



Module Specification

Conducting Effective Investigations

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Conducting Effective Investigations

Module code: UZSYPY-40-3

Level: Level 6

For implementation from: 2026-27

UWE credit rating: 40

ECTS credit rating: 20

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: Learners will develop their investigation skills towards achieving level 2 of the College of Policing Professionalising Investigation Programme (PIP 2), a requirement for Detective Constables. This module primarily focuses on analysing vulnerability and risk, issues of public protection, managing information and intelligence, and how to conduct effective investigations which align to the PIP 2 Syllabus.

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: To understand risk factors associated with vulnerability, and strategies to successfully investigate public protection incidents.

To develop effective, ethical investigation skills when conducting serious and complex investigations.

To enable learners to set appropriate, proportionate and ethical investigative strategies, incorporating statutory guidance and local procedures.

Outline syllabus: This module will develop learners' investigation skills, building upon their knowledge gained during previous study and professional practice, towards the investigation of serious and complex cases. This will embed the learning required for students to achieve the College of Policing Professionalising Investigation Programme level 2 (PIP 2). The module is aligned to the National Policing Curriculum (NPC, see Conducting Effective Investigations appendix 1), and the module learning outcomes reflect the overarching content of the NPC detailed.

Developing on learning in other modules, learners will undertake further study into the risk factors associated with vulnerability, tackling victimisation, and the management of repeat offenders. Learners will also explore the effect abuse has on victims, and strategies to achieve best-evidence in public protection investigations. The module will ensure learners challenge their own attitudes and behaviours, exploring the ways this can negatively impact investigations through bias. In doing so, learners will develop a deeper understanding of victimisation and the psychology of offending which will enable them to identify challenges that may need to be overcome in a complex investigation.

The module will also explore complex digitally-facilitated crime including fraud and sexual offending, regulatory structures, and key terms associated with such incidents.

Learners will critically evaluate decisions made during investigations, how to use lessons learned, and how to record decision-making appropriately. The rationales behind investigative strategies will be explored, and the central importance of

effective case management and disclosure to ensure fair trials and ethical practices. Case studies for a variety of investigations will be examined, giving learners an opportunity to understand what works.

Intelligence and Information systems, relevant legislation, and the complexity of using intelligence in an operational context and during prosecutions will be explored, ensuring learners are able to act lawfully and ethically in their professional practice, and are able to ensure the risk to the public is managed appropriately.

The module will develop learners' ability to interview witnesses and offenders in serious and complex investigations, using strategies appropriate to the often-complex needs of the individual and the investigation.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: A variety of face-to-face and distance learning methodologies will be employed, including lectures, seminars, case-studies, web-based learning and independent study. Learners will be encouraged to use their previous policing experiences to reflect on their approach to practice.

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

MO1 Analyse the impact of abuse on victims, and how to ensure best-evidence is obtained from people with complex-needs during an investigation

MO2 Produce proportionate and effective investigative strategies, explaining how these contribute to ethical investigations

MO3 Evaluate the features of effective case-building and disclosure when conducting serious and complex investigations

MO4 Demonstrate the effective use of relevant models, guidance and procedure to make effective policing decisions

Hours to be allocated: 400

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 225 hours

Face-to-face learning = 175 hours

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/...-E0C0-9838EDB2C394.html>

Part 4: Assessment**Assessment strategy:** Assessment One:

Students will give an oral presentation, reflecting on an simulated investigation. Learners will be given 15 minutes for the presentation, with 15 minutes for questions from assessors.

Rationale:

This assessment will ensure that learners are able to apply their understanding of the features of an effective investigation. The ability of learners to examine evidence in complex and serious investigations will be explored, and the investigative strategies they employ. The assessment will encourage learners to be reflective practitioners, constantly striving to improve their practice.

Assessment Two:

Learners will be provided with a fictional case study, from which they must produce a 2500 word investigative strategy.

Rationale:

This assignment will assess a learner's ability to successfully plan an investigation into a serious and complex public-protection incident. Learners will display the investigative mindset, critiquing the evidence provided and analysing the different approaches available to undertake serious and complex investigations with a high level of autonomy.

Formative assessment will take place throughout the module through engagement with cohort and group discussion, questioning and knowledge checks. Learners will examine case studies and investigative strategies in class, receiving feedback to develop presentation and analytical skills prior to summative assessments.

Assessment tasks:**Case Study (First Sit)**

Description: 2500-word investigation strategy for a fictional case-study

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

Presentation (First Sit)

Description: Presentation based on a simulated case study.

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO2, MO3, MO4

Case Study (Resit)

Description: 2500-word investigation strategy for a fictional case-study

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

Presentation (Resit)

Description: Presentation based on a simulated scenario.

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO2, MO3, MO4

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Graduate Diploma in Professional Policing Practice [Frenchay] GradDip 2025-26