**Module Descriptor**

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| **Title** | Work Related Learning 40 | | |
| **Session** | 2026/27 | **Status** | Published |
| **Code** | BIOL09023 | **SCQF Level** | 9 |
| **Credit Points** | 40 | **ECTS (European Credit Transfer Scheme)** | 20 |
| **School** | **Health and Life Sciences** | | |
| **Module Co-ordinator** | Gordie Mackay | | |

**Summary of Module**

This module provides an opportunity to undertake an extended period of work in a professional environment related to your programme of study. The work placement will allow you to apply academic knowledge gained at University and learn new skills. Academic skills such as critical thinking, analytical skills, problem solving and innovation will be used in a practical work setting. This opportunity will allow you to increase your understanding and awareness of the working environment. Working as part of a team to contribute effectively will develop emotional intelligence, cultural awareness, collaboration and communication skills. Experience as an 'employee' in a professional environment will expose the student to company structures and professional development in an ambitious environment. Completing this module will require you to be self-motivated with good time management. Selection for placement will be competitive and require submission of a CV and interview. Prior to the Placement there will be a series of tutorial sessions in preparation for applying and undertaking the placement.

This module will work to develop a number of the key "I am UWS" Graduate Attributes to make those who complete the module

Culturally aware.

Ethically-minded.

Emotionally intelligent.

Effective communicator.

Autonomous

Incisive

Effective communicator

Resilient

| Module Delivery Method | On-Campus[1] ☐ | Hybrid[2] ☐ | Online[3] ☐ | Work -Based Learning[4] ☒ |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Campuses for Module Delivery** | ☐ Ayr<br>☐ Dumfries | ☒ Lanarkshire<br>☐ London<br>☐ Paisley | ☐ Online / Distance Learning<br>☐ 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 | |
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| **L1** | Achieve a set of core skills/competences through a period of work based learning to a standard that is consistent with 'employees' of similar educational background (SCQF level 9) and be relevant to the programme of academic study. |
| **L2** | Complete a log book or diary to a prescribed standard that will allow traceability and/or auditing of events, experiments or processes. |
| **L3** | Construct a comprehensive account (including a report and an oral presentation) detailing the work of the organisation; the tasks performed; the procedures employed and a reflective analysis on how the student's behaviour, approaches, attitudes and skills have been adapted or modified consequentially. |
| **L4** | |
| **L5** | |

| Employability Skills and Personal Development Planning (PDP) Skills | |
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| **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**<br>Construct a comprehensive account (including a report and an oral presentation) detailing the work of the organisation; the tasks performed; the procedures employed and a reflective analysis on how the student's behaviour, approaches, attitudes and skills have been adapted or modified consequentially. |

[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

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| **Practice: Applied Knowledge and Understanding** | **SCQF 9**<br><br>Depending on the nature of the placement there will be opportunities to develop new practical skills / techniques or develop the application of specific skills / techniques to an advanced level or practice within a range of professional contexts. |
| **Generic Cognitive skills** | **SCQF 9**<br><br>A critical analysis of the 'business' of the placement employer must be provided in the final report. The student will also have the opportunity to reflect on the successes or difficulties of the placement and on the transition to working in a context that is vocationally relevant. |
| **Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills** | **SCQF 9**<br><br>The opportunities to use, display and develop these skills will vary considerably with the nature of the placement. In a laboratory based placement all skills will be enhanced to varying extents, while students placed in a 'clinical' situation may have fewer opportunities to enhance their numeracy skills but will have increased opportunities to refine their inter-personal communication skills. |
| **Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others** | **SCQF 9**<br><br>Although working in a supervised capacity it is expected that there may be opportunities to exercise some autonomy and initiative. |

| **Prerequisites** | **Module Code** | **Module Title** |
|---|---|---|
| | **Other** | |
| **Co-requisites** | **Module Code** | **Module Title** |

