Module Descriptor

Title	Forensic Evdence		
Session	2025/26	**Status**	Published
Code	CHEM10008	**SCQF Level**	10
Credit Points	20	**ECTS (European Credit Transfer Scheme)**	10
School	**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	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	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.
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 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 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

[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

	labelling. This standard also includes contamination avoidance procedures
Generic Cognitive skills	**SCQF 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 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 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.

Prerequisites	**Module Code**	**Module Title**
	CHEM08007	Evaluating Forensic Evidence
	Other Or appropriate Forensic Science background.	
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
Tutorial / Synchronous Support Activity	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: "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
(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.
(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	Ciaran T Ewins
External Examiner	TBC
Accreditation Details	This is a core module in programmes Accredited and Recognised by the Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences
Module Appears in CPD catalogue	☐ **Yes** ☒ **No**

Changes / Version Number	Update to latest version of form.

Assessment (also refer to Assessment Outcomes Grids below)
Assessment 1
Statistics Class test 20% CSI written Assignment 40%
Assessment 2
CSI report 30% Court Room Presentation 10%
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 and Assignment	☒	☒	☒	☐	☐	60	1

Component 2							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
Report and Presentation	☒	☒	☒	☒	☐	40	1

Component 3							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		
Combined total for all components						100%	2 hours

Change Control

What	**When**	**Who**
Update to latest version of form	20/03/25	S Mallon
Chance in MC and Mod	12/04/24	C Ewins
