

University of the West of Scotland

Module Descriptor

Session: 2024/25

Title of Module: Introductory Forensic Science			
Code: CHEM08016	SCQF Level: 8 (Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework)	Credit Points: 20	ECTS: 10 (European Credit Transfer Scheme)
School:	School of Computing, Engineering and Physical Sciences		
Module Co-ordinator:	Carrie Mullen		
Summary of Module			
This module is an introduction to Forensic Science protocol and methodology studies by Year 2 of Criminal Justice and Forensic Science and offered as an option to students of Criminal Justice. The module will appeal to those students interested in joining the Police Force either as serving officers or as civilian workers, as it is designed to offer an awareness of what Forensic Science can, and equally importantly, cannot, contribute towards solving a crime. This module contributes to employability in terms of analytical thinking and an awareness of skills involved in fingerprint analysis, blood spatter analysis etc. The roles and responsibilities of personnel involved in managing and processing a crime scene, and those involved in evidence analysis and evaluation, are discussed with emphasis on the limitations of the roles. The module also covers types of evidence, methods of evidence collection, preservation and packaging, and evidence analysis. The range of types of evidence covered includes (but is not limited to) impressions, trace, biological and chemical evidence. A series of interactive workshops will be undertaken at a level suitable for students who have limited experience of practical forensic skills. This is a predominantly a face-to-face module but from time-to-time there be online content. The module is assessed by means of a folio of online quizzes based on workshop activities and the production an academic poster. Graduate Attributes: Critical thinker, Autonomous, Problem solver			

Module Delivery Method					
Face-To-Face	Blended	Fully Online	HybridC	Hybrid 0	Work-Based Learning

☒	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
See Guidance Note for details.					

Campus(es) for Module Delivery						
The module will normally be offered on the following campuses / or by Distance/Online Learning: (Provided viable student numbers permit) (tick as appropriate)						
Paisley:	Ayr:	Dumfries:	Lanarkshire:	London:	Distance/Online Learning:	Other:
☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	Add name

Term(s) for Module Delivery					
(Provided viable student numbers permit).					
Term 1	☐	Term 2	☒	Term 3	☐

Learning Outcomes: (maximum of 5 statements) These should take cognisance of the SCQF level descriptors and be at the appropriate level for the module. At the end of this module the student will be able to:	
L1	Understand how the fundamental principles of forensic science are applied to crime scene analysis.
L2	Describe the principles and practice of evidence collection, preservation and packaging.
L3	Perform routine forensic comparisons
L4	Exhibit an appreciation for the strength of evidential findings

Employability Skills and Personal Development Planning (PDP) Skills	
SCQF Headings	During completion of this module, there will be an opportunity to achieve core skills in:
Knowledge and Understanding (K and U)	SCQF Level 8 A broad knowledge of the scope, defining features and main areas of Forensic Science
Practice: Applied Knowledge and Understanding	SCQF Level 8 Using a range of routine skills and techniques associated with Forensic Science.

Generic Cognitive skills	SCQF Level 8 Evaluating evidence according to Forensic Science principles and practice.	
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	SCQF Level 8 Convey complex ideas in a well-structured and coherent form. Use a range of forms of communication effectively.	
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with others	SCQF Level 8 Take account of own and others' roles, responsibilities and contributions in evaluating a written scenario	
Pre-requisites:	Before undertaking this module the student should have undertaken the following:	
	Module Code:	Module Title:
	Other:	
Co-requisites	Module Code:	Module Title:

*Indicates that module descriptor is not published.

Learning and Teaching	
In line with current learning and teaching principles, a 20-credit module includes 200 learning hours, normally including a minimum of 36 contact hours and maximum of 48 contact hours.	
Learning Activities During completion of this module, the learning activities undertaken to achieve the module learning outcomes are stated below:	Student Learning Hours (Normally totalling 200 hours): (Note: Learning hours include both contact hours and hours spent on other learning activities)
Lecture/Core Content Delivery	24
Laboratory/Practical Demonstration/Workshop	12
Independent Study	164
	Hours Total 200
**Indicative Resources: (eg. Core text, journals, internet access)	

The following materials form essential underpinning for the module content and ultimately for the learning outcomes:

Andrew Jackson and Julie Jackson, Forensic Science, 4th Ed., Pearson Education Ltd. (2017)
ISBN 978-1-292-08818-1

Peter C. White (ed.): Crime scene to court: The essentials of forensic science, 4th edition
Royal Society of Chemistry Publishing 2016, ISBN 978-1782624462

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Please ensure the list is kept short and current. Essential resources should be included, broader resources should be kept for module handbooks / Aula VLE.

Resources should be listed in Right Harvard referencing style or agreed professional body deviation and in alphabetical order.

(*N.B. Although reading lists should include current publications, students are advised (particularly for material marked with an asterisk*) to wait until the start of session for confirmation of the most up-to-date material)

Attendance and Engagement Requirements

In line with the [Student Attendance and Engagement Procedure](#): Students are academically engaged if they are regularly attending and participating in timetabled on-campus and online teaching sessions, asynchronous online learning activities, course-related learning resources, and complete assessments and submit these on time.

For the purposes of this module, academic engagement equates to the following:

Attendance at all on campus and online teaching classes. Participation in workshop discussion and activities. Completion of all on-line quizzes before deadlines. Regular use of the Aula site (at least weekly checking of the 'materials' section and keeping up with announcements daily). Completion of an academic poster.

Equality and Diversity

The University's Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Procedure can be accessed at the following link: [UWS Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Code](#).

Aligned with the University's commitment to equality and diversity, this module supports equality of opportunity for students from all backgrounds and learning needs. Using the VLE, material will be presented electronically in formats that allow flexible access and manipulation of content. This module complies with University regulations and guidance on inclusive learning and teaching practice. Specialist assistive equipment, support provision and adjustment to assessment practice in accordance with the University's policies and regulations can be put in place.

(N.B. Every effort will be made by the University to accommodate any equality and diversity issues brought to the attention of the School)

Supplemental Information

Divisional Programme Board	Physical Sciences
Assessment Results (Pass/Fail)	Yes ☐ No ☒
School Assessment Board	Physical Sciences
Moderator	Ciaran Ewins
External Examiner	I Turner
Accreditation Details	This is a core module in the BSc (Hons) Criminal Justice and Forensic Science programme which is Recognised by the Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences
Changes/Version Number	2.13 Module descriptor edited to update delivery mode and teaching hour allocation (and minor general housekeeping) Accreditation info added

Assessment: (also refer to Assessment Outcomes Grids below)
Assessment 1 Poster Presentation 60%
Assessment 2 Online Quizzes 40%
(N.B. (i) Assessment Outcomes Grids for the module (one for each component) can be found below which clearly demonstrate how the learning outcomes of the module will be assessed. (ii) An indicative schedule listing approximate times within the academic calendar when assessment is likely to feature will be provided within the Student Module Handbook.)

Assessment Outcome Grids (See Guidance Note)

Component 1							
Assessment Type (Footnote B.)	Learning Outcome (1)	Learning Outcome (2)	Learning Outcome (3)	Learning Outcome (4)	Learning Outcome (5)	Weighting (%) of Assessment Element	Timetabled Contact Hours
Poster Presentation	✓	✓	✓	✓		60	

Component 2							
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Assessment Type (Footnote B.)	Learning Outcome (1)	Learning Outcome (2)	Learning Outcome (3)	Learning Outcome (4)	Learning Outcome (5)	Weighting (%) of Assessment Element	Timetabled Contact Hours
Online Quizzes	✓	✓	✓	✓		40	
Combined Total for All Components						100%	XX hours