

Undergraduate Programme Specification

Session	2025/26	Last Modified			
Named Award Title	BSc (Hons) Forensic	Science Single			
Award Title for Each	BSc (Hons) Forensic Sc	cience			
Award	BSc Forensic Science				
	Dip HE Forensic Science	ce			
	Cert HE Forensic Scier	nce			
Date of Approval					
Details of Cohort Applies to					
Awarding Institution	University of the West of Scotland	Teaching	University of the West of Scotland		
	West of Scotland	Institution(s)	West of Scotland		
Language of Instructi	on & Evamination	English			
Award Accredited by	on & Examination	Accredited by the Chai	the Chartered Casisty of		
Award Accredited by		Forensic Sciences	tered Society of		
Maximum Period of R	egistration	6			
Duration of Study					
Full-time	4 years	Part-time			
Placement					
(compulsory)					
Mode of Study	Part-time				
Campus		Lanarkshire	Online / Distance		
Campus	Ayr		Learning		
	Dumfries	London	Other (specify)		
		Paisley			
School	Computing, Engineer	ling and Physical Scienc	ces		
Divisional	Engineering Physical	Sciences			
Programme Board					
Programme Leader	Dr Ciaran Ewins				

Admissions Criteria		

Candidates must be able to satisfy the general admission requirements of the University of the West of Scotland as specified in Chapter 2 of the University Regulatory Framework together with the following programme requirements:

SQA National Qualifications:

Year 1 Entry

Scottish Highers

Standard Entry Requirements: BCCC (90 UCAS Tariff points) including Chemistry, plus National 5 Maths/Applications of Maths and English at Grade C or above

Minimum Entry Requirements: CCC (63 UCAS Tariff points) including Chemistry, plus National 5 Maths/Applications of Maths and English at Grade C or above

Alternative Minimum Entry Requirements: CC (42 UCAS Tariff points) including Chemistry, plus National 5 Maths/Applications of Maths and English at Grade C or above, PLUS successful completion of one of the following:

UWS Foundation Academy

Foundation Apprenticeship

UWS Next Steps to University module

Routes for All

Top-Up

LEAPS

Or GCE

Year 1 entry

A Level

CCD (88 UCAS Tariff Points) including Chemistry

T Level

Full T Level with Grade P (A*-C) in relevant subject (96 Tariff points)

Or SQA National Qualifications / Edexcel Foundation

Year 1 Entry

Access to Medicine; Access to Life Sciences; Access to Science (including Chemistry) with grades BBB

Other Required Qualifications/Experience

Further desirable skills pre-application

General Overview

Forensic Science is the application of science in support of the legal process. Forensic Scientists aim to gather evidence and analyse it for use in a court of law in a way that is impartial, expert and with a solid scientific basis. The great strides made in analytical chemistry and genetics in recent years have greatly increased the power of Forensic Science,

and made the scientist central to the solving of many criminal cases. The scope of what can be achieved by Forensic Scientists is growing all the time with new techniques constantly being introduced and developed.

The programme provides the students with the requisite underpinning knowledge in the chemical and biological sciences that are most important in forensic science. Criminalistic topics such as crime scene investigation, forensic statistics and fingerprinting are also studied in the first two years. In year 3 and 4 the treatment and analysis of evidence is developed in specialist modules covering fire investigation, explosives, fibre analysis, DNA profiling, chemical and biochemical analysis, evidence identification, toxicology and drugs. The final year of the programme features an extended research project and the study of in forensic biology, toxicology, evidence recovery and advanced analytical chemistry. Final year students also participate in an extended CSI project and present their findings in a mock court room.

A variety of teaching methods will be employed during the programme including site visits, guest lectures, workshops, role-play and presentations. One of the key tenets of the programme is to train and develop students as practical scientists with highly developed analytical skills capable of identifying, recovering and examining evidence and presenting their findings both orally and in writing.

