. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Key Information Sets Information (KIS) | <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="5" style="text-align: left;">Key Information Set - Module data</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td colspan="5"><i>Number of credits for this module</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4"></td> <td style="text-align: center; color: red;">30</td> </tr> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;">Hours to be allocated</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Scheduled learning and teaching study hours</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Independent study hours</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Placement study hours</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Allocated Hours</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; color: red;">300</td> <td style="text-align: center; color: red;">72</td> <td style="text-align: center; color: red;">228</td> <td style="text-align: center; color: red;">0</td> <td style="text-align: center; color: red;">300</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4"></td> <td style="text-align: center;"></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | Key Information Set - Module data | | | | | <i>Number of credits for this module</i> | | | | | | | | | 30 | Hours to be allocated | Scheduled learning and teaching study hours | Independent study hours | Placement study hours | Allocated Hours | 300 | 72 | 228 | 0 | 300 | | | | |  |
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| | | | | 30 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hours to be allocated | Scheduled learning and teaching study hours | Independent study hours | Placement study hours | Allocated Hours | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 300 | 72 | 228 | 0 | 300 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | |  | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Contact Hours | <p>The table below indicates as a percentage the total assessment of the module which constitutes a;</p> <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> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total Assessment | <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2" style="text-align: left;">Total assessment of the module:</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Written exam assessment percentage</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Coursework assessment percentage</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Practical exam assessment percentage</td> <td style="text-align: center;">100%</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">100%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | Total assessment of the module: | | Written exam assessment percentage | 0% | Coursework assessment percentage | 0% | Practical exam assessment percentage | 100% | | 100% | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| Written exam assessment percentage | 0% | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Coursework assessment percentage | 0% | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Practical exam assessment percentage | 100% | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 100% | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Reading List | <p>Interpretation, Evaluation and Presentation of Forensic Evidence Reading List</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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