University of the West of Scotland

Undergraduate Programme Specification

Session: 2024/25
Last Modified: 12 June 2024
Status: Final

1	**Named Award Title:**	BSc (Hons) Criminal Justice and Forensic Science Single	
2	**Award Title for Each Award: [1]**	BSc (Hons) Criminal Justice and Forensic Science BSc Criminal Justice and Forensic Science Dip HE Criminal Justice and Forensic Science Cert HE Criminal Justice and Forensic Science	
3	**Date of Validation / Approval:**	[add date] (most recent approval)	
4	**Details of Cohorts Applies to:**	[click here to add detail]	
5	**Awarding Institution/Body:**	**University of the West of Scotland**	
6	**Teaching Institution(s)[2]:**	University of the West of Scotland	
7	**Language of Instruction & Examination:**		**English**
8	**Award Accredited By:**	Recognised by the Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences	
9a	**Maximum Period of Registration:**	6 Authorised Interruption Guidance notes (uws.ac.uk)	
9b	**Duration of Study:**	Full Time – 4 years	
10	**Mode of Study:**	Full Time	
11	**Campus:**	Paisley	
12	**School:**	School of Computing, Engineering and Physical Sciences	
13	**Programme Board:**	Physical Sciences	
14	**Programme Leader:**	Dr Ciaran T Ewins	

15. Admission Criteria

[1] Include main award and all exit awards e.g. BA / BSc / BEng / DipHE / CertHE
[2] University of the West of Scotland and include any collaborative partner institutions involved in delivery.

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:

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

Minimum Entry Requirements: CCCC (84 UCAS Tariff points) plus National 5 Chemistry or Biology/Human Biology at Grade B and National 5 Maths/Applications of Maths at Grade B or above

or GCE

A Levels: CCD (88 UCAS Tarrif Points), plus GCSE Chemistry or Biology (Grade 4, or above) or triple Science (Grade B)

or SQA National Qualifications/Edexcel Foundation

Advanced entry is possible to Year 2 for suitably qualified applicants with a background in Criminal Justice and Science, for example a Cert HE in Criminology and Forensic Science. Applications are considered on an individual and case-by-case basis

SQA HNC / BTEC Level 4 HNC / CertHE: Police Studies or Policing or Social Sciences or Legal Services with Criminology & Policing (for SQA HNCs, with Grade B, or above, in the Graded Unit) plus SQA Higher Chemistry and Biology or equivalent

Other Required Qualifications/Experience

[click here to add detail]

Further desirable skills pre-application (i.e. to satisfy additional PSRB requirements or other)

[click here to add detail]

16	**General Overview** The BSc (Hons) Criminal Justice and Forensic Science programme offers an opportunity to study criminal justice theory, research and policy alongside the forensic science vital to modern investigations. It is a four-year, full-time programme that covers the concepts, theories, structures, organisations, processes and practices involved with the prevention, investigation and prosecution of crime, the workings of the criminal law and criminal court system and the treatment of offenders. The forensic science content is developed along themes of crime scene examination, drugs, alcohol and evidence interpretation. It is based on progressive levels of study, with students gradually developing scientific knowledge and research and inquiry skills applicable to the interface between criminal justice and science. Level 7 students will study the differences between deviant and criminal behaviour, the foundations of criminal law, and the way in which the criminal justice system operates. In parallel the foundations of future forensic science study will be laid with an introduction to molecular science, data analysis and forensic science. At Levels 8 & 9 the theoretical underpinnings for understanding crime and justice, the nature of policing, and contemporary theoretical perspectives on crime such as gender, power, race and class. There are a range of modules that develop knowledge in areas such as Penology, Policing, Youth Offending, Gangs, Global Security, Victimology and Comparative Criminal Justice. At level 8 & 9 science study will build student's knowledge of topics important to forensic science such as evidence evaluation, drug analysis, DNA profiling and microscopy. Laboratory and crime scene skills are also developed. At level 10 students undertake specialist modules in Forensic Evidence and Forensic Biology, deepening understanding of how physical and biological evidence is recovered and examined. In groups students carry out a major crime scene investigation activity and present the results in a mock court. The effect of crime on society and victims is studied and there are options to study topics such as global security, victimology, policing and organised crime. A major part of the final year is a supervised research project relating to forensic science and/or criminal justice in a topic of your choice. Overall, the design of the criminal justice modules seeks to provide students with an in-depth knowledge and understanding of the nature of crime, criminal justice and criminal justice systems, locally, nationally and globally, and with a range of key transferrable critical, analytical and evaluative skills.
17	**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 Criminal Justice and Forensic Science programme provides opportunities throughout the levels to enable graduate attributes to be developed and focussed appropriately. 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 mock crime scenes or moot courts. 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.
18	**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 Criminal Justice and Forensic Science (sandwich)
19	**Attendance and Engagement**
	In line with the Academic Engagement Procedure, Students are defined as academically engaged if they are regularly engaged with timetabled teaching sessions, course-related learning resources including those in the Library and on the relevant learning platform, and complete assessments and submit these on time.
20	**Equality and Diversity**
	The University's Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Procedure can be accessed at the following link: UWS Equality and Diversity Policy

