



Module Specification

Advanced Forensic Analysis

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Contents

Module Specification	1
Part 1: Information	2
Part 2: Description	2
Part 3: Teaching and learning methods	3
Part 4: Assessment.....	4
Part 5: Contributes towards	5

Part 1: Information

Module title: Advanced Forensic Analysis

Module code: USSKFC-45-M

Level: Level 7

For implementation from: 2026-27

UWE credit rating: 45

ECTS credit rating: 22.5

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 introduces the laboratory analysis of different forensic evidence types including chemical, biological and trace. Students will learn how to interpret results and appropriately express their findings.

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: In this module the laboratory examination and analysis of biological, chemical, trace and marks and impression evidence will be explored in

theory and practice enabling them to gain skills to obtain employment as a forensic laboratory analyst.

Outline syllabus: A broad range of specialist lighting, microscopic and analytical instrumentation will be covered, as is used to locate, recover and extract evidence and to process it in the laboratory with due regard for anti-contamination procedures.

Evidence to be discussed will include bodily fluids and subsequent DNA analysis, trace evidence (e.g. fibres, paint and glass), questioned document analysis, chemical development of fingermarks, recovery of digital evidence, examination of materials relating to gun crime and drug analysis. Analytical strategies will be developed based on e.g. prosecution and defence propositions, evidence preservation considerations and cost. The potential for bias in interpretation e.g. of fingerprint evidence will also be explored.

The module will also cover the Forensic Science Regulator's Codes of Practice and Conduct with respect to the laboratory analysis of evidence and the requirement for ISO 17025 accreditation.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: This module is delivered through a mixture of alternate lectures and laboratory practical activities, which relate directly to the theoretical session. Teaching is delivered as six hours of theory or practice per week for 18 weeks.

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

MO1 Critically evaluate a case study to devise a proportionate analytical strategy, to be reviewed dynamically with changing timescales and contexts.

MO2 Analyse evidence with an awareness of the practice of quality assurance and regulation in Forensic Science in the United Kingdom.

MO3 Critically evaluate the utility, effectiveness and efficiency of analytical methods in terms of time, cost, specificity and sensitivity in a forensic context.

MO4 Demonstrate critical understanding of a range of methods used for the location, recovery and analysis of forensic evidence, including calibration, operation and the use of specialist software.

MO5 Record observations and experimentation, including experimental design, in a logical, comprehensive and contemporaneous manner in keeping with established and accepted codes of good practice.

Hours to be allocated: 450

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 342 hours

Face-to-face learning = 108 hours

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at [readinglists.uwe.ac.uk](https://uwe.rl.talis.com/readinglists.uwe.ac.uk) via the following link <https://uwe.rl.talis.com/>

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: Students will undertake the assessment in the role of a professional forensic scientist, these will include a biological, chemical and trace piece of evidence.

The assessments will be spread throughout the academic year, with one assessment every eight weeks. These assessments will take the form of a three hour practical session, where students will be expected to devise a strategy for the searching/ recovery and analysis of evidence pertaining to a previously unseen simulated serious crime. Students will utilise Standard Operating Procedures and demonstrate an awareness of ISO17025. Students will complete three Laboratory examination records and one Streamlined Forensic Report (MG22b).

Students will evidence strategy development, time management and problem solving skills. They will demonstrate understanding of analytical instrumentation and

associated specialist software.

Prior to the assessment students will receive continuous formative opportunities.

Assessment tasks:

Portfolio (First Sit)

Description: Practical examination of forensic evidence including biological, chemical and trace evidence types.

Students will produce three Lab examination records and one Streamline Forensic Report (MG22b) outlining the results from all their examinations.

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5

Portfolio (Resit)

Description: Practical examination of forensic evidence including biological, chemical and trace evidence types.

Students will produce three Lab examination records and one Streamline Forensic Report (MG22b) outlining the results from all their examinations.

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Forensic Science [Frenchay] MSc 2026-27