A strength of this programme is that it provides students with a broad grounding in a number of scientific disciplines that allows graduates from the programme to find employment not only in the forensic sciences sector but also to have an analytical skills profile which makes them attractive to many other employers e.g. chemical, pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries, occupational safety and health sector, accident investigation, public sector employers and police graduate entry.

The programme includes an optional industrial placement which allows the development of additional skills relevant to employment.

Students with an Honours degree may proceed to postgraduate studies for MSc / PhD at this or other universities.

The level and intensity of the programme is developed throughout the course in line with SCQF criteria for each level, while the content is closely aligned with QAA subject benchmark statements at all stages. Student autonomy and individual responsibility for learning is encouraged at all levels, and graduate attributes are developed throughout the programme.

Typical Delivery Method

Any additional costs

Graduate Attributes, Employability & Personal Development Planning

UWS' Graduate Attributes focus on academic, personal and professional skills. Throughout the programmes these skills develop graduates who are universally prepared, work-ready and successful. The attributes expected from our graduates are set out in the "I am UWS" programme.

Embedded employability activity will help ensure that graduates will be work-ready and will have globally relevant skills as British policing and forensic science is very highly regarded internationally. Ensuring students are highly employable and able to make a difference locally and globally' is a key aim of the University's Education Enabling Plan,

Teaching and assessment methods are chosen to encourage graduates to develop an enthusiasm for learning and an ability to transfer knowledge into practice at diverse locations such as the laboratory, the crime scene and the court room. The Forensic

Science programme provides opportunities throughout the levels to enable graduate attributes to be developed and focussed appropriately. The BSc (Hons) Forensic Science programme is Accredited by the Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences.

Critical analytical and inquiry skills are developed and used to solve industry related problems wherever possible. The programme promotes awareness of work-related issues with a variety of group exercises such as laboratory investigations and mock crime scenes. Ethical awareness and social responsibility are developed throughout and formalised in the Level 10 research project where School/University ethical approval is sought if required. Links to current University research are promoted through the programme with examples embedded in teaching and opportunities for students to become involved.

The School regularly engages with potential employers from outside organisations and supports their engagement with our students at invited talks and events.

Personal Development Planning (PDP) within the programme is part of many modules in the programme and is also a major part of the Aspire programme.

A personal tutor is identified for each student, with whom they are expected to meet at least once per term - to discuss academic progress, development goals and aspirations.

Many modules core to the programme are strongly linked to PDP themes. The Honours year involves a research project in which students will apply many of these skills such as literature research and evaluation, time management and planning, research skills, report writing and presentation skills.

Work Based Learning/Placement Details

Students have the option of a one-year placement after level 9 of the programme. If selected, the sandwich placement is designed for students to gain and reflect on work experience attained during their time in the workplace. Students undertaking a sandwich placement are required to undertake PDP and maintain a portfolio from which they will be required to produce a comprehensive learning log report charting their development during placement which is assessed on a pass /fail basis. The student will be required, through reflection, to explore their own role within their placement organisation and to take account of the roles and responsibilities of themselves and others in the context of the structures in which they operate. The placement will be governed by a tripartite learning agreement between the student, placement provider and the University which defines the learning outcomes and confirms elements of support and commitment from all parties. The agreement will be signed by each party prior to the start of the placement.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of the placement the student will be able to:

- L1. Critically relate elements of the placement work experience to the main themes and issues of their subject discipline relevant within the workplace and be confident in articulating this to others
- L2. Analyse organisational cultures, capabilities and structures with particular relevance to the current workplace and exhibit the ability to critically evaluate employee roles in an applied setting.
- L3. Recognise, critically assess and be able to clearly demonstrate to others the personal development and application of essential employability skills and attributes within a real work situation.

Assessment

Assessment will be based on pass/fail only and all assessment elements must be passed for progression as part of the Sandwich programme. Assignments will be open to external examination in accordance with university regulations.

Progression/Award

• Placement students will be assigned to a specific School assessment panel.

