



## **Module Specification**

### **Crime Scene to Court**

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## Part 1: Information

**Module title:** Crime Scene to Court

**Module code:** USSJKW-30-3

**Level:** Level 6

**For implementation from:** 2024-25

**UWE credit rating:** 30

**ECTS credit rating:** 15

**College:** College of Health, Science & Society

**School:** CHSS School of Applied Sciences

**Partner institutions:** None

**Field:** Applied Sciences

**Module type:** Module

**Pre-requisites:** Forensic Analysis 2023-24

**Excluded combinations:** None

**Co-requisites:** None

**Continuing professional development:** No

**Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements:** None

## Part 2: Description

**Overview:** Crime Scene to Court builds upon previous programmatic learning on the recovery, analysis and presentation of forensic evidence. Students will investigate a crime scene, design their own programme of work to analyse all associated evidence in the laboratory and then present upon that evidence as expert witnesses in the courtroom.

**Features:** Not applicable

**Educational aims:** This module aims to provide students with the skills and experience they will need to obtain a degree accredited by The Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences and to embark upon a career as a professional forensic scientist.

**Outline syllabus:** Crime Scene Investigation:

Students will further develop and expand upon previously acquired skills in current procedures, documentation, and quality assurance for crime scene investigation. These skills will be applied to the investigation of a more complex, serious crime scene simulation, including evidence recovery and packaging.

Laboratory Analysis:

Students will use underpinning theoretical and practical knowledge gained in USSKAU-30-2 Forensic Analysis and USSJRV-30-1 Scientific Investigation of Crime to design and implement an appropriate casework strategy for the examination of recovered exhibits, with due consideration for case information, budget and resourcing constraints. Evidence types will typically include marks and impressions, biological, chemical and trace evidence.

Interpretation, Evaluation and Presentation of Evidence:

Using the results obtained during the preceding laboratory analysis, students will be guided to interpret their findings with consideration to issues of uncertainty and bias. Discipline specific requirements for interpretation and evaluation will be covered including the Bayesian approach.

Quality assurance and ethics in forensic science:

Students will learn about quality standards and regulation including codes of conduct and practice, the role of the Forensic Science Regulator, and current legal issues. This module will also introduce discussion on the public perception of forensic science and the role of expert witnesses and the media.

Communication and presentation of evidence for court:

Students will develop skills in providing written reports and oral testimony. The module will reinforce the need for comprehensive, comprehensible, logical and objective written reports, including the communication of complex scientific

information and conclusions regarding forensic evidence to a lay audience such as a jury.

### **Part 3: Teaching and learning methods**

**Teaching and learning methods:** This module is delivered through a mixture of simulation activities, interactive lectures, practical classes and workshops.

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

**MO1** Evidence advanced practical skills in the preparation, examination, and laboratory analysis of samples relevant to forensic science.

**MO2** Design and implement a justified laboratory strategy for the examination of multiple evidence types from a complex case scenario, with consideration to budgetary and resourcing constraints.

**MO3** Interpret and evaluate complex data from forensic examinations in accordance with case context and professional practice requirements.

**MO4** Communicate the results of the complex scientific analysis of forensic evidence to lay audiences, both through industry standard written documentation (report and presentation) and in the role of an expert witness in a mock courtroom situation, with cross-examination (presentation).

**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](https://rl.talis.com/3/uwe/lists/2E591EF9-DFAD-B854-D12F-B028402DDE81.html) via the following link <https://rl.talis.com/3/uwe/lists/2E591EF9-DFAD-B854-D12F-B028402DDE81.html>

## Part 4: Assessment

### **Assessment strategy:** Assessment Task 1:

An MG22B Streamlined Forensic Report (1000 words). This is an industry standard document, produced by expert forensic witnesses for pre-trial assessment. This assessment therefore prepares students to apply for graduate forensic science careers and underpins accreditation. This assessment is supported through bespoke lectures and tutorials. Students are familiar with the Streamlined Forensic Reporting procedures from underpinning assessments in USSJRV-30-1 Scientific Investigation of Crime and USSKAU-30-2 Forensic Analysis.

### Assessment Task 2:

A presentation of findings in court in the role of an expert witness under examination-in-chief and cross examination (20 minutes). Preparation of an MG11 witness statement that adheres to professional practice standards will be required prior to the court presentation.

This assessment underpins the Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences Interpretation, Evaluation and Presentation of Evidence Component Standard. Students are prepared for this assessment by practice assessments, for which they receive formative feedback from staff. This assessment scaffolds from the viva assessment undertaken in USSKAU-30-2 Forensic Analysis.

### **Assessment tasks:**

#### **Report (First Sit)**

Description: MG22B Streamlined Forensic Report

Weighting: 40 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

#### **Presentation (First Sit)**

Description: Oral presentation (20 minutes) with associated witness statement

Weighting: 60 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO3, MO4

**Report (Resit)**

Description: MG22B Streamlined Forensic Report

Weighting: 40 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

**Presentation (Resit)**

Description: Oral presentation (20 minutes) with associated witness statement

Weighting: 60 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO3, MO4

**Part 5: Contributes towards**

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study: