



Module Descriptor

Title	Advancements in Forensic Biology		
Session	2025/26	Status	Published
Code	BIOL10028	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 builds upon the student’s existing knowledge and understanding of forensic science and focusses on techniques used to currently evaluate biological evidence. This module will be delivered by a range of internal and external speakers and topics may include; Analysis of the human genome in forensic science Anthropology Pathology Bias and Reasoning Toxicology Botany This module will provide opportunities to develop the following UWS graduate attributes: Critical Thinker, Collaborative, Problem Solver, Effective Communicator.			

Module Delivery Method	On-Campus¹ ☒	Hybrid² ☐	Online³ ☐	Work -Based Learning⁴ ☐
Campuses for Module Delivery	☐ Ayr ☐ Dumfries	☒ Lanarkshire ☐ London	☐ Online / Distance Learning	

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

		☐ 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	Critically apply knowledge of current techniques in forensic biology for the interpretation of results within the context of a criminal investigation.
L2	Demonstrate detailed knowledge of the scientific basis and utilisation of forensic biological techniques.
L3	Critically evaluate the use of advanced DNA analysis techniques.
L4	Critically analyse bias in forensic science.
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 Critical analysis and understanding of the biology that underpins forensic science.
Practice: Applied Knowledge and Understanding	SCQF 10 The application of knowledge and understanding gained will be applied in forensic biology. Students should be able to critically evaluate the techniques and our understanding of the science important in forensic biology
Generic Cognitive skills	SCQF 10 Critically evaluate scientific data making judgements on the validity and interpretation of the data
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	SCQF 10 Use oral and written communication techniques that would be expected in employment. Use of software in communication. Critically evaluate material found in databases and other sources
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	SCQF 10 Show a professional approach to assessing ones own learning needs and studying independently

Prerequisites	Module Code BIOL08026	Module Title Forensic Evidence- Analysis & Retrieval
	Other BIOL09015 Forensic Analytical Techniques	
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	Student Learning Hours
During completion of this module, the learning activities undertaken to achieve the module learning outcomes are stated below:	(Note: Learning hours include both contact hours and hours spent on other learning activities)
Lecture / Core Content Delivery	24
Tutorial / Synchronous Support Activity	12
Independent Study	164
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: Flesh and Bone: An Introduction to Forensic Anthropology. Nafte M., Carolina Academic Press, ISBN:0890896380 Essential Forensic Biology 3rd Edition (2019), Gunn; Wiley ISBN-10: 1119141400 Forensic Science – Jackson A.R. & Jackson J., Prentice Hall, ISBN: 130432512 Additional resources will be made available using the module's VLE page. (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	Gail McGarvie
External Examiner	A Tsaoasis
Accreditation Details	RSB
Module Appears in CPD catalogue	☐ Yes ☒ No
Changes / Version Number	1.02

Assessment (also refer to Assessment Outcomes Grids below)

Assessment 1

Cold Case Review - 60%

Assessment 2

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
Case study	☒	☒	☒	☐	☐	60	0

Component 2

Assessment Type	LO1	LO2	LO3	LO4	LO5	Weighting of Assessment Element (%)	Timetabled Contact Hours
Presentation	☐	☒	☐	☒	☐	40	0

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