Module Specification

Digital Policing

Version: 2025-26, v3.0, 25 Apr 2024

Contents

Part 1: Information

Module title: Digital Policing

Module code: UZSYG8-15-3

Level: Level 6

For implementation from: 2025-26

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: No

Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements: None

Part 2: Description

Overview: This module provides an insight into the changing world of technology as relevant to the policing context. Learners will examine a range of internet and digitally facilitated crimes and the different ways people can be vulnerable to these alongside thinking about the ways in which technology can aid policing.

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: This module aims to provide learners with a broad overview and understanding of the prevalence of technology and devices in modern society and their effect on policing through the exploration of the changing world of devices and device capabilities. Learners will explore digital risks, opportunities and the terminology used to discuss these themes.

The use of technology to enhance policing is explored, from lines of enquiry to managing incidents and enhancing communications with the public. Students will consider how data is retained in apps on devices and help students develop an awareness of additional sources of support during a complex investigation, including the roles of specialists in retrieving information/intelligence or evidence from devices. Students will examine internet-facilitated crimes, and individuals who may be especially vulnerable. The module provides opportunities for learners to formulate strategies which protect individuals who may be more vulnerable to internet-facilitated crimes, particularly children, the elderly, and vulnerable adults.

This module will lead to students being able highlight the personal and organisational risks associated with using personal devices and being a member of law enforcement. This includes the risk to self and family as well as the wider risks to the integrity of investigations and public confidence. Students will be able to summarise the legal restrictions on the investigatory use of technology. This will include examination of professional standards, seizure and examination of devices and disclosure considerations.

Outline syllabus: Relevant learning outcomes as specified in the applicable College of Policing National Policing Curriculum.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: The module will employ a combination of lectures, seminars, and workshops. Our pedagogy is interactive, discussion-based, and student-facing. Students are an active part of the learning process, and will be asked to contribute ideas, questions, and critical standpoints. The learning

environment is designed to promote peer-to-peer support and exchange.

While teaching and learning will be predominantly classroom based, appropriate use will be made of online resources and learning environments.

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

MO1 Discuss the changing world of digital devices, the range of devices available, their capabilities and identify how to manage security risk to oneself and others including the practice of 'digital hygiene'.

MO2 Examine key legislation applicable to digital investigations to ensure compliance and mitigate organisational risk when dealing with digital devices in a policing context.

MO3 Critically evaluate the ways in which technology may be used in everyday policing.

MO4 Compare and contrast the types of internet-facilitated crimes and the individuals who may be especially vulnerable.

Hours to be allocated: 150

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 112.5 hours

Lectorials = 37.5 hours

Total = 150

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at readinglists.uwe.ac.uk via the following link https://rl.talis.com/3/uwe/lists/62EC1889-5B90-8FEC-7EC2-709D2F956D0A.html?draft=1&lang=en-GB&login=1

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: The Summative assessment will consist of a 2000-word critical analysis on a Digital policing Topic.

The assessment requires learners to critically evaluate a particular digital policing topic.

The critical evaluation will allow the student to develop a deep understanding of the relevant subject matter and demonstrate an analytical consideration of digital policing. This is important given the ongoing innovation of criminal activity and the policing of it within the digital domain.

Formative assessment of learning will be provided during scheduled teaching activities though quizzes, taking part in discussions, debates and questions and answers during taught sessions. Additional formative support will be provided in study skills workshops on research, literature reviews, creation of abstracts, and referencing.

Assessment tasks:

Written Assignment (First Sit)

Description: 2000 word critical analysis on a Digital policing Topic.

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

Written Assignment (Resit)

Description: 2000 word critical analysis on a Digital policing Topic.

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Professional Policing [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2023-24

Professional Policing [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2022-23

Applied Criminal Justice {Top Up} [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2024-25