Module Specification

Digital Evidence - Crime Scene to Court Room

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Digital Evidence - Crime Scene to Court Room

Module code: UFCE8F-15-3

Level: Level 6

For implementation from: 2024-25

UWE credit rating: 15

ECTS credit rating: 7.5

College: College of Arts, Technology and Environment

School: CATE School of Computing and Creative Technologies

Partner institutions: None

Field: Computer Science and Creative Technologies

Module type: Module

Pre-requisites: None

Excluded combinations: None

Co-requisites: None

Continuing professional development: Yes

Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements: None

Part 2: Description

Overview: This module will develop knowledge from conducting a search and seizure of a crime scene including the analysis of digital evidence and its presentation in court as an expert witness.

The module will also evaluate the tools and techniques associated with the creation and delivery of a digital forensic service within a team based environment.

Features: This Module will feature Expert Witness Training

Educational aims: Students taking the module will develop a systematic understanding of digital forensics knowledge, tools and techniques and an ability to exercise critical judgement at every level of an investigation, from crime scene management, to unbasied technical analysis, to giving evidence in a court room.

An futher educational aim is that students will further develop thier ability from previous modules to critically analyse and apply essential concepts, principles and practices in the context of loosely defined scenarios, showing effective judgement in the selection and use of tools and techniques in analysing and presenting digital evidence.

For more insight please refer to the Learning Outcomes for the module.

Outline syllabus: Project and Case Management: Managing the criminal/civil process.
Project and resource management Collaborative working
Technical and Expert Witness Report Writing.
Court Room Conduct.

Evidential Practice and Management:
- Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE)
- Crime Scene Management

Including but not limited to, the NPCC and FCN guidelines on digital evidence, Interpol digital forensic guidence and any other relevant new developments globally in practice;
- Understanding and validating the chain of custody
- Synthesise the legal and procedural elements that validate and maintain evidential integrity.
- Digital Evidence and Quality

Computer Forensic Tools:
- Device data extraction and case creation/configuration/validation of data
- Complex evidence identification and analysis from a variety of sources

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: Students will be provided the opportunity to consolidate their theoretical knowledge delivered in tutor led sessions focusing on crime scene management and expert witness reporting techniques. Students will subsequently take part in activity led learning sessions that will be conducted in various environments allowing for real-world simulation of forensic paractice, allowing for situated learning faced by investigators will be solved, allowing the cohort to put into practice what they have learned.

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

MO1 To demonstrate understanding of knowledge, tools and techniques, and exercise judgement on crime scene investigation through to court room presentation.

MO2 To critically analyse and apply essential concepts, principles and practices in the context of loosely defined scenarios, showing effective judgement in the selection and use of tools and techniques to achieve a solution to a problem.

MO3 To demonstrate understanding of the legal, social, ethical and professional issues involved in the analysis of computer technology and be guided by the adoption of appropriate professional, ethical and legal practices to effectively deliver quality digital evidence into the criminal justice system.

Hours to be allocated: 150

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 110 hours

Face-to-face learning = 34 hours

Total = 150

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at readinglists.uwe.ac.uk via the following link https://rl.talis.com/3/uwe/lists/4AE447D5-9788-2B8D-59EA-2FB76F4DDE64.html?lang=en&login=1

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: The module learning outcomes for the assignment are to be assessed by one task. The task will comprise of two separate deliverables - each with a weighting of 50%, making the overall weighting for the task 100%.

The following tasks are:

i) Crime scene management practice; the identification, collection and preservation of digital storage devices potentially containing digital evidence from a 'live' crime scene. Students will follow best practice methodologies taught in the module.

ii) Investigation and reporting of a computer crime case and defence of investigation in mock courtroom (controlled conditions). Assessed by witness-stand cross-examination on case-related topics.

Successful delivery of both deliverables will fully satisfy the module learning outcomes and practically consolidate the delivery of knowledge across the programme.

Marks will be distributed evenly across all members of a team. A critical reflection of the team elements of the assessment will be jointly submitted to highlight any disproportionate contributions by any member of the team. Marks will be adjusted accordingly if an unequal contribution is identified.

Formative assessment will take place with the aid of digital tools to capture the cohorts understanding of key concepts. Further diagnostic assessment will be used to follow up on this in lab sessions should there be any gaps in knowledge that have been identified.

The ability for plagiarism will be eliminated by design as this is a practical demonstration of the students skills done live and in-person.

The resit strategy is that students will resit all deliverables of the task.

Assessment tasks:

Practical Skills Assessment (First Sit)

Description: Crime Scene Assessment and Initial Forensic Report

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: Yes

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3

Practical Skills Assessment (Resit)

Description: Crime Scene Assessment and Initial Forensic Report

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: Yes

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Cyber Security and Digital Forensics [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2022-23

Cyber Security and Digital Forensics [NepalBrit] BSc (Hons) 2022-23

Cyber Security and Digital Forensics {Foundation} [Sep][FT][Frenchay][4yrs] BSc (Hons) 2021-22