University of the West of Scotland

Module Descriptor

Session: 2024/25

Title of Module: Criminal Justice and Forensic Science Project			
Code: CHEM10019	**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:	Ciaran T Ewins		

Summary of Module

This module is the honours year project/dissertation for Criminal Justice and Forensic Science students.

This module provides students with the opportunity to engage in a substantial piece of research and analysis in the Criminal Justice and Forensic Science area.
In collaboration with a supervisor, a research proposal will be developed and presented in a Poster that will form the basis of the project. This will enable the students to discuss the direction, focus and validity of their ideas as well as identifying an appropriate methodology and design.

The dissertation may be on an empirical or a theoretical topic and it will contain a literature review. Research can be laboratory or desk based, it can be empirical or a review.

The dissertation allows students to demonstrate skills acquired during their studies on the programme to date, to display a grasp of the subject matter in a chosen area of research and to demonstrate original ideas and analysis of information.

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	Use appropriate techniques to collect, process, evaluate and present research data
L2	Undertake a review and analysis of relevant and appropriate primary and secondary information sources
L3	Plan and execute a defined research project using appropriate research methodologies and techniques of enquiry
L4	Critically evaluate the methods used and results gathered in the project
L5	Use appropriate academic writing and referencing conventions to produce a research report

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** Critical and integrated understanding of current research literature, use of available research techniques and practice, applicability of appropriate statistical approach and methodology to the relevant research project.
Practice: Applied Knowledge and Understanding	SCQF Level **10** Apply knowledge, skills and understanding to the criminal justice and/or forensic science area. Executing a defined project of research and in identifying and relevant outcomes describe how they might be implemented in practice. Value of risk assessment and ethical considerations to research.
Generic Cognitive skills	SCQF Level **10** Ability to gather literature relevant to the research topic. Critically review current literature of relevance to the research topic. Make judgments where information comes from using a number of sources. Demonstrate some originality in dealing with professional level issues

	relating to the research project. Offer insights, interpretations and solutions to problems and issues.
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	SCQF Level **10** Use a wide range of routine skills and some advanced and specialised skills in support of established practices for completing a research project including to: Present or convey, formally and informally, information about the chosen topic to informed audiences; Communicate with other students, academics, and potentially specialists on a professional level; Use a range of ICT applications to support and enhance work at this level and adjust features to suit purpose; Interpret, use and evaluate a range of data sources.
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with others	SCQF Level **10** Exercise autonomy and initiative in all activities associated with the completion of a dissertation; Work, under the guidance of a supervisor, to reach agreed aims and objectives; Manage complex ethical and professional issues in accordance with current ethical codes and practices; Recognise the limits of these codes and seek guidance where appropriate.

Pre-requisites:	Before undertaking this module the student should have undertaken the following:	
	Module Code:	**Module Title:**
	Other:	
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
Tutorial/Synchronous Support Activity	12
Laboratory/Practical Demonstration/Workshop	12
Independent Study	364
	400 Hours Total

**Indicative Resources: (eg. Core text, journals, internet access)

The following materials form essential underpinning for the module content and ultimately for the learning outcomes:

Bell, J. (2010) Doing Your Research Project: A Guide for First-Time Researchers in Education, Health and Social Science. (5th ed) Maidenhead: McGraw-Hill Open University Press.

Davies, P. Francis,P. Jupp, V. (2018) Doing Criminological Research (3rd ed) Sage Publications

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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:

To participate in laboratory work attendance at the Health and Safety training is compulsory.

Attendance of all classes, regular contact with supervisor, fulfil an agreed schedule of work and submission of poster and a draft of final report.

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	Heather Myles
External Examiner	I Turner
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
Changes/Version Number	1.1

Assessment: (also refer to Assessment Outcomes Grids below)
Assessment will be based on the Project Report (Dissertation), Poster presentation and an Oral presentation..
Assessment 1 Project Report (Dissertation) 80%
Assessment 2 Poster presentation 10%
Assessment 3 Oral presentation. 10%
(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
Dissertation/ Project report/ Thesis	✓	✓	✓	✓		80	
Poster presentations			✓	✓		10	1
Oral Presentation	✓	✓	✓	✓		10	1

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

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**