Module Descriptor

Title	Forensic Investigation		
Session	2025/26	Status	Published
Code	BIOL09016	SCQF Level	9
Credit Points	20	ECTS (European Credit Transfer Scheme)	10
School	Health and Life Sciences		
Module Co-ordinator	David Thompson		

Summary of Module

Forensic Investigation introduces students to the process and personnel required to investigate a crime from its discovery up to the point of deciding whether or not a case can proceed to court. The scenario used may be written, staged, or a combination of both, and represents an extended exercise in problem based learning. The scenario is rolled out in stages: physical evidence, toxicological evidence and "other" evidence. Students, working in small groups, will evaluate collecting and labelling evidence, and will then select which pieces of evidence to analyse and choose suitable techniques to analyse them. For each stage of the module students will then analyse the results of a selection of laboratory-based analyses of their evidence and record their findings. It is expected that these would include presumptive and confirmatory tests on drugs, blood and other body fluids as well as analyses to determine composition and content of body fluids, hair and other substances. The module is assessed by means of a written report, covering the investigation from start to finish including reports on results, and by a group presentation in defense of the report.

This module encourages critical thinking and requires students to be analytical and inquiring. Students need to work collaboratively and be creative problem solvers.

Module Delivery Method	On-Campus[1] ☐	Hybrid[2] ☐	Online[3] ☒	Work -Based Learning[4] ☐
Campuses for	☐ Ayr	☒ Lanarkshire	☒ Online / Distance	

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[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

Module Delivery	☐ Dumfries	☐ London	Learning
		☐ Paisley	☐ 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	Describe the process of crime scene investigation
L2	Select appropriately controlled techniques to analyse evidence recovered from a created crime scene
L3	Record observations in an appropriate, logical and understandable form.
L4	Present and justify findings in an impartial written report, and make a short oral presentation to defend such 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)	**SCQF 9** A broad and integrated knowledge and understanding of the scope, main areas, and boundaries of forensic investigation.
Practice: Applied Knowledge and Understanding	**SCQF 9** Practising routine methods of enquiry and research appropriate to forensic investigation
Generic Cognitive skills	**SCQF 9** Undertaking critical analysis, evaluation and synthesis of ideas, concepts and information. Identifying and analysing routine professional problems. Drawing on a range of sources in making judgements.
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	**SCQF 9** Using a range of IT applications to support and enhance work.
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	**SCQF 9** Exercising autonomy and initiative in some activities at a professional level. Practising in ways which take account of own and others' roles and responsibilities.

Prerequisites	Module Code BIOL08026	**Module Title** Forensic Evidence- Analysis and Retrieval

	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. This module covers a wide variety of theoretical, conceptual and practical areas, which require a range of knowledge and skills to be displayed and exercised. Delivery of its syllabus content therefore involves a diversity of teaching and assessment methods suitable to the learning outcomes of the module; these include formal lectures, structured tutorials (work closely integrated with the lecture material), laboratory exercises to develop practical skills and familiarisation with equipment and experimental techniques, completion and submission of written coursework making use of appropriate forms of IT and VLE, and independent study	

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)
Tutorial / Synchronous Support Activity	36
Independent Study	164
n/a	
n/a	
n/a	
n/a	
TOTAL	200

Indicative Resources
The following materials form essential underpinning for the module content and ultimately for the learning outcomes:
Jackson, A. & Jackson, J., Forensic Science, 3rd Edition, Pearson Education (2011) White, P., Crime Scene to Court : The Essentials of Forensic Science, 2nd Edition Royal Society of Chemistry (2004)
(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 university is committed to providing a supportive learning environment that actively facilitates student success. In this module, there is a high degree of student-led flexibility. You are academically engaged if you are regularly engaged with scheduled live sessions on-campus and online, including engaging with online learning activities in your own time, course-related learning resources, and with timely completion and submission of assessments. Whilst we understand that there may be times when conflicting priorities make participation challenging, for you to gain the most from this module it is recommended that you participate in all scheduled live classes and complete your self-directed learning activities in a timely manner. It may be difficult to pass the assessment associated with this module if you are not regularly engaging with the module work and live classes. We may reach out to check how things are going and offer support if we observe that you have not been attending sessions or completing online activities

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. In line with current legislation (Equality Act, 2010) and the UWS Equality, Diversity, and Human Rights Code, our modules are accessible and inclusive, with reasonable adjustment for different needs where appropriate. Module materials comply with University guidance on inclusive learning and teaching, and specialist assistive equipment, support provision and adjustment to assessment practice will be made in accordance with UWS policy and regulations. Where modules require practical and/or laboratory based learning or assessment required to meet accrediting body requirements the University will make reasonable adjustment such as adjustable height benches or assistance of a 'buddy' or helper.
(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	Biological Sciences Health
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	Biology
Moderator	Steven Kelly
External Examiner	A Tsaousis
Accreditation Details	RSB
Module Appears in CPD catalogue	☐ Yes ☒ No
Changes / Version Number	2.14

Assessment (also refer to Assessment Outcomes Grids below)
Assessment 1
Portfolio of written material (70%)

Assessment 2
Group presentation (30%)

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
Portfolio of written work	☒	☒	☒	☒	☐	70	0

Component 2

Assessment Type	LO1	LO2	LO3	LO4	LO5	Weighting of Assessment Element (%)	Timetabled Contact Hours
Presentation	☐	☒	☐	☒	☐	30	2

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
Change of moderator to S. Kelly	22/11/2024	David Thompson