University of the West of Scotland

Module Descriptor

Session: 2024/25

Title of Module: Forensic Evidence			
Code: Chem10008	**SCQF Level: 10 (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:	Sean Mallon		

Summary of Module

The Forensic Evidence module covers the collection and examination of a range of evidence types including physical, contact, biological and electronic evidence.
The main focus of the module is to work as part of a team to plan and carry out a scene examination and to present the results in a report and as a witness in a court setting.
Other content covers the statistical evaluation of forensic evidence, the presentation of expert witness testimony and the importance of scientific method to underpin forensic evidence.
Those who complete this module will have developed professional competencies in report writing, working to deadlines, making presentations and working in teams. Skills and knowledge in developed in this module include

- Use of photographic and video techniques to record a crime scene investigation.
- Understanding of the investigative process and the continuity requirements for the collection of electronic, physical and biological evidence.
- Evaluation and interpretation of data from databases and forensic examinations and use of statistics and probability to help interpret results.
- Use of software to present written reports and photographic information from a scene examination.
- Participation in a court-room exercise
- Work as part of a team with different roles to plan and deliver a scene examination

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	Record written and photographic results of a scene examination in structured and contemporaneous manner
L2	Demonstrate a critical understanding of the techniques used to safely identify, recover and record forensic evidence from crime scenes.
L3	Demonstrate a detailed understanding of the use of probability and statistics to evaluate forensic evidence
L4	Present forensic evidence in a court-room setting and show an understanding of ethical and legal considerations

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 **10** An integrated knowledge of the features and uses of trace, contact, biological and electronic evidence in forensic science for intelligence and evidential purposes. A critical understanding of the foundational validity requirements of forensic science.
Practice: Applied Knowledge and Understanding	SCQF Level **10** describe and carry out the steps required for the preservation and documentation (including photography) of the crime scene, the systematic search for evidence and its collection, packaging and labelling. This standard also includes contamination avoidance procedures.
Generic Cognitive skills	SCQF Level **10**

	Critically review the results of the analysis of physical evidence in a professional manner, identifying the issues and complexities that can arise. Show the ability to plan and execute the identify, record and package physical evidence. Be able to discuss case information relating to physical evidence using current professional and regulatory approaches.	
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	SCQF Level **10** Use the wide range of skills expected of a forensic science expert witness to present information in written and verbal court room reports. Be able to use software to analyse information from physical evidence and to present the results of analysis. Be able to use statistical models to interpret the importance of a piece of trace evidence	
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with others	SCQF Level **10** Understand and describe the roles, responsibilities and information needs of all personnel involved in the processing of crime scenes including specialists. Through the use of risk assessment be able to work safely in a team setting.	
Pre-requisites:	Before undertaking this module the student should have undertaken the following:	
	Module Code: CHEM08007	**Module Title:** Evaluating Forensic Evidence
	Other:	Or appropriate forensic science background
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	12
Laboratory/Practical Demonstration/Workshop	24
Tutorial/Synchronous Support Activity	12

Independent Study	152
	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:

"A hierarchy of propositions: deciding which level to address in casework", Evett et al, Science & Justice 1998; 38(4): 231-239

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

Ensuring Scientific Validity of Feature-Comparison Methods, Executive Office of the President, PCAST, September 2016

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:

Students are expected to attend all classes and group meetings. Submit coursework and engage regularly with the VLE.

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.

Please ensure any specific requirements are detailed in this section. Module Co-ordinators should consider the accessibility of their module for groups with protected characteristics.
(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 T Ewins
External Examiner	I Turner
Accreditation Details	This is a core module in programmes Accredited and Recognised by the Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences
Changes/Version Number	Module Delivery: Changed to Face-to-Face Module Coordinator and Moderators changed Accreditation Details: Updated to include CSFS accreditation

Assessment: (also refer to Assessment Outcomes Grids below)
Component 1 Statistics Class test 20% CSI written Assignment 40% Component 2 CSI report 30% Court Room Presentation 10%
Assessment 1 – Free Text
Assessment 2 – Free Text
Assessment 3 – Free Text
(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**
Class Test			✓			20	1
Assignment	✓	✓	✓			40	0

Component 2							
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**
Report	✓	✓	✓	✓		30	0
Presentation	✓	✓	✓	✓		10	1

Component 3							
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**
Combined Total for All Components						**100%**	**2 hours**

Change Control:

What	**When**	**Who**
Change in MC and Mod.	12/04/24	C Ewins

Version Number: MD Template 1 (2023-24