MODULE SPECIFICATION

Part 1: Information			
Module Title	Forensic Project		
Module Code	USSJUQ-30-3	Level	3
For implementation from	September 2018		
UWE Credit Rating	30	ECTS Credit Rating	15
Faculty	Health and Applied Sciences	Field	Applied Sciences
Department	Applied Sciences		
Contributes towards	BSc (Hons) Forensic Science with foundation year BSc (Hons) Forensic Science MSci Forensic Science with foundation year MSci Forensic Science		
Module type:	Standard		
Pre-requisites	USSKAU-30-2 Forensic Analysis		
Excluded Combinations	None		
Co- requisites	None		
Module Entry requirements	None		

Part 2: Description

The Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences' Accreditation standards and QAA Benchmark statement for Forensic Science define three main themes of the subject - Crime Scene Investigation, Laboratory Examination and Analysis, and Interpretation, Evaluation and Presentation of Evidence, which are covered in this module.

Crime Scene Investigation

- Current procedures, documentation and QA for crime scene investigation and production of a statement for court.

Laboratory Analysis

- Selection of appropriate examinations and analysis and strategy for casework examinations.
- Application of the full range of laboratory methods and techniques for the examination and analysis of a wide range of evidence types, as recovered from a mock crime scene.
- Theoretical and practical aspects of forensic DNA analysis.
- Issues regarding the application of advanced analytical techniques (chromatographic, spectroscopic and mass spectrometric) to the forensic examination of materials. Sample preparation and instrumental aspects of forensic analysis. Evidence types typically to include drugs and fire accelerants.
- Current procedures and standards for the examination and reporting of mark comparison.

Interpretation, Evaluation and Presentation of Evidence

- Interpretation of results from laboratory examination with consideration of issues of uncertainty and avoidance of bias.
- Evaluation of the strength and significance of evidence in particular circumstances, frequency of occurrence of evidential materials, availability and robustness of databases to support interpretation. Statistical evaluation of forensic results – application to DNA and glass analysis. The Bayesian approach for the evaluation and interpretation of evidence.
- Quality assurance and ethics in forensic science – quality standards and regulation including codes of conduct and practice and current legal issues.
- Communication and presentation of evidence for court - reports and oral presentation. The need for comprehensive, comprehensible, logical and impartial written reports. Communication of complex scientific information and conclusions regarding forensic evidence to a lay audience such as a jury.

The teaching and learning strategy is largely based around each pair of students having a mock case to investigate. First as a crime scene investigator and then as a laboratory forensic scientist and finally as a reporting officer in court. Students examine the crime scene, documenting and recovering evidence. They will be observed and audited by their peers who will provide verbal feedback on the quality of the note taking and processing of the scene. This evidence, together with additional items from a suspect, is then examined in the laboratory and appropriate reports for court produced. Students then present their findings orally both in a mock courtroom, undergoing examination-in-chief and cross-examination and have a viva examination on experimental work in the laboratory.

In the second semester, students will undertake an in-depth research project relating to one evidence type. They will carry out practical work to evaluate alternate propositions, collate data, draw conclusions from their findings and suggest further research that could be done in their chosen area.

Lectures and tutorials support this activity, aided also by the use of virtual learning environments. A crime scene, laboratory and court rooms have been built in Second Life for use with this degree programme and students will first access these in synchronous sessions with staff, and later be able to use as much as desired to practise and enhance their learning. Students on the Bar Professional Training Course at UWE also assist in tutorials preparing students for courtroom assessment, and the opportunity exists for students to collaborate in their own time either face to face or in Second Life.

Lectures and tutorials also address key aspects of forensic analysis and professional standards as indicated in the syllabus outline.

Part 3: Assessment: Strategy and Details

The controlled conditions assessments are a viva based on the laboratory examination of casework evidence and an oral presentation given in the role of a court reporting officer (in the mock courtrooms in FBL). The coursework element is a report for court, using industry standard documentation with evaluation of evidential value informed by an in-depth research project pertaining to an evidence type of their choosing.

