



## **Module Specification**

### **Human Biological Systems**

Version: 2025-26, v4.0, Approved

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## Part 1: Information

**Module title:** Human Biological Systems

**Module code:** USSJRU-30-1

**Level:** Level 4

**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:** None

**Excluded combinations:** None

**Co-requisites:** None

**Continuing professional development:** No

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

## Part 2: Description

**Overview:** This module examines the fundamentals of human biology particularly the molecular events that occur at the cellular level and how these affect the function of tissues, organs, and systems.

**Features:** Not applicable

**Educational aims:** The central goal of the Human Biological Systems module is to provide forensic science students with a firm understanding of general human

anatomy and physiology, including various systems in the human body. This underpins higher level study in forensic biology.

**Outline syllabus:** An introduction to basic scientific concepts such as the chemistry of living things, cells (prokaryotic and eukaryotic), evolution, and anatomical terminology.

An examination of the organisation of the human body, including appreciation of the location, structure and function of the major tissues, organs and systems.

Homeostasis and biological processes which support life. Including the communication between cells/tissues/organs. This includes an introduction to signalling and receptors, endocrine control, nervous control and synapses.

Overview of macromolecules in human cells including proteins, carbohydrates and lipids and an introduction to the biochemical processes of the cell.

Genetic material and genomes, including DNA replication, gene expression and the gene inheritance patterns in humans.

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

**Teaching and learning methods:** The theoretical material is delivered as lectures and supported by directed reading, practical activities and directed tasks. The practical work will support and extend lecture material and will include a range of laboratory skills and data interpretation.

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

**MO1** Understand organelle function and fundamental cellular processes such as cell division, transcription, translation, and metabolism.

**MO2** Describe the structure and function of the main systems of the human body and their associated anatomy. This includes both the subcellular, cellular, tissue and organ level of organisation.

**MO3** Understand how human biology relates to the field of forensic science through use of (for example) case studies during a presentation.

**MO4** Demonstrate practical skills in data observation, collection, handling, presentation and discussion.

**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](https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/ussjru-30-1.html) via the following link <https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/ussjru-30-1.html>

## **Part 4: Assessment**

**Assessment strategy:** Assessment 1: Presentation (5 minutes)

Students work individually to present to peers on a forensic topic of their choosing that relates to the Human Biological Systems module. This presentation is partially peer assessed, with judgements being moderated by academic staff. Variations to presentation format (e.g. audience; lone presentation) are acceptable in the case of agreed reasonable adjustments.

The assessment has been selected to scaffold to level 5 viva assessments in USSKAU-30-2 Forensic Analysis.

Students are supported to succeed in the presentation as follows: A taught tutorial session on presenting to peer audiences and peer assessment will be delivered that specifically relates to the assessment. Topics will be selected by students themselves, allowing them to choose a topic that they are interested in. Students

are provided tutorials in which they can practice short presentations on specific topics.

### Assessment 2: Laboratory Report

A portfolio of laboratory work produced through continuous engagement with the module, submitted in a laboratory book.

This requires the detailed recording of data followed by analysis, interpretation, and discussion. Contemporaneous note taking is an important graduate skill for forensic scientists and this underpins the completion of laboratory examination records in level 5. The laboratory book also contains questions that encourage students to read around the subject.

Students are supported to succeed in the laboratory report as follows: The laboratory book is completed in class, where students are supported by academic and technical staff. Provision is made for students with notified absence from isolated sessions.

### **Assessment tasks:**

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

Description: 5 minute presentation.

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO3

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

Description: Laboratory book.

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO4

#### **Presentation (Resit)**

Description: 5 minute presentation.

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO3

**Laboratory Report (Resit)**

Description: Laboratory book.

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO4

**Part 5: Contributes towards**

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Forensic Science {Foundation} [Frenchay] - WITHDRAWN MSci 2024-25

Forensic Science {Foundation} [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2024-25

Forensic Science [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2025-26