



Module Specification

Scientific Investigation of Crime

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Scientific Investigation of Crime

Module code: USSJRV-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: Scientific Investigation of Crime introduces students to the fundamentals of crime scene investigation and the examination of forensic evidence in the laboratory.

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: This module aims to introduce forensic science students to crime scene investigation and the recovery, examination and analysis of a range of common forensic evidence in the laboratory.

Outline syllabus: The indicative syllabus is:

Types of evidence and evidential value.

Volume crime and serious crime scene processing.

Crime scene documentation including photography and sketching.

Documentation of laboratory examination.

Packaging and preservation of evidence.

The nature of forensic evidence, sampling issues and analytical approaches.

Location and recovery of biological, chemical and marks and impressions evidence for laboratory testing.

Microscopy as employed in examination of items and evidence.

Introduction to quality standards for crime scene examination (ISO17020)

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: This module is delivered through a mixture of interactive lectures, laboratory practical classes and simulated crime scene investigation activities.

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

MO1 Recognise and describe the various types of physical evidence, and understand their potential importance in a forensic investigation of both volume and serious crime, including the personnel involved in each.

MO2 Examine and document simple crime scenes using industry standard documentation.

MO3 Select and apply appropriate techniques for the recovery and preservation of evidence and the maintenance of the chain of custody in both the crime scene and the laboratory.

MO4 Follow standard procedures and methods in the laboratory and contemporaneously document laboratory examinations.

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

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: Assessment task 1; Portfolio (three laboratory examination records)

Three case study based laboratory examination records, completed in the laboratory.

Assessment of laboratory examination records scaffolds to modules at level 2 and 3 where these documents must be completed. Contemporaneous laboratory record keeping underpins the Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences accreditation of these programmes.

Students receive formative feedback on an earlier laboratory examination record.

Assessment task 2: Practical Skills Assessment (1 Hour)

Crime Scene Investigation. Students undertake the investigation of a simulated volume crime in small groups. Students document the scene using industry standard documentation and photographs and submit an individual Streamlined Forensic Report (MG11) summarising the results of the investigation.

This assessment has been selected to introduce students to the principles of crime scene investigation and the associated documentation and to partially address the Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences Crime Scene Investigation component standard.

Students are supported in this assessment by the lecture and practical series and also by a formative crime scene investigation opportunity, for which feedback is received.

Assessment tasks:**Portfolio (First Sit)**

Description: Three Laboratory Examination Records

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO3, MO4

Practical Skills Assessment (First Sit)

Description: Crime Scene Investigation (1 hour)

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2

Portfolio (Resit)

Description: Three Laboratory Examination Records

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO3, MO4

Practical Skills Assessment (Resit)

Description: Crime Scene Investigation (1 hour)

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2

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