



MODULE SPECIFICATION

Part 1: Information			
Module Title	Forensic Science and Society		
Module Code	USSKMA-15-M	Level	Level 7
For implementation from	2020-21		
UWE Credit Rating	15	ECTS Credit Rating	7.5
Faculty	Faculty of Health & Applied Sciences	Field	Applied Sciences
Department	HAS Dept of Applied Sciences		
Module type:	Standard		
Pre-requisites	None		
Excluded Combinations	None		
Co- requisites	None		
Module Entry requirements	None		

Part 2: Description
<p>Educational Aims: See Learning Outcomes</p> <p>Outline Syllabus: 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>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> <p>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.</p> <p>Transferable Skills:</p>

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Development of skills in this multidisciplinary area (involving aspects of science, law, criminology, forensic psychology 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.

Teaching and Learning Methods: Scheduled Learning

The theoretical underpinning of the module is delivered through an online lecture series. Students are supported in their learning at timetabled/weekly tutorial sessions.

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.

Part 3: Assessment

Element A1 (50%):

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 current issues in forensic science, in a way that demonstrates an awareness of what might be important/interesting for the public. Then they have to present their case during a mock 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 develop and evaluate their 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 a single case. Students will be required to prepare an appropriate, accurate account of the forensic science and evidence in the case. Questionnaire data obtained during the engagement event will contribute to an evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of media and other forms of public communication in relation to forensic cases. This coursework will enable students to critically analyse and evaluate in depth current opinions and expectations of the public in relation to the forensic science evidence within the case.

First Sit Components	Final Assessment	Element weighting	Description
Set Exercise - Component A	✓	50 %	Component A2. Critical evaluation of media reporting of forensic evidence (1500 words)
Set Exercise - Component A		50 %	Component A1. Critical evaluation of forensic science public engagement event (1500 words)
Resit Components	Final Assessment	Element weighting	Description
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Set Exercise - Component A	✓	50 %	Component A2. Critical evaluation of media reporting of forensic evidence (1500 words)

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Part 4: Teaching and Learning Methods																	
Learning Outcomes	<p>On successful completion of this module students will achieve the following learning outcomes:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Module Learning Outcomes</th> <th style="text-align: left;">Reference</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Understand in depth issues relating to forensic science of relevance to society</td> <td>MO1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Critically evaluate the media presentation and reporting of forensic evidence and prepare appropriate accurate reports</td> <td>MO2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Critically appraise the legal framework and processes relating to forensic science journalism</td> <td>MO3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Appraise relevant forensic reporting methods and strategies relate to the forensic investigation of crimes</td> <td>MO4</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Module Learning Outcomes	Reference	Understand in depth issues relating to forensic science of relevance to society	MO1	Critically evaluate the media presentation and reporting of forensic evidence and prepare appropriate accurate reports	MO2	Critically appraise the legal framework and processes relating to forensic science journalism	MO3	Appraise relevant forensic reporting methods and strategies relate to the forensic investigation of crimes	MO4						
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Reading List	<p><i>The reading list for this module can be accessed via the following link:</i></p> <p>https://uwe.rl.talis.com/index.html</p>																

Part 5: Contributes Towards
<p>This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:</p>