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

21	**Learning Outcomes (Maximum of 5 per heading)**

	Outcomes should incorporate those applicable in the relevant QAA Benchmark statements. Please ensure that Learning Outcomes are appropriate for the level of study. Further information is available via SCQF: https://scqf.org.uk/support/support-for-educators-and-advisers/support-for-colleges-heis/ and a Level Descriptors tool is available (SCQF Level Descriptors Tool | Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework) and ensure appropriate cognisance of Chapter 1, Regulatory Framework. https://www.uws.ac.uk/media/6514/regulatory-framework-2023-2024.pdf

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	SCQF LEVEL 7 **Learning Outcomes (Maximum of 5 per heading)**
Knowledge and Understanding	
A1	Demonstrate a broad knowledge of criminal justice and forensic sciences
A2	Relate scientific knowledge and approaches to a forensic science context
A3	Demonstrate a range of knowledge of basic theories, concepts and principles of criminal justice.
A4	Show an understanding of the basic concepts of chemistry and biology that are important in forensic science
A5	
Practice - Applied Knowledge and Understanding	
B1	Apply knowledge and understanding of criminal justice and forensic science to selected issues related to crime.
B2	Begin to understand and acquire the conventions of appropriate academic discourse and communication in science and criminal justice disciplines
B3	Distinguish criminal justice knowledge based on evidence and/or research from other forms of explanation, e.g. anecdotal
B4	Apply knowledge and understanding of forensic investigations to selected case situations.
B5	
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	
C1	Explain basic criminal justice concepts and ideas in a coherent form.
C2	Use oral and written forms of communication effectively in both formal and informal contexts.

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	Evaluate arguments, information and ideas which form the basis of criminal investigations.
D2	Reflect on the appropriateness and validity of developed results and arguments.
D3	Consider contemporary real world issues from a criminal justice perspective.
D4	Evaluate the quality and meaning of forensic science results
D5	
Autonomy, Accountability and Working With Others	
E1	Be able to engage in and demonstrate a capacity for independent study.
E2	Identify and recognise the importance of self-management of their own learning.
E3	Collaborate effectively with others in shared tasks to achieve a common goal.
E4	Take responsibility for agreed elements of group tasks.
E5	

Learning Outcomes - Level 7 Core Modules

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Name	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
7	CHEM07006	Science & Crime	20	✓			
7	CRIM07002	Scottish Criminal Justice	20	✓			
7	APPD07001	ASPIRE	20	✓			

7	MATH07001	Analysis of Data	20		✓		
7	CHEM07013	Molecules of Life	20		✓		
7	CRIM07004	Scottish Criminal Law	20		✓		

Footnotes for Core Modules:

[click here to add detail]

Learning Outcomes - Level 7 Optional Modules

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Name	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	

Footnotes for option modules

22 a	**Level 7** **Criteria for Progression and Award**
	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 Criminal

	Justice and 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 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.

