Module Descriptor

Title	Introductory Forensic Science		
Session	2025/26	**Status**	Published
Code	CHEM08016	**SCQF Level**	8
Credit Points	20	**ECTS (European Credit Transfer Scheme)**	10
School	**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 for Year 2 students of criminal justice related programmes. 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 and presentation an academic poster.

Graduate Attributes: Critical thinker, Autonomous, Problem solver

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	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
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)	**Please select SCQF Level** A broad knowledge of the scope, defining features and main areas of Forensic Science
Practice: Applied Knowledge and Understanding	**Please select SCQF Level** Using a range of routine skills and techniques associated with Forensic Science.
Generic Cognitive skills	**Please select SCQF Level** Evaluating evidence according to Forensic Science principles and practice.
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	**Please select SCQF Level** Convey complex ideas in a well-structured and coherent form. Use a range of forms of communication effectively.
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	**Please select SCQF Level** Take account of own and others' roles, responsibilities and contributions in evaluating a written scenario

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
Laboratory / Practical Demonstration / Workshop	12
Independent Study	164
Please select	
Please select	
Please select	
TOTAL	200

Indicative Resources
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
(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. Specialist assistive equipment, support provision and adjustment to assessment practice 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	**Please select**
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	Ciaran Ewins
External Examiner	TBC
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
Module Appears in CPD catalogue	☐ **Yes** ☒ **No**
Changes / Version Number	2.14

Assessment (also refer to Assessment Outcomes Grids below)
Assessment 1
Poster Presentation 60%
Assessment 2
Online Quizzes 40%
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
Poster Presentation	☒	☒	☒	☒	☐	60	

Component 2							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
Online Quizzes	☒	☒	☒	☒	☐	40	

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

Change Control

What	When	Who