- The relevant Programme Panel will consider the performance of each sandwich placement student enrolled on that Programme and decide eligibility for reassessment, progression and awards in accordance with University Regulations.
- A student who fails the sandwich placement after reassessment will no longer be eligible for a "with sandwich" award. They will either progress to level 9 or 10 (as appropriate) of a non-sandwich equivalent programme or exit with an equivalent non-sandwich award.

Successful completion of the placement element will result in the award of Forensic Science (sandwich)

Attendance and Engagement

In line with the <u>Student Attendance and Engagement Procedure</u>, 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 programme, academic engagement equates to the following:

Equality and Diversity

The University's Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Procedure can be accessed at the following link: <u>UWS Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Code.</u>

Programme structures and requirements, SCQF level, term, module name and code, credits and awards (Chapter 1, Regulatory Framework)

Learning Outcomes

	SCQF LEVEL 7
	Learning Outcomes
	Knowledge and Understanding
A1	Demonstrate a broad knowledge of chemical and biological sciences
A2	Relate scientific knowledge to a forensic science context
А3	Show familiarity with some of the routine materials, techniques and practices of Forensic Science.
A4	Show an understanding of the basic concepts of chemistry and biology that are important in forensic science
A 5	
	Practice - Applied Knowledge and Understanding
B1	Apply basic knowledge and skills to routine problems in Chemical and Biological sciences.
B2	Demonstrate the practice of basic laboratory skills
В3	Demonstrate skills for the gathering and basic analysis of routine information, ideas, concepts and quantitative and qualitative data within a clearly defined context. This will include the use of information and communications technology (ICT).
B4	Apply knowledge and understanding of forensic investigations to selected case situations.
B5	
	Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills
C1	Tackle a range of numerical and non-numerical problems in theoretical and practical situations
C2	Present information in a variety of forms relevant to context
C3	Use appropriate applications, including databases and the internet, to access information related to the investigation of crime.
C4	Explain forensic science techniques and concepts in an easily understood manner
C5	
	Generic Cognitive Skills - Problem Solving, Analysis, Evaluation
D1	Present and evaluate information and ideas in the handling of scientific issues including specifically forensic applications
D2	Use a range of approaches to the solution of routine problems
D3	Consider contemporary real world issues from a forensic science persepctive
D4	
D5	
	Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others

E1	Exercise some initiative and take responsibility for defined activities
E2	Undertake practical work and further learning within a structured and managed environment
E3	Work with others in defined group exercises
E4	
E 5	

Level 7 Modules

CORE

SCQF	Module	Module Title	Credit	Terr	n		Footnotes
Level	Code			1	2	3	
7	CHEM07006	Science & Crime	20	\boxtimes			
7	CHEM07003	Structure of Chemistry	20	\boxtimes			
7	APPD07001	ASPIRE	20	\boxtimes			
7	MATH07001	Analysis of Data	20				
7	CHEM07013	Molecules of Life	20				
7	CHEM07011	Chemistry & Reactions	20		\boxtimes		
Footno	tes for Core Mo	odules	•		-		•

Level 7 Modules

OPTION

SCQF	Module	Module Title	Credit	Terr	n		Footnotes
Level	Code			1	2	3	
Footno	tes for Option	Modules					

Level 7

Criteria for Progression and Award

Please refer to <u>UWS Regulatory Framework</u> for related regulations

To progress to L8, students must meet the criteria outlined in University Regulation, Chapter 3 (3.13 – 3.14). For information on progression with credit deficit in core and optional modules please refer to University Regulation, Chapter 3 (3.13).

Those students entering the programme at SCQF level 7, and who successfully achieve 120 credits at SCQF level 7 (including all core modules) can exit with Cert HE in Forensic Science should they choose not to progress to the next level of the programme.

For information on the award of distinction please refer to University Regulation, Chapter 3 (3.25 - 3.26).

Students who successfully achieve 120 credits at SCQF level 7 (but not including all core modules) can exit with Cert HE in Combined Studies, see Reg 1.61

Links: UWS Regulatory Framework; and Student Experience Policy Statement.