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	Level 8 **Learning Outcomes (Maximum of 5 per heading)**
Knowledge and Understanding	
A1	Demonstrate a broad knowledge of aspects of science and criminalistics related to forensic science
A2	Display a knowledge of the statistical evaluation of evidence
A3	Show some knowledge of major current issues in forensic science
A4	Demonstrate detailed knowledge and understanding of contemporary developments in policing
A5	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the wider social and political relationship between crime and society.
Practice - Applied Knowledge and Understanding	
B1	Apply a basic range of analytic techniques appropriate to a research question or problem.
B2	Show an awareness of a range of criminal justice and criminology sources and identify their validity.
B3	Use a range of routine skills, techniques and practices in the forensic science laboratory
B4	Carry out routine collection and investigations of evidential material
B5	
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	
C1	Present numerical, graphical and verbal information in a variety of forms suitable for scientific and non-scientific audiences

C2	Understand and interpret quantitative and qualitative data.
C3	Communicate complex ideas in well -structured and coherent form using appropriate academic conventions.
C4	
C5	
Generic Cognitive Skills - Problem Solving, Analysis, Evaluation	
D1	Apply critical thinking evaluation and synthesis of information relating to the main ideas and concepts relevant to forensic science and criminal justice studies.
D2	Summarise and evaluate competing explanations and interpretations of social phenomena from a methodological perspective.
D3	Analyse and apply criminal justice research findings to real-world situations.
D4	Display a critical evaluation of solutions and explanations of experimental information and observations
D5	
Autonomy, Accountability and Working With Others	
E1	Exercise autonomy and initiative in defined educational activities
E2	Take responsibility for work planning and time management within specified contexts
E3	Co-operate in group working exercises
E4	Work under guidance on current professional practice and issues
E5	

Learning Outcomes - Level 8 Core Modules

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Name	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
8	CRIM08008	Introduction to Policing	20	✓			
8	CHEM08007	Evaluating Forensic Evidence	20	✓			
8	CRIM08002	Criminology Foundations	20	✓			
8	APPD08001	ASPIRE 2	20		✓		

8	CHEM08009	Analytical Measurement	20		✓		

Footnotes for Core Modules:

Learning Outcomes - Level 8 Optional Modules

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Name	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
8	CHEM08016	Introductory Forensic Science	20		✓		

Footnotes for option modules

The recommended Optional module is CHEM08016 Introductory Forensic Science. Other optional modules from any suitable subject area may be taken, subject to pre-requisite and timetable requirements.

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22b	Level 8 Criteria for Progression and Award
	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 Criminal Justice and 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 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.

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	SCQF LEVEL 9 **Learning Outcomes (Maximum of 5 per heading)**
Knowledge and Understanding	
A1	Demonstrate a broad range of knowledge and understanding of the theory and practice of official responses to crime and offending behaviour and their relationship to social change.
A2	Demonstrate a detailed knowledge and understanding of a number of specialised areas of Criminal Justice and Forensic Science.
A3	Demonstrate a broad and integrated knowledge and understanding of issues related to drugs and alcohol relevant to forensic science
A4	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.
A5	
Practice - Applied Knowledge and Understanding	
B1	Demonstrate an understanding of the empirical research process.
B2	Demonstrate competence in techniques and practices in applying scientific concepts to gather experimental information
B3	Show an awareness of ethics in Criminal Justice and Forensic Science.
B4	
B5	
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	

C1	Make formal and informal presentations on topics relevant to Criminal Justice and 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 information
C3	Display the utilisation of a range of information sources in making judgments on matters relating to Criminal Justice and Forensic Science
C4	
C5	
Generic Cognitive Skills - Problem Solving, Analysis, Evaluation	
D1	Be able to retrieve and evaluate information from a range of sources.
D2	Be able to describe and critically interpret research literature.
D3	Be able to identify research questions and, with suitable support, devise appropriate strategies of investigation.
D4	Demonstrate the ability to comprehend and evaluate a variety of forms of data, including statistical data.
D5	
Autonomy, Accountability and Working With Others	
E1	Be able to work in group settings to achieve specified goals.
E2	Have the capacity, to undertake self-directed study and show awareness of time-management.
E3	Be aware of ethical guidelines and their implications for professional practice and research.
E4	
E5	

Learning Outcomes - Level 9 Core Modules

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Name	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
9	CHEM09008	Trace Evidence & Microscopy	20	✓			

9	CRIM09005	Penology & Prisons	20	✓			
9	CHEM09009	Forensic Laboratory Techniques	20		✓		
9	CRIM09020	Criminal Careers	20		✓		

Footnotes for Core Modules:

Learning Outcomes - Level 9 Optional Modules

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Name	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
9	CRIM09021	Contemporary Studies in Criminal Justice	20	✓			
9	CHEM09023	Designer Drugs	20	✓			
9	CRIM09024	Crime Investigation	20		✓		
8	CRIM08011	Crime Media & Culture	20		✓		
8	CRIM08007	