Module Specification

Crime Scene to Court

Version: 2025-26, v3.0, Approved

Contents

Part 1: Information

Module title: Crime Scene to Court

Module code: USSJKW-30-3

Level: Level 6

For implementation from: 2025-26

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 2025-26, Scientific Investigation of Crime 2025-26

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.

Pre-requisite: Student must have passed USSJRV-30-1 Scientific Investigation of Crime AND Forensic Analysis USSKAU-30-2 before starting on this module.

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

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/2E591EF9-DFAD-B854-D12F-B028402DDE81.html

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: Assessment Task 1: Portfolio

Casework portfolio consisting of the following aspects:

MG22A Forensic Strategy Streamlined Forensic Report (Pass/Fail)

Laboratory Examination Records (Pass/Fail)

Senior Investigating Officer Update Sheet (Pass/Fail)

MG22B Forensic Result Streamlined Forensic Report (1000 words provides numerical grading for this assessment)

Students work on casework connected to a simulated forensic case involving various evidence types and produce contemporaneous laboratory records on their casework, in keeping with professional practice in forensic science. The laboratory examination record is a detailed documentation of all laboratory work and includes anti-contamination procedures, a search and recovery, examination and analysis. Students complete these, the MG22a Forensic Strategy document and the Senior Investigating Officer Update document in the laboratory classes. Handing these in will result in a pass in these aspects. This assessment prepares students to apply for graduate forensic science careers and underpins accreditation of the programme by the Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences. Students are supported to succeed in this assessment through informal formative feedback on laboratory examination records provided throughout the laboratory classes and a series of coursework support lectures and tutorials. Students are familiar with the Streamlined Forensic Reporting documentation (MG22a and MG22b) from underpinning assessments in USSJRV-30-1 Scientific Investigation of Crime and USSKAU-30-2 Forensic Analysis.

Assessment Task 2: Presentation (20 minutes)

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:

Portfolio (First Sit)
Description: Portfolio including 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

Portfolio (Resit)
Description: Portfolio including 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:

Forensic Science [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2023-24

Forensic Science [Frenchay] MSci 2023-24

Forensic Science {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][5yrs] BSc (Hons) 2021-22

Forensic Science {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][6yrs] MSci 2021-22

Forensic Science {Foundation} [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2022-23

Forensic Science [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2022-23

Forensic Science {Foundation} [Frenchay] MSci 2022-23

Forensic Science [Frenchay] MSci 2022-23