| **Learning and Teaching** | |
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| 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.<br><br>The majority of teaching and learning will take place off campus (4 days per week for 12 weeks) but will involve support and supervision academic staff. Prior to placement, students will be introduced to ethics, health and safety, and report writing. This will include utilising scientific databases and numerical analysis. Students will also have a class in the University throughout their placement, allowing staff to monitor and assess progress as well as reinforcing some the formally taught elements.<br><br>A learning contract will be agreed by all parties prior to start of the placement. Employers have previously utilised their own organisation's training programme or have devised a bespoke programme with regard to their particular sphere of operation and the learning contract can be modified to include this.<br><br>All aspects of the Work Experience programme are in accordance with the University's Work Based Learning Procedure. | |
| **Learning Activities**<br><br>During completion of this module, the learning activities undertaken to achieve the module learning outcomes are stated below: | **Student Learning Hours**<br><br>(Note: Learning hours include both contact hours and hours spent on other learning activities) |

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| Tutorial / Synchronous Support Activity | 10 |
| Work-based Learning | 336 |
| Independent Study | 54 |
| n/a | |
| n/a | |
| n/a | |
| **TOTAL** | 400 |

**Indicative Resources**

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

The VLE site to support student while on campus and in the workplace situation , which provides access to information. The VLE will be used to help monitor and assess students while on work based learning and as a receptacle for materials.

Witchel, H. (2020) Writing for Biomedical Sciences Students (Macmillan Study Skills). First edition. Red Globe Press.

Theobald, T. (2022) Develop your Presentation Skills: How to Inspire and Inform with Clarity and Confidence. London, England ; New York, New York : Kogan Page Fifth edition

**(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 attending and participating in all timetabled programme activities including on-campus and online teaching sessions, asynchronous online learning activities, placement, work-based elements, course-related learning resources, and complete assessments and submit these on time.**

**For the purposes of this module, academic engagement equates to the following:**

Attendance at synchronous sessions (module tutorials and supervisor meetings/tutorials), completion of asynchronous activities, and submission of assessments to meet the learning outcomes of the module. This module requires you to attend the placement provider 336 hours which normally equates to 4 working day/week for 12 weeks.

**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.

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| Completion of this module requires the student to participate in an extended period with a placement provider which may include laboratory based activity. The University will work with placement provider where possible to make reasonable adjustments.<br><br>Some placements may require the student to obtain a satisfactory Disclosure Scotland report before they can be assigned a placement. |
| **(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**

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| **Divisional Programme Board** | **Biological Sciences Health** |
| **Overall Assessment Results** | ☒ **Pass / Fail** ☐ **Graded** |
| **Module Eligible for Compensation** | ☐ **Yes** ☒ **No**<br><br>**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** | J Spicer |
| **Accreditation Details** | |
| **Module Appears in CPD catalogue** | ☐ **Yes** ☒ **No** |
| **Changes / Version Number** | 2 |

| **Assessment (also refer to Assessment Outcomes Grids below)** |
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| **Assessment 1** |
| The module is Pass/Fail. The assessment will include – a questionnaire for the employer and the student to complete which covers a wide variety of criteria from attendance and timekeeping to integration into the team to quality and volume of output by the student The student is also required to keep and maintain a log book or daily diary which can permit auditing and / or traceability for quality assurance purposes.).<br><br>The final component is a written report and verbal presentation which describes and analyses the work carried out. A key component of these presentations is the reflective analysis of performance, learning and relationship to the academic programme of study, attitudes to work and co-workers.<br><br>If required, re-assessment opportunities can be accommodated in line with University Regulations. |
| **Assessment 2** |
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| **Assessment 3** |
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| (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.<br><br>(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** |
| Workbook/ Laboratory notebook/ Diary/ Training log/ Learning log | ☒ | ☒ | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | 100 | 0 |

| Component 2 | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Assessment Type** | **LO1** | **LO2** | **LO3** | **LO4** | **LO5** | **Weighting of Assessment Element (%)** | **Timetabled Contact Hours** |
| | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | | |

| Component 3 | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Assessment Type** | **LO1** | **LO2** | **LO3** | **LO4** | **LO5** | **Weighting of Assessment Element (%)** | **Timetabled Contact Hours** |
| | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | | |
| **Combined total for all components** | | | | | | 100% | 0 hours |

**Change Control**

| **What** | **When** | **Who** |
|---|---|---|
| Indicative resources | July 2025 | F Menzies |
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