	SCQF LEVEL 8
	Learning Outcomes
	Knowledge and Understanding
A1	Demonstrate a broad knowledge of aspects of chemistry, biology and criminalistics related to forensic science
A2	Display a knowledge of some major principles in chemical and biological science
А3	Show some knowledge of major current issues in forensic science
A4	Display a knowledge of the statistical evaluation of evidence
A5	
	Practice - Applied Knowledge and Understanding
B1	Use a range of routine skills, techniques and practices in science
B2	Carry out routine investigations into practical and theoretical issues
В3	Carry out routine collection and investigations of evidential material
B4	
B5	
	Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills
C1	Use a range of standard applications to obtain and process data
C2	Apply and evaluate numerical and graphical procedures to laboratory and other data
C3	Present numerical, graphical and verbal information in a variety of forms suitable for scientific and non-scientific audiences
C4	
C5	
	Generic Cognitive Skills - Problem Solving, Analysis, Evaluation
D1	Undertake critical analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information relating to the main ideas and concepts relevant to forensic science
D2	Use a variety of approaches to develop solutions to defined problems
D3	Display a critical evaluation of solutions and explanations of experimental information and observations
D4	
D5	
	Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others
E1	Exercise autonomy and initiative in defined professional activities
E2	Take responsibility for work planning and time management within specified contexts
E 3	Co-operate in group working exercises
E4	Work under guidance on current professional practice and issues
E 5	

SCQF	Module	Module Title	Credit	Terr	n		Footnotes
Level	Code			1	2	3	
8	CHEM08001	Physical Chemistry 2					
8	CHEM08007	Evaluating Forensic Evidence					
8	CHEM08002	Organic Chemistry 2					
8	APPD08001	ASPIRE 2					
8	CHEM08004	Chemical Analysis & Evaluation			\boxtimes		
8	CHEM08017	Forensic Genetics					
Footno	tes for Core Mo	odules					

Level 8 Modules

OPTION

SCQF	Module	Module Title	Credit	Terr	n		Footnotes
Level	Code			1	2	3	
Footno	tes for Option	Modules					

Level 8

Criteria for Progression and Award

Please refer to <u>UWS Regulatory Framework</u> for related regulations

To progress to L9, students must meet the criteria outlined in University Regulation, Chapter 3 (3.13 – 3.14). For information on progression with credit deficit in core and optional modules please refer to University Regulation, Chapter 3 (3.13).

Those students who successfully achieve 240 credits at SCQF level 7 & 8 (including all core modules) can exit with Dip HE in Forensic Science should they choose not to progress to the next level of the programme.

For information on the award of distinction please refer to University Regulation, Chapter 3 (3.25 - 3.26).

Students who successfully achieve 240 credits at SCQF level 7 & 8 (but not including all core modules) can exit with Dip HE in Combined Studies, see Reg 1.61

Links: UWS Regulatory Framework; and Student Experience Policy Statement.

	SCQF LEVEL 9
	Learning Outcomes (Maximum of 5 per heading)
	Knowledge and Understanding
A1	Demonstrate a broad and integrated knowledge and understanding of major areas relevant to forensic science
A2	Display a critical understanding of some principal theories, concepts and
	terminologies relevant to forensic science, and of the ways in which these are developed through progress in science
А3	Show a broad and comparative knowledge of the general scope of Forensic Science and a knowledge of how the legal context affects the work of the forensic scientists.
A4	
A5	
	Practice - Applied Knowledge and Understanding
B1	Use a selection of skills, techniques and practices in handling scientific concepts and
	experimental information
B2	Display skills in selected techniques, practices and information at a specialised level
В3	Use their knowledge, understanding and applied skills, to identify and analyse
	problems and issues in formulating, evaluating and applying evidence-based enquiries.
B4	
B5	
	Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills
C1	Make formal and informal presentations on topics relevant to forensic science by a variety of methods to a range of audiences
C2	Use a range of IT applications to obtain and manage information and to gather, process and present experimental data
C3	Display the utilisation of a range of sources in making judgments on matters relating to forensic science
C4	
C5	
	Generic Cognitive Skills - Problem Solving, Analysis, Evaluation
D1	Undertake critical analysis, evaluation and synthesis of ideas, concepts, information and issues in forensic science
D2	Identify and analyse routine professional problems and issues in forensic science
D3	Make use of a range of sources in making judgments on matters relating to forensic science
D4	
D5	
	Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others
E1	Exercise some autonomy and initiative in dealing with activities at a professional level
E2	Take some responsibility for the work of others and for the use of resources
E3	Practise working in group exercises taking account of others' roles and responsibilities
E4	Work under guidance on aspects of professional skills and ethical codes

