Module Descriptor

Title	Science and Crime		
Session	2025/26	**Status**	Published
Code	CHEM07006	**SCQF Level**	7
Credit Points	20	**ECTS (European Credit Transfer Scheme)**	10
School	**Computing, Engineering and Physical Sciences**		
Module Co-ordinator	Ann-Sophie Korb		

Summary of Module

This module is about Forensic Science and its place in modern investigations. Students will examine how Forensic Science has developed, what it can achieve, and how it is presented to the public through the media.

Science in a legal setting is examined particularly in court, and the role of expert witnesses. Alcohol, drugs, and driving are also looked at from a forensic perspective and students have a chance to demonstrate their research and presentational skills as they take part in a mock trial of a drink driving case. Chemical and analytical techniques important to modern investigations are looked at through a combination of lecture and laboratory work, e.g., chemical analysis and latent fingerprint enhancement. As the starting point for forensic analyses, Crime Scene Investigation is introduced, and students have a chance to work on mock crime scene.

The module is a core module to the BSc Forensic Science and the BSc Criminal Justice and Forensic Science degree programmes, but is suitable for any student with an interest in Forensic Science.

This module will work to develop a number of the key 'I am UWS' Graduate Attributes. Those who complete this module will have developed competencies in report writing, working to deadlines, making presentations, and working in teams.

Module Delivery Method	**On-Campus[1]**	**Hybrid[2]**	**Online[3]**	**Work -Based Learning[4]**
	☒	☐	☐	☐

[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

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 knowledge of the normal work of forensic scientists from the crime scene to the laboratory and their role as an expert witness.
L2	Describe how Forensic Science has developed in parallel with other scientific advances and how forensic science is portrayed in the media.
L3	Show an understanding of the application of science to a selection of forensic topics; explosives, fingerprinting, drugs, alcohol and crime scene investigation.
L4	Carry out basic practical exercises relating to forensic science including laboratory examinations of unknown materials, developing fingerprints, and crime scene examination
L5	

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 7** Participants will develop an understanding of the role of science in society and in crime investigation.
Practice: Applied Knowledge and Understanding	**SCQF 7** Students will apply subject knowledge gained and information about the work of professional forensic scientists to a variety of exercises including laboratory work, crime scene investigations and court room presentations.
Generic Cognitive skills	**SCQF 7** Within the module students will have the opportunity to discuss and debate forensic science information from the media and from laboratory work. Student will also evaluate information presented in court
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	**SCQF 7** Students will develop their written and oral communication skills to present complex scientific information gained from library research or laboratory work. ICT skills will be used to access the resources available on the VLE, and other websites. Powerpoint will be used to present Crime Scene Investigation information
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	**SCQF 7** Students will be able to display initiative in researching and presenting evidence in a mock drink driving trial. Through study and role play students will be able to gain an understanding of a variety of

	professional roles in a court room. As a group students will be able to carry out and report the results of a crime scene investigation.

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	24
Tutorial / Synchronous Support Activity	12
Laboratory / Practical Demonstration / Workshop	12
Independent Study	152
Please select	
Please select	
TOTAL	200

Indicative Resources
The following materials form essential underpinning for the module content and ultimately for the learning outcomes: Jackson, A., Jackson, J. (2017)" Forensic Science", 4th edn., Harlow: Pearson Education Ltd. White, P. (2004) "Crime scene to court: The essentials of Forensic Science", 4th edn., Cambrigde: Royal Society of Chemistry
(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	**Engineering Physical Sciences**
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	Physical Sciences
Moderator	Callum McHugh
External Examiner	TBC
Accreditation Details	This is a core module in the BSc (Hons) Forensic Science programme which is accredited by the Chartered Society of Forensic Science. This is a core module in the BSc (Hons) Criminal Justice and Forensic Science programme which is Recognised by the Chartered Society of Forensic Science
Module Appears in CPD catalogue	☐ **Yes** ☒ **No**
Changes / Version Number	Attendance and Engagement statements updated. Equality and Diversity statement updated. Updated Accreditation details. Changes to assessment descriptions.

Assessment (also refer to Assessment Outcomes Grids below)
Assessment 1

Class Test
Assessment 2
Report of Practical Work
Assessment 3
Presentation
(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 Report of Practical Work Presentation	☒	☒	☒	☒	☐	55 30 15	

Component 2							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		

Component 3							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		
Combined total for all components						100%	0 hours

Change Control

What	**When**	**Who**