



Module Specification

Interpretation, Evaluation and Presentation of Forensic Evidence

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Interpretation, Evaluation and Presentation of Forensic Evidence

Module code: USSKFB-30-M

Level: Level 7

For implementation from: 2023-24

UWE credit rating: 30

ECTS credit rating: 15

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: 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.

Outline syllabus: 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.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: 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 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.

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

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 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.

MO2 Use the Casework Assessment and Interpretation Framework to synthesise the results of forensic analysis and research.

MO3 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.

MO4 Demonstrate an understanding of the potential biases and preconceptions of the lay jury, issues relating to conflict of interest and legal privilege.

MO5 Understand the requirements of continuity of evidence.

Hours to be allocated: 300

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 228 hours

Face-to-face learning = 72 hours

Total = 300

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at readinglists.uwe.ac.uk via the following link

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: 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.

Assessment tasks:

Presentation (First Sit)

Description: Oral presentation of forensic evidence in the mock courtroom (30 minutes)

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

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

Presentation (Resit)

Description: Oral presentation of forensic evidence in the mock courtroom (30 minutes)

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 [Glenside] MSc 2023-24