Module Descriptor

Title	From Crime Scene to Court		
Session	2026/27	**Status**	Published
Code	BIOL10014	**SCQF Level**	10
Credit Points	20	**ECTS (European Credit Transfer Scheme)**	10
School	**Health and Life Sciences**		
Module Co-ordinator	David Thompson		

Summary of Module

This module is designed to offer students the opportunity to utilise their previous forensic-based module content in an analysis of two staged crime scenes.

From Crime Scene to Court reviews chain of evidence requirements, evidence collection, and analysis. Students' knowledge of case documentation and report writing is extended by means of exemplars and exercises. Students are introduced to the duties and responsibilities of the expert witness presenting evidence in court. A practice session is used for expert witness training.

The module is assessed by means of group submission scene notes, individual written reports on the two crime scenes and by an expert witness defence of these reports in a mock court. In the mock court, students are expected to dress and act as would be expected of an expert witness. In court, students will be examined by the prosecution and cross-examined by the defence. As in real life, they may then be re-examined by the prosecution. Although this is only a mock court, the exercise is treated seriously by all participants.

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)	

[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

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	Identify, recover, package and process evidence from a staged scene of crime, according to chain of evidence requirements.
L2	Produce a written report detailing and critically evaluating evidence collected.
L3	Present and defend evidence and conclusions orally in a mock court
L4	
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 10** Demonstrate a critical understanding of the principal theories, concepts and principles involved in bringing evidence form crime scene to court. Work with knowledge that covers and integrates most of the principal areas, features, boundaries, terminology and conventions of forensic investigation.
Practice: Applied Knowledge and Understanding	**SCQF 10** Practise in a range of professional level contexts which include a degree of unpredictability.
Generic Cognitive skills	**SCQF 10** Critically review and consolidate knowledge, skills and practice and thinking in forensic investigations. Make appropriate judgements where information is limited.
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	**SCQF 10** Make formal written presentations about specialized topics to informed audiences. Communicate with professional level peers, senior colleagues and specialists
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	**SCQF 10** Practise in ways which show a clear awareness of own and others' roles and responsibilities. Deal with complex professional issues in accordance with current practices.

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

	Other BIOL09016 Forensic Investigation	
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)
Lecture / Core Content Delivery	12
Laboratory / Practical Demonstration / Workshop	36
Independent Study	152
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: White, P., Crime Scene to Court : The Essentials of Forensic Science, 2nd Edition, Royal Society of Chemistry (2004) Langford, A., Dean, J., Reed, R., Holmes, D., Weyers, J., Jones, A., Practical Skills in Forensic Science (2018) Essential Forensic Biology 3rd Edition (2019), Gunn; Wile Jackson, A. & Jackson, J., Forensic Science, 3rd Edition, Pearson Education (2011)
(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:

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	Gail McGarvie
External Examiner	J Butcher
Accreditation Details	RSB
Module Appears in CPD catalogue	☐ **Yes** ☒ **No**
Changes / Version Number	3

Assessment (also refer to Assessment Outcomes Grids below)
Assessment 1
Written reports (50%)
Assessment 2
Presentation & Practical Skills Assessment (50%)
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	☒	☒	☐	☐	☐	50	8

Component 2							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
Clinical/ Fieldwork/ Practical skills assessment/ Debate/ Interview/ Viva voce/ Oral	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	50	6

Component 3							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		
Combined total for all components						100%	14 hours

Change Control

What	**When**	**Who**