	E5		E 5	
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Level 9 Modules

CORE

SCQF	Module	Module Title	Credit	Terr	n		Footnotes
Level	Code			1	2	3	
9	CHEM09008	Trace Evidence & Microscopy		\boxtimes			
9	CHEM09024	Forensic Toxicology		\boxtimes			
9	CHEM09009	Forensic Laboratory Techniques					
9	CHEM09011	Fires & Explosives			\boxtimes		
	CHEM09002	Analytical Chemistry			\boxtimes		
Footnotes for Core Modules							

Level 9 Modules

OPTION

SCQF	Module	Module Title	Credit	Term		Footnotes	
Level	Code			1	2	3	
9	CHEM09023	Designer Drugs		\boxtimes			

Footnotes for Option Modules

These are the recommended optional modules. Other optional modules may be taken subject to pre-requisite requirements being met. When choosing optional modules please note that for the award of BSc Forensic Science 360 credit points are required of which a minimum of 90 are at SCQF level 9 or above. A minimum of 200 credits Point are required at SCQF Levels 9 and 10, and of which a minimum of 90 are at SCQF Level 10 for the award of BSc (Hons) Forensic Science

Level 9

Criteria for Progression and Award

Please refer to <u>UWS Regulatory Framework</u> for related regulations

To progress to L10, students must meet the criteria outlined in University Regulation, Chapter 3 (3.13 – 3.14).

Those students entering the programme at SCQF level 9, and who successfully achieve 120 credits at SCQF level 9 (including all core modules) can exit with BSc Forensic Science should they choose not to progress to the next level of the programme.

For information on the award of distinction please refer to University Regulation, Chapter 3 (3.25 - 3.26).

Students who successfully achieve 120 credits at SCQF level 9 (but not including all core modules) can exit with BSc in Combined Studies, see Reg 1.61

Links: UWS Regulatory Framework; and Student Experience Policy Statement.

	SCQF LEVEL 10					
	Learning Outcomes (Maximum of 5 per heading)					
	Knowledge and Understanding					
A1	Demonstrate a systematic, extensive and comparative knowledge and understanding of Forensic Science as a whole and its links to related subjects. A detailed knowledge of a few specialisms and developments, some of which are at, or informed by, the forefront of the subject.					
A2	A critical understanding of the established theories, principles and concepts, and of a number of advanced and emerging issues at the forefront of the Forensic Science.					
А3	A critical understanding of the uncertainty and limits of knowledge and how it is developed, and an ability to deploy established techniques of analysis and enquiry within Forensic Science.					
A4	A critical understanding of the uncertainty and limits of knowledge and how it is developed, and an ability to deploy established techniques of analysis and enquiry within Forensic Science.					
A5	Illustrate the interaction between social, legal and technical aspects of forensic science.					
	Practice - Applied Knowledge and Understanding					
B1	Demonstrate practical skills in laboratory techniques related to forensic science including some at the forefront of the subject.					
B2	Show the development of investigative and evaluative skills in Forensic Science					
В3	Display knowledge and awareness of laboratory issues in forensic science including quality assurance, health and safety and record keeping.					
В4	Demonstrate the investigation and reporting of crime scenes					
B5	Demonstrate practical skills in laboratory techniques related to forensic science including some at the forefront of the subject.					
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills						
C1	Demonstrate the ability to present scientific information to a specialist and non- specialist audience					
C2	Skills in identifying information needs, and in the systematic gathering, analysis and interpretation of ideas, concepts and qualitative and quantitative data and information from a range of evaluated sources including current research, scholarly, and/or professional literature.					