The crime scene examination (practical skills) and documentation are undertaken in pairs. This is a formative exercise and the quality of their work will be commented on by their peers. Formative assessment and feedback opportunities exist in laboratory sessions also via the Second Life crime scene exercises.

Practice exercises with Bar Professional Training Course students occur in tutorial sessions with the member of staff giving formative assessment and feedback on performance prior to the courtroom assessment.

All work is marked in line with the Faculty's Generic Assessment Criteria and conforms with university policies for the setting, collection, marking and return of student work. Assessments are described in the module handbook that is supplied at the start of module and detailed marking schemes for elements of coursework, where appropriate, are provided in advance.

Fill in the table below, identifying the types of assessment for each component (and element if appropriate).

- There are two oral elements that are assessed both with a duration of 20 minutes
- The oral elements will both be conducted during exam periods.
- The word length of the written aspect of the assessment will be outlined in the module handbook

Identify final timetabled piece of assessment (component and element)	A2	
% weighting between components A and B (Standard modules only)	**A:** **50**	**B**: **50**

First Sit

Component A (controlled conditions) **Description of each element**	**Element weighting (as % of component)**
1. Oral assessment of casework (20 minutes)	40%
2. Oral presentation of results in a courtroom situation (20 Minutes)	60%
Component B Description of each element	**Element weighting (as % of component)**
1. Report for court including extended project (4000 words)	100%

Resit (further attendance at taught classes is not required)

Component A (controlled conditions) **Description of each element**	**Element weighting (as % of component)**
1. Oral assessment of casework (20 Minutes)	40%
2. Oral presentation of results in a courtroom situation (20 Minutes)	60%
Component B Description of each element	**Element weighting (as % of component)**
1. Report for court including extended project (4000 words)	100%

Part 4: Learning Outcomes & KIS Data

Learning Outcomes	On successful completion of this module students will be able to: • undertake a mock crime scene investigation including appropriate documentation and QA and examine the range of evidence items recovered from it in the laboratory (component A1). • prepare a report for court based on the appropriate interpretation and evaluation of the results of the laboratory examination of evidence in this case (component B1). • formulate research questions and hypotheses relating to one type of evidence and undertake research to assist in the interpretation of the evidential value in the case, reporting the findings in an extended report for court (component B1). • critically evaluate methods and techniques used in forensic science and give evidence in a courtroom situation with examination-in-chief and cross-examination (components A1 and A2).
Key Information Sets Information (KIS)	Further detail on Key Information Sets and how the University is implementing its requirements can be found here. This also contains further guidance on how to complete the information requested below. A KIS is required for every undergraduate programme (including integrated Masters and foundation degrees) so please fill this section if this module will contribute to an undergraduate programme.

Contact Hours

Double click in the table and type over the number of hours – the table will total automatically. Please ensure that it totals correctly.

Key Information Set - Module data

Number of credits for this module 30

Hours to be allocated	Scheduled learning and teaching study hours	Independent study hours	Placement study hours	Allocated Hours
300	72	228	0	300

Total Assessment

The table below indicates as a percentage the total assessment of the module which constitutes a;

Controlled conditions: Oral assessment of laboratory work, Oral presentation of results in a courtroom situation.

Coursework: Written report for court including a research project based on one aspect of the evidence from the casework.

Please note that this is the total of various types of assessment and will probably not reflect the component and module weightings in the Assessment section of this module description: Note also that, if students must complete, e.g. a piece of coursework in order to pass the module, it should be included *even if it will not count towards the final assessment*

Double click in the table and type over the percentages – the table will total automatically. Please ensure that it amounts to 100%

Controlled conditions assessment percentage	50%
Coursework assessment percentage	50%
	100%

Reading List

Indicative reading list can be found using the following link
https://uwe.rl.talis.com/lists/EE270EB1-75D9-B01F-AE1F-2F21D356641D.html

First CAP Approval Date	2nd February 2016			
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