Module Descriptor

Title	Fundamentals of Digital Forensics		
Session	2025/26	**Status**	Published
Code	COMP11079	**SCQF Level**	11
Credit Points	10	**ECTS (European Credit Transfer Scheme)**	5
School	**Computing, Engineering and Physical Sciences**		
Module Co-ordinator	Althaff Mohideen		

Summary of Module

This module introduces student to the main concepts of forensic investigation and allows for a detailed understanding of each stage of an investigation; from the initial seizure, analysis, interpretation and presentation of conclusions.

Through a number of problem-based scenarios the students will learn both the practical and theoretical elements of forensic investigation, from the initial creation of a forensic image, the use of forensic tools to both investigate and maintain the integrity of the forensic image, to finally collating the evidence discovered to present a case suitable to cross examination.

This module will work to develop a number of the key 'I am UWS' Graduate Attributes to make those who complete this module:

Universal

- Critical Thinker
- Ethically-minded
- Research-minded

Work Ready

- Problem-solver
- Effective Communicator
- Ambitious

Successful

- Autonomous
- Resilient
- Driven

Module Delivery Method	On-Campus[1] ☒	Hybrid[2] ☐	Online[3] ☐	Work -Based Learning[4] ☐
Campuses for Module Delivery	☐ Ayr ☐ Dumfries	☒ Lanarkshire ☒ London ☐ Paisley	☐ Online / Distance Learning ☐ Other (specify)	

Terms for Module Delivery	Term 1	☒	Term 2	☐	Term 3	☐
Long-thin Delivery over more than one Term	Term 1 – Term 2	☐	Term 2 – Term 3	☐	Term 3 – Term 1	☐

Learning Outcomes	
L1	Demonstrate a critical understanding of the major forensics theories, concepts and principles utilised in digital investigations.
L2	Develop and execute a digital examination strategy for a given scenario.
L3	Investigate and assess various tactics within a legitimate crime scene study to evaluate digitally collected evidence by means of learned forensics practice and techniques.
L4	N/A
L5	N/A

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 11** Students will have comprehensive knowledge of major forensics theories, concepts and principles utilised in digital investigations.
Practice: Applied Knowledge and Understanding	**SCQF 11** Students will develop and execute a digital examination strategy for a given scenario. Students will also investigate and assess various tactics within a legitimate crime scene study to evaluate digitally collected evidence by means of learned forensics practice and techniques.
Generic Cognitive skills	**SCQF 11** To complete their written reports and laboratory tasks, students will first build skills to integrate information and apply knowledge from various

[1] Where contact hours are synchronous/ live and take place fully on campus. Campus-based learning is focused on providing an interactive learning experience supported by a range of digitally-enabled asynchronous learning opportunities including learning materials, resources, and opportunities provided via the virtual learning environment. On-campus contact hours will be clearly articulated to students.

[2] The module includes a combination of synchronous/ live on-campus and online learning events. These will be supported by a range of digitally-enabled asynchronous learning opportunities including learning materials, resources, and opportunities provided via the virtual learning environment. On-campus and online contact hours will be clearly articulated to students.

[3] Where all learning is solely delivered by web-based or internet-based technologies and the participants can engage in all learning activities through these means. All required contact hours will be clearly articulated to students.

[4] Learning activities where the main location for the learning experience is in the workplace. All required contact hours, whether online or on campus, will be clearly articulated to students

	sources including technology advances informed by research and industry.
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	**SCQF 11** Working in groups, students will develop communication skills as well as the ability to write technical reports and documentation.
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	**SCQF 11** Exercise a substantial ability to work autonomously, demonstrating critical inquiry in producing quality work underpinned by rigorous investigation. Learn effectively for the purpose of continuing personal development planning through interacting with others in academic and professional bodies and organisations relevant to m- business. Demonstrate an ability to manage and work autonomously with a range of self-directed m- business related learning resources.

Prerequisites	**Module Code**	**Module Title**
	Other	
Co-requisites	**Module Code**	**Module Title**

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** (Note: Learning hours include both contact hours and hours spent on other learning activities)
Lecture / Core Content Delivery	7
Tutorial / Synchronous Support Activity	7
Laboratory / Practical Demonstration / Workshop	14
Independent Study	72
Please select	
Please select	
TOTAL	100

Indicative Resources
The following materials form essential underpinning for the module content and ultimately for the learning outcomes: Cory Altheide and Harlan Carvey. (2011) Digital Forensics with Open Source Tools (1st Ed.). Syngress Publishing.

Gerard Johansen. (2017) Digital Forensics and Incident Response: A practical guide to deploying digital forensic techniques in response to cyber security incidents. Packt Publishing.

David Watson. (2013) Digital Forensics Processing and Procedures: Meeting the Requirements of ISO 17020, ISO 17025, ISO 27001 and Best Practice Requirements. Syngress Publishing.

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.

VirtualBox software and VBOX extension

(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:

The School of Computing, Engineering and Physical Sciences considers attendance and engagement to mean a commitment to attending, and engaging in, timetabled sessions. You will scan your attendance via the scanners each time you are on-campus and you will login to the VLE several times per week. Where you are unable to attend a timetabled learning session due to illness or other circumstance, you should notify the Programme Leader that you cannot attend. Across the School an 80% attendance threshold is set. If you fall below this, you will be referred to the Student Success Team to see how we can best support your studies.

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. This module has lab-based teaching and as such you are advised to speak to the Module Co-ordinator to ensure that specialist assistive equipment, support provision and adjustment to assessment practice can be put in place, in accordance with the University's policies and regulations.

(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	**Computing**
Overall Assessment Results	☐ **Pass / Fail** ☒ **Graded**

Module Eligible for Compensation	☐ **Yes** ☒ **No** **If this module is eligible for compensation, there may be cases where compensation is not permitted due to programme accreditation requirements. Please check the associated programme specification for details.**
School Assessment Board	Business & Applied Computing
Moderator	Althaff Mohideen
External Examiner	A Esfahani
Accreditation Details	
Module Appears in CPD catalogue	☒ **Yes** ☐ **No**
Changes / Version Number	1.07

Assessment (also refer to Assessment Outcomes Grids below)
Assessment 1
Practical Examination (40%)
Assessment 2
Coursework (60%)
Assessment 3
(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.)

Component 1							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
Class Test (practical)	☒	☐	☒	☐	☐	40	2

Component 2							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
Clinical/ Fieldwork/ Practical skills assessment/ Debate/ Interview/ Viva voce/ Oral	☒	☒	☒	☐	☐	60	8

Component 3

Assessment Type	LO1	LO2	LO3	LO4	LO5	Weighting of Assessment Element (%)	Timetabled Contact Hours
	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		
Combined total for all components						100%	10 hours

Change Control

What	When	Who
Attendance Update & EDI Update	20/01/2025	A Adamson
External Examiner Updated	22/01/2025	A Adamson