



Module Specification

Law and Expert Evidence

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Law and Expert Evidence

Module code: USSUJD-30-2

Level: Level 5

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 diverse applications of forensic science to criminal justice systems, the resulting contributions and contemporary issues.

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: This module aims to teach students about criminal justice procedures and legislations within the UK and internationally that apply to forensic

science. This should help inform and contextualise both their forensic science and professional practices.

Outline syllabus: Introduction to law: An introduction to how laws are made, sources of law and ways in which case laws are cited; the distinction between civil and criminal law; the common law system.

The Criminal Justice System: A critical evaluation of criminal justice and civil systems and their purpose; the theories of the criminal justice system; introduction to the different agencies within the CJS and their functions and synergies.

Application of forensic science within the CJS: how forensic science is integrated within and shaped by the legal system; use of forensic science for investigative and intelligence purposes, collaboration between forensic science and different law enforcement agencies and consequences.

Use of Forensic Science in Court: Introduction of the court system and case proceedings in court; Laws of evidence and introduction of expert evidence/witnesses; Admissibility of expert evidence in criminal proceedings and related issues.

Contemporary Issues at the intersection of forensic science and law: Public perception of forensic science; Forensic science and miscarriage of justice; Introduction to critical forensic studies and research methodologies.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: This module is delivered as a series of integrated lectures and workshops.

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

MO1 Reflect on how Criminal Justice Systems work to deliver societal objectives and benefits.

MO2 Analyse the different ways in which forensic science is used and contributes to achieving criminal justice outcomes and societal benefits.

MO3 Design an appropriate research study to investigate contemporary issues that arise when forensic science intersects with Criminal Justice Systems.

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/ussujd-30-2.html) via the following link <https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/ussujd-30-2.html>

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: This module will be assessed by the following assessments:

Assessment 1: Reflective Piece (Pass/Fail)

Students will visit a court of their choice exam and submit a stamped court visitation form. This will be followed by an in-class reflective discussion.

Prior to attending the court, a support session and guidance documents on the DOs and DON'Ts in the courtroom will be provided to students, as well as directions to areas in the court proceedings that they should pay attention to for the reflective exercise that will follow.

In line with the Subject Benchmark Statement for forensic science by the QAA and the Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences, this assessment will allow students "gain an understanding of the duty to the court for forensic professionals, including the role of the expert witness". Therefore, a pass will be awarded for court attendance and participation in the reflective exercise.

Assessment 2: Project (2000 words)

Students will develop a research proposal that aims to address a significant contemporary issue that pertains to both forensic science and the criminal justice system.

Students will be supported to succeed in this assessment with coursework support sessions, which will include training on writing a competitive research proposal.

Overall, the assessment strategy aims to provide students with the opportunity to engage flexibly with the taught content, by allowing them to explore any area within the module that stands out for them and/or summarises the core of their learning.

Assessment tasks:**Reflective Piece (First Sit)**

Description: Court visit followed by submission of court attendance stamped form and reflective discussions

Weighting: 0 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1

Project (First Sit)

Description: Research proposal (maximum 2,000 words)

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3

Reflective Piece (Resit)

Description: Court Visit Report followed by submission of a stamped court visitation form and reflective discussion

Weighting: 0 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1

Project (Resit)

Description: Research proposal (maximum 2,000 words)

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Forensic Science {Foundation} [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2023-24

Forensic Science {Foundation} [Frenchay] MSci 2023-24

Forensic Science [Frenchay] - WITHDRAWN MSci 2024-25

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