C3	Present scientific information in a variety of forms suitable for scientific and non-scientific audiences
C4	Show competence in information management skills, especially IT skills including databases and on-line searches
C5	Demonstrate the ability to present scientific information to a specialist and non- specialist audience
	Generic Cognitive Skills - Problem Solving, Analysis, Evaluation
D1	Develop and demonstrate rigour in investigation, evaluation and analysis
D2	Display synthesis of materials from different sources for understanding of theory and investigation of problems in forensic science
D3	Illustrate investigative skills and strategies in problem solving in forensic science
D4	Demonstrate the ability to critically analyse, evaluate and use data in a variety of forms, including numerical and statistical data
D5	Critically identify, define, conceptualise and analyse complex/professional problems and issues.
	Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others
E1	Operate effectively in a group / team situation
E2	Systematically identify and address their own learning needs both in current and in new areas, making use of research, development and professional materials as appropriate, including those related to the forefront of developments
E3	Apply their science-related and transferable skills in contexts where there is a requirement for:
	- the exercise of personal responsibility and initiative
	- decision-making in complex and unpredictable contexts
	- the ability to undertake further developments of a professional or
	equivalent nature.
E4	
E 5	

Level 10 Modules

CORE

SCQF	Module	Module Title	Credit	Term		Footnotes	
Level	Code			1	2	3	
10	CHEM10001	Science Project					
10	CHEM10008	Forensic Evidence					
10	CHEM10010	Forensic Biology					
	CHEM10002	Advanced Analytical Techniques					
Footno	Footnotes for Core Modules						

Level 10 Modules

OPTION

SCQF	Module	Module Title	Credit	Term		Footnotes	
Level	Code			1	2	3	
10	CHEM10018	Drugs and Human Interactions	20		\boxtimes		
Footnotes for Option Modules							
These are the recommended Optional modules. Other optional modules from any suitable subject area may be taken, subject to pre-requisite and timetable requirements.							

Level 10

Criteria for Award

Please refer to <u>UWS Regulatory Framework</u> for related regulations

The award of BSc (Hons) Forensic Science is awarded to students who have at least 480 credits of which a minimum of 200 credits Point are at SCQF Levels 9 and 10, and of which a minimum of 90 are at SCQF Level 10.

Honours Classification will be awarded in line with the University Regulations, Chapter 3 (3.20 - 3.24).

Students who have at least 480 credits of which a minimum of 200 Point are at SCQF Levels 9 and 10, and of which a minimum of 90 are at SCQF Level 10, but not including all core modules can exit with BSc (Hons) in Combined Studies, see Reg 1.61.

Links: UWS Regulatory Framework; and Student Experience Policy Statement.

Regulations of Assessment

Candidates will be bound by the general assessment regulations of the University as specified in the <u>University Regulatory Framework</u>.

An overview of the assessment details is provided in the Student Handbook and the assessment criteria for each module is provided in the module descriptor which forms part of the module pack issued to students. For further details on assessment please refer to Chapter 3 of the Regulatory Framework.

To qualify for an award of the University, students must complete all the programme requirements and must meet the credit minima detailed in Chapter 1 of the Regulatory Framework.

Combined Studies

There may be instances where a student has been unsuccessful in meeting the award criteria for the named award and for other more generic named awards existing within the School. Provided that they have met the credit requirements in line with the SCQF credit minima (please see Regulation 1.21), they will be eligible for a Combined Studies award (please see Regulation 1.61).

For students studying BA, BAcc, or BD awards the award will be BA Combined Studies. For students studying BEng or BSc awards, the award will be BSc Combined Studies.

Version no: 1

Change/Version Control

What	When	Who
General housekeeping to text	08/07/25	C Ewins
across sections		