



Module Specification

Forensic Evidence

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Forensic Evidence

Module code: USSJT4-30-2

Level: Level 5

For implementation from: 2023-24

UWE credit rating: 30

ECTS credit rating: 15

Faculty: Faculty of Health & Applied Sciences

Department: HAS Dept of Applied Sciences

Partner institutions: None

Field: Applied Sciences

Module type: Module

Pre-requisites: None

Excluded combinations: Scientific Investigation of Crime 2023-24

Co-requisites: None

Continuing professional development: No

Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements: None

Part 2: Description

Overview: Not applicable

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: See Learning Outcomes

Outline syllabus: Overview of forensic evidence – scope and significance in the Criminal Justice System

Crime scene to court – continuity of evidence and issues of contamination

Crime scene investigation – principles and procedures

Types of forensic evidence – sources, examination methods and potential evidential value. Evidence types to be discussed will include a range of biological samples for presumptive testing and DNA analysis, fingerprints, footwear marks, fibres, hair, paint, glass, drugs, fire accelerants, explosives, firearms discharge residues, documents and evidence from outdoor crime scenes

Scientific techniques used to examine a range of types of forensic evidence, including the principles on which they are based

Evaluation of forensic evidence for legal proceedings and communication in written and oral forms

Admissibility of forensic evidence in court

The role of an expert witness in court

Regulation of Forensic Science in the UK

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: 72 hours contact time in total, made up of 48 hours of lectures, 5 hours of topic-based tutorials, 3 hours of Virtual World training, 10 hours of support tutorials and 6 hours of practical exercises in either the crime scene house or the science laboratories.

Students are expected to spend 72 hours on scheduled learning and 228 hours on independent learning.

Scheduled learning includes lectures, tutorials, demonstrations and practical classes. Independent learning includes hours engaged with essential reading, case study

preparation, assignment preparation and completion etc.

Independent learning will take the following forms with an approximate indication of time required for each:

Essential reading to support acquisition of knowledge relating to lectures and practical exercises – 96 hours

Researching case studies, including watching videos of documentary material as directed in preparation for in-class assessments – 30 hours

Revision of crime scene investigation principles and procedures and preparation individually and with group members for crime scene investigation assessment – 10 hours

Practising crime scene investigation principles and procedures and preparation individually and with group members in the virtual world of Second Life for crime scene investigation assessment – 10 hours

Preparation and submission of Streamlined Forensic Report and critical evaluation of crime scene investigation assessment – 10 hours

Revision and preparation for exam, including for support tutorials – 72 hours

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

MO1 Discuss how scientific investigations of crime are undertaken

MO2 Critically evaluate the examination of crime scenes

MO3 Indicate the appropriate scientific technique for the examination of different forensic samples

MO4 Explain the basic scientific principles of the techniques studied

MO5 Discuss the evaluation of the strength of evidence for a range of evidence types

MO6 Evaluate the significance of forensic evidence in a range of case studies

MO7 Discuss the regulation of Forensic Science in the UK and the role of expert witnesses

Hours to be allocated: 300

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 228 hours

Face-to-face learning = 72 hours

Total = 300

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at [readinglists.uwe.ac.uk](https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/ussjt4-30-2.html) via the following link <https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/ussjt4-30-2.html>

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: Assessment 1: Practical Skills Assessment (Crime Scene Investigation)

The crime scene investigation assessment provides an opportunity for students to demonstrate their ability to apply the principles of this task to an unfamiliar situation and evidence their skills in approaching it appropriately. Students will be supported to succeed in this assessment with bespoke preparation sessions.

Assessment 2: Online Assignments (series of short online tests)

This assessment is effective in assessing a student's engagement with issues pertinent to recent cases and understanding thereof. Additionally they can be used to assess some straightforward aspects of knowledge of the taught material and thus reduce the revision load for the written exam.

Assessment 3: Examination (Online)

A written examination is an effective vehicle for assessing a student's knowledge

and understanding of many aspects of this material. Students will be supported to succeed in this assessment through an examination preparation session.

Assessment tasks:**Practical Skills Assessment (First Sit)**

Description: Crime scene investigation assessment and submission of a Streamlined Forensic Report with brief critical evaluation

Weighting: 25 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: Yes

Learning outcomes tested: MO2

Online Assignment (First Sit)

Description: Series of online short tests

Weighting: 25 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO3, MO6

Examination (Online) (First Sit)

Description: Online Examination

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO3, MO4, MO5, MO7

Practical Skills Assessment (Resit)

Description: Crime scene investigation assessment and submission of a Streamlined Forensic Report with brief critical evaluation

Weighting: 25 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO2

Online Assignment (Resit)

Description: Series of online short tests

Weighting: 25 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO3, MO6

Examination (Online) (Resit)

Description: Online Examination

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO3, MO4, MO5, MO7

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Law [Frenchay] LLB (Hons) 2022-23

Criminology and Law [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2022-23

Criminology with Law [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2022-23

Law with Criminology [Frenchay] LLB (Hons) 2022-23

Law with Psychology [Sep][FT][Frenchay][3yrs] - Withdrawn LLB (Hons) 2022-23

Law with Psychology [Sep][SW][Frenchay][4yrs] - Withdrawn LLB (Hons) 2022-23

Law [UCW] LLB (Hons) 2022-23

Law {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][5yrs] LLB (Hons) 2021-22

Criminology with Law {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][5yrs] BA (Hons) 2021-22

Criminology and Law {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][5yrs] BA (Hons) 2021-22

Law {Foundation} [Sep][FT][Frenchay][4yrs] LLB (Hons) 2021-22

Criminology with Law {Foundation} [Sep][FT][Frenchay][4yrs] BA (Hons) 2021-22

Law with Criminology {Foundation} [Sep][FT][Frenchay][4yrs] LLB (Hons) 2021-22

Law with Criminology {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][5yrs] LLB (Hons) 2021-22

Criminology and Law {Foundation} [Sep][FT][Frenchay][4yrs] BA (Hons) 2021-22