Module Specification

Advanced Crime Scene Science

Version: 2026-27, v3.0, Approved

Contents

Part 1: Information

Module title: Advanced Crime Scene Science

Module code: USSJRY-30-M

Level: Level 7

For implementation from: 2026-27

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 builds upon previous programmatic learning through the introduction of advanced ideas and techniques in crime scene examination and management.

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: This module aims to extend previous crime scene examination learning from Scientific Investigation of Crime and Crime Scene to Court, through

use of advanced examination techniques and application to more complex crime scene scenarios. The module also aims to develop students' understanding of quality assurance and crime scene management, informing and contextualising their forensic professional practices.

Outline syllabus: The indicative content of the module is as follows:

Advanced crime scene science techniques
- Such as specialist lighting, advanced photographic methods, 3D imaging, and the recovery of bodies.

Application of advanced crime scene science techniques in complex, specialist crime scene scenarios
- Such as fire scenes, scenes involving firearms, clandestine burials, underwater scenes, and scenes of mass disaster.

Crime scene management
- Including management and processing of more complex case scenarios, multi-space scenes, and dynamic strategy development.

Quality assurance
- Including the role of the Forensic Science Regulator, ISO standards, and accreditation requirements.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: The content of the module is delivered as a mixture of interactive lectures, workshops, and practical classes.

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

MO1 Demonstrate theoretical understanding of advanced crime scene science techniques and critically evaluate their application in complex crimes.

MO2 Develop, explain, and justify dynamic strategies for the examination and management of complex crime scenes, according to national occupational standards.

MO3 Critically assess and appraise specialist crime scene science techniques and their application within complex crime scene contexts.

MO4 Critically evaluate the integration of emerging crime scene science techniques into future investigative strategies, accounting for operational, technological, and quality constraints.

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://uwe.rl.talis.com/index.html

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: Assessment 1: Set Exercise (1500 words)

Students will provide a critical summary of selected specialist crime scene techniques and evaluate the relevance and application of these techniques to complex crime scene scenarios with a critical reflection on current research and developments in the field and consideration as to how these methods could be integrated into future investigative strategies.

Assessment 2: Portfolio

Tabletop Crime Scene Management Simulation (2.5 hours):
Working in small groups, students will be presented with a complex crime scenario and will discuss and determine a management strategy, considering required

forensic examinations, suitable resourcing, and necessary collaboration with other investigative roles. Students will be provided with case updates during the assessment and will be assessed on their ability to respond to these updates and be dynamic in their strategy formation.

Simulation Debrief (30 minutes):
Students will contribute to a group simulation debrief where they will provide a justification of their decision making, a critical evaluation of their success, and a reflection on areas for improvement.

Exhibits review (Maximum 500 words):
After the exercise, students will prepare an individual written 'exhibits review', briefly outlining the management of exhibits seized within the simulated case.

Students will be supported in these assessments through skills developed in lectures and workshops, in addition to formative assessment opportunities. Formative opportunities will include a strategy development exercise and a formative assessment. Students will have assessment support sessions and an online assessment discussion board, monitored by the module leader.

Assessment tasks:

Set Exercise (First Sit)
Description: Critical summary (Max 1500 words)
Weighting: 50 %
Final assessment: No
Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested: MO3, MO4

Portfolio (First Sit)
Description: Crime Scene Management Strategy Development Simulation.
Weighting: 50 %
Final assessment: Yes
Group work: Yes

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2

Set Exercise (Resit)
Description: Critical summary (Max 1500 words)
Weighting: 50 %
Final assessment: No
Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested: MO3, MO4

Portfolio (Resit)
Description: Crime Scene Management Strategy Development Simulation.
Weighting: 50 %
Final assessment: Yes
Group work: Yes
Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Forensic Science [Frenchay] MSci 2023-24

Forensic Science [Frenchay] MSci 2023-24

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

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

Forensic Science [Frenchay] MSci 2022-23