



Module Specification

Forensic Science Research Project

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Forensic Science Research Project

Module code: USSKFE-60-M

Level: Level 7

For implementation from: 2025-26

UWE credit rating: 60

ECTS credit rating: 30

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: Students will undertake a casework-driven enquiry, which may be laboratory, field or desk-based and will include robust statistical analysis. Throughout the programme, students will collect a portfolio of evidence of the forensic, analytical and transferable skills that they have gained or developed.

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: In this project module students use an enquiry-based research project to develop and demonstrate advanced skills in forensic scientific research, alongside those of professionalism in this context. The project topic will be in an area of forensic science, of interest to the student and negotiated with stakeholders.

Outline syllabus: Students will be trained in research methods and governance and supported throughout their research by their academic supervisors. Other stakeholders may include those in professional practice or external partners. Students will undertake a casework-driven enquiry, which may be laboratory, field or desk-based and will include robust statistical analysis. Active engagement by students in their research community will support their personal and professional development.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: Throughout the module students will collect a portfolio of evidence of the forensic, analytical and transferable skills that they have gained or developed. This portfolio will form the basis of personal development planning discussions with the academic personal tutor and will be submitted as part of the assessment for this module.

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

MO1 Show a self-critical awareness in the recording of observations and experimental methodology in the form of structured notes (including photography) in a logical, comprehensive and contemporaneous manner.

MO2 Demonstrate a deep understanding of issues governing good practice in connection with Research Governance and Quality, method validation, safe working practices and the function of validation and peer review.

MO3 Critically evaluate and interpret data from appropriate instrumentation and complex technical information applied to forensic examinations and investigation.

MO4 Demonstrate an open and innovative attitude to the planning and execution of a series of suitable tests or case-related experiments for hypothesis testing

and to aid in the interpretation of analytical results; being self-directing and original in applying and adapting problem-solving skills to unfamiliar, complex and openended hypotheses.

MO5 Demonstrate the ability to effectively identify and search relevant proprietary and open databases, including, where appropriate, frequency of occurrence of evidential materials to enable critical evaluation.

MO6 Write robust, balanced, impartial, logical and transparent reports, which are unbiased, comprehensive and comprehensible for the intended recipients; showing a balanced and unbiased approach to writing.

Hours to be allocated: 600

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 582 hours

Face-to-face learning = 18 hours

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at [readinglists.uwe.ac.uk](https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/usskfe-60-m.html) via the following link <https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/usskfe-60-m.html>

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: Assessment 1: Project (10,000 words)

The project will be presented as a contemporary research article in a peer-reviewed journal, to encourage and facilitate subsequent publication. The article will include a critical evaluation of the potential impact of the project outcomes on the practice of forensic science.

Assessment 2: Portfolio

Throughout the programme students will collect a portfolio of evidence of the forensic, analytical and transferable skills that they have gained or developed, which is presented as a P/F assessment for this module. This allows students to evidence meeting of all component standards required for Chartered Society of Forensic

Sciences accreditation of the course.

Formative assessment opportunities are present throughout the project, through 1-2-1 meetings with the project supervisor. A formative feedback opportunity is also available on a draft of the final project, prior to submission. Additionally, taught sessions on critical writing, literature searching, systematic reviews and other key areas are provided to support the development of research skills. Students are also directed to library services which offer online workbooks and workshops on academic study skills including: critical writing, referencing, academic writing, and literature searching.

Students are supported to collect evidence for their portfolio in-class, throughout the course.

Plagiarism is designed out by the bespoke nature of the project.

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

Description: Project research paper (maximum 10,000 words)

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5, MO6

Portfolio (First Sit)

Description: Portfolio of forensic, analytical and transferable skills.

PASS/FAIL

Weighting: 0 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO6

Project (Resit)

Description: Project research paper (maximum 10, 000 words)

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5, MO6

Portfolio (Resit)

Description: Portfolio of forensic, analytical and transferable skills.

PASS/FAIL

Weighting: 0 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO6

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Forensic Science [Frenchay] MSc 2025-26