



MODULE SPECIFICATION

| Part 1: Information | | | |
|---------------------------|---|--------------------|------------------|
| Module Title | Forensic Science and Society | | |
| Module Code | USSKMA-15-M | Level | M |
| For implementation from | September 2019 | | |
| UWE Credit Rating | 15 | ECTS Credit Rating | 7.5 |
| Faculty | Health and Applied Sciences | Field | Applied Sciences |
| Department | Department of Applied Sciences | | |
| Contributes towards | MSci Forensic Science MSci Forensic Science (with Foundation Year) | | |
| Module type: | Project | | |
| Pre-requisites | None | | |
| Excluded Combinations | None | | |
| Co- requisites | None | | |
| Module Entry requirements | None | | |

| Part 2: Description |
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| <p>▪ Teaching and Learning Methods</p> <p>1- Scheduled Learning The theoretical underpinning of the module is delivered through lecture series. Students are supported in their learning at timetabled/weekly tutorial sessions.</p> <p>2- Independent Learning It is additionally expected that students will spend a significant proportion of the study time for this module engaging with relevant literature and three case studies, as directed by academic staff.</p> <p>This module will cover:</p> <p>▪ Syllabus Outline:</p> <p>1- Forensic Science issues of relevance to society: Public perception of forensic scientific evidence especially in the light of media portrayal. Reality of the certainty of results, their interpretation and presentation to court. The regulation of forensic science and its role regarding public confidence. The limitations of forensic scientific evidence and background data for its interpretation.</p> <p>2- Communication regarding forensic evidence: Communication skills required by forensic scientists and their modes of communication. Interactions with law enforcement professionals and the media, and media portrayal of forensic science (both in fiction and case reporting).</p> |

3- Legal issues relating to forensic evidence: The current legal framework within which forensic evidence is required and is used. The role of the jury and decision making regarding forensic evidence and expert witnesses. The influence of media reporting before trials. Civil liberty issues with databases and forensic investigations.

4- Transferable Skills: Development of skills in this multidisciplinary area (involving aspects of science, law, criminology, forensic journalism and science communication) benefits communication with professionals in a range of environments. Critical evaluation of the investigation, prosecution and reporting of criminal cases. Engagement with current issues relating to forensic science of interest and relevance to society.

Part 3: Assessment: Strategy and Details




Element A1 (50%)

- Critical evaluation of designing and presentation of forensic evidence to the public in a specific criminal case. Students will be required to prepare a forensic case based on the current issues in forensic science, which are important/interesting for the public. Then they have to present their case to the public during a public engagement event. Students will be introduced to the coursework, including the detailed marking scheme, during the taught sessions. This coursework will enable students to evaluate in depth current practice and evidence their understanding and communication skills in the production of an appropriate scenario and presenting it.

Element A2 (50%)

- Critical evaluation of four different media reports of forensic evidence in relation to the scenario in element A1. Students will be required to prepare an appropriate accurate account of the forensic evidence in the case, both based on presenting the basic science and the real forensic cases. Students will be using the questionnaires obtained during the engagement event to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the media reports they have selected for element A2. This coursework will enable students to critically analyse and evaluate in depth current opinions and expectations of the public from the forensic scientists and the media and evidence their skills in the production of an appropriate report.

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| Identify final timetabled piece of assessment (component and element) | A2 | |
| % weighting between components A and B (Standard modules only) | A | B |
| | | |
| First Sit | | |
| Component A (controlled conditions) Description of each element | Element weighting (as % of component) | |
| Critical evaluation of forensic science public engagement event (1500 words) | 50 | |
| Critical evaluation of media reporting of forensic evidence (1500 words) | 50 | |
| Component B Description of each element | Element weighting (as % of component) | |
| Resit (further attendance at taught classes is not required) | | |
| Component A (controlled conditions) Description of each element | Element weighting (as % of component) | |
| Critical evaluation of forensic science public engagement event (1500 words) | 50 | |
| Critical evaluation of media reporting of forensic evidence (1500 words) | 50 | |
| Component B Description of each element | Element weighting (as % of component) | |

| Part 4: Learning Outcomes & KIS Data | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----|--|------|----|-----------------------|---|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|--|-----|----|-----|---|-----|---|
| Learning Outcomes | <p>On successful completion of this module students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand in depth issues relating to forensic science of relevance to society (A1) Critically evaluate the media presentation and reporting of forensic evidence and prepare appropriate accurate reports (A2) Critically appraise the legal framework and processes relating to forensic science journalism (A1) Appraise relevant forensic reporting methods and strategies relate to the forensic investigation of crimes (A2) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Key Information Sets Information (KIS) | <p>Key Information Sets (KIS) are produced at programme level for all programmes that this module contributes to, which is a requirement set by HESA/HEFCE. KIS are comparable sets of standardised information about undergraduate courses allowing prospective students to compare and contrast between programmes they are interested in applying for.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Contact Hours | <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="5">Key Information Set - Module data</th> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="5">Number of credits for this module</td> <td>15</td> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <th>Hours to be allocated</th> <th>Scheduled learning and teaching study hours</th> <th>Independent study hours</th> <th>Placement study hours</th> <th>Allocated Hours</th> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>150</td> <td>36</td> <td>114</td> <td>0</td> <td>150</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | Key Information Set - Module data | | | | | Number of credits for this module | | | | | 15 | Hours to be allocated | Scheduled learning and teaching study hours | Independent study hours | Placement study hours | Allocated Hours | | 150 | 36 | 114 | 0 | 150 |  |
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| Hours to be allocated | Scheduled learning and teaching study hours | Independent study hours | Placement study hours | Allocated Hours | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 150 | 36 | 114 | 0 | 150 |  | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total Assessment | <p>The table below indicates as a percentage the total assessment of the module which constitutes a;</p> <p>Written Exam: Unseen or open book written exam Coursework: Written assignment or essay, report, dissertation, portfolio, project or in class test Practical Exam: Oral Assessment and/or presentation, practical skills assessment, practical exam (i.e. an exam determining mastery of a technique)</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">Total assessment of the module:</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Written exam assessment percentage</td> <td>0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Coursework assessment percentage</td> <td>100%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Practical exam assessment percentage</td> <td>0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>100%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | Total assessment of the module: | | Written exam assessment percentage | 0% | Coursework assessment percentage | 100% | Practical exam assessment percentage | 0% | | 100% | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total assessment of the module: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Written exam assessment percentage | 0% | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Coursework assessment percentage | 100% | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Practical exam assessment percentage | 0% | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 100% | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Reading List | <p>https://rl.talis.com/3/uwe/lists/BE8EA872-63DB-A9E5-FACF-4543AF69D0F7.html?draft=1&login=1</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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| First CAP Approval Date | 31/05/2016 | | | |
| Revision ASQC Approval Date | 26/06/2019 | Version | 2 | RIA 13025 |