



Module Specification

Forensic Science and Society

Version: 2023-24, v4.0, 05 Apr 2023

Contents

Module Specification	1
Part 1: Information	2
Part 2: Description	2
Part 3: Teaching and learning methods	3
Part 4: Assessment.....	4
Part 5: Contributes towards	5

Part 1: Information

Module title: Forensic Science and Society

Module code: USSKMA-15-M

Level: Level 7

For implementation from: 2023-24

UWE credit rating: 15

ECTS credit rating: 7.5

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: None

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: Forensic science for criminal investigations:

Forensic science and inter-agency collaborations (with law enforcement agencies within the criminal justice system (CJS)); strengths; weaknesses and contemporary

debates.

Media portrayal of forensic science:

CSI effect, judicial and public confidence in and attitude toward forensic science/evidence.

The forensic science paradox:

Impact of forensic science on wrongful convictions, both as a cause and a cure.

Approaches to regulating forensic science:

Strengths and limitations of accreditation, quality standards, and professional registration/certification.

New and emerging forensic technologies, including for national and trans-national investigations:

Legalities (the exchange of information/ reciprocal access to national biometric databases between contracting EU Member States; ethics (public security benefits and interference with human rights and freedom).

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: Scheduled Learning

The theoretical underpinning of the module is delivered through an interactive lecture series.

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

MO1 Critically reflect on the challenges and opportunities that the media portrayal of forensic science present to their future forensic practice.

MO2 Critically reflect on how their quality conscience and consciousness has been impacted upon by knowledge of quality failures in forensic science.

MO3 Develop critical arguments for the ethical use and practice of new/emerging forensic technologies in the context of public security benefits and civil liberty concerns.

Hours to be allocated: 150

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 117 hours

Face-to-face learning = 33 hours

Total = 150

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at [readinglists.uwe.ac.uk](https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/usskma-15-m.html) via the following link <https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/usskma-15-m.html>

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: Assessment 1: Written Assignment (1500 words)

Assessment 1 is a critical reflection on how the societal impacts of forensic science and emerging forensic technologies might impact upon the students' future forensic science practice.

This assessment has been selected to encourage students to apply module concepts to their future professional practice.

Students will be supported to succeed in this assessment through taught sessions and directed reading on reflective writing and through a Blackboard discussion board.

Assessment tasks:

Written Assignment (First Sit)

Description: Critical Reflection (1500 words)

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3

Written Assignment (Resit)

Description: Critical Reflection (1500 words)

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Forensic Science [Sep][FT][Frenchay][4yrs] MSci 2020-21

Forensic Science [Sep][SW][Frenchay][5yrs] MSci 2019-20

Forensic Science {Foundation} [Sep][FT][Frenchay][5yrs] MSci 2019-20

Forensic Science {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][6yrs] MSci 2018-19