



Module Specification

Achieving Best Evidence (ABE)

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Achieving Best Evidence (ABE)

Module code: UZSJS7-15-3

Level: Level 6

For implementation from: 2023-24

UWE credit rating: 15

ECTS credit rating: 7.5

College: College of Health, Science & Society

School: CHSS School of Social Sciences

Partner institutions: None

Field: Sociology and Criminology

Module type: Module

Pre-requisites: None

Excluded combinations: None

Co-requisites: None

Continuing professional development: Yes

Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements: None

Part 2: Description

Overview: This is a course that concentrates on preparing officers to undertake the specialist learning required to effectively interview vulnerable and intimidated victims and witnesses. It is a practice-based unit that supports operational policing, social work and other statutory bodies that interact with those who are particularly vulnerable.

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: Enhance the skills of the learner to be able to work with vulnerable victims and witnesses within the Achieving Best Evidence Framework.

Explore and develop emotionally intelligent strategies in communication that empower vulnerable victims and witnesses to draw upon their experiences and provide admissible and sustainable accounts for successful prosecution.

Understand and apply the stages of the PEACE Model for Visual Recorded Interview of a Complainant/Witness including types of questioning and Special Measures according to the Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999.

Develop a critical investigative mindset and apply to the planning and implementation of an ABE interview.

Outline syllabus: Aligned to the Achieving Best Evidence 2022 Guidance, the syllabus will include the following:

Introduction to the Achieving Best Evidence (2022) guidance

The stages of the PEACE model for Visually Recorded Interviewing

Planning a VRI

Different types of questions/questioning approaches

Special Measures

Significant Witnesses

Trauma and Impact on memory

Witness assessment

Identifying vulnerability and intimidation in victims and witnesses

Rapport building and communication skills

What is an investigative mindset?

Interview planning

Reflective practice in ABE interviewing

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: Due to the nature of the topic, the module will be delivered face-to-face in a series of interactive workshops across a five day period, inclusive of the final assessment.

The workshops will comprise a blend of didactic and interactive teaching and learning, providing learners with the opportunity to plan and practice interview techniques, questioning approaches and build and develop communication skills.

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

C1 Identify the statutory provisions relevant to Visually Recorded Interviews (VRI) and the admissibility of evidence.

C2 Assess the impact of vulnerabilities, intimidation, and trauma on the interview process.

C3 Plan and conduct interviews in accordance with the PEACE model and Achieving Best Evidence guidance 2022.

C4 Apply an investigative mindset to investigative interviewing.

C5 Using models of reflective practice, analyse your own interviews, identifying areas for future development.

Hours to be allocated: 150

Contact hours:

Face-to-face learning = 35 hours

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at [readinglists.uwe.ac.uk](https://rl.talis.com/3/uwe/lists/FA313DE9-7039-88D0-7C06-C7B77EFFC554.html?lang=en-GB&login=1) via the following link <https://rl.talis.com/3/uwe/lists/FA313DE9-7039-88D0-7C06-C7B77EFFC554.html?lang=en-GB&login=1>

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: The assessment strategy combines formative and summative assessment to allow students to develop the necessary skills required to be an effective Achieving Best Evidence interviewer.

Summative Assessment: A 2-hour timed in-class test based upon a set of questions. Successful completion of this assessment will allow the student to conduct an Achieving Best Evidence interview.

Formative Assessment: Students have the opportunity to engage in a 30 minute professional discussion to enhance their professional capability.

Assessment tasks:

In-class test (First Sit)

Description: Complete a written reflection based on a case scenario.

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested:

In-class test (Resit)

Description: Complete a written reflection based on a case scenario.

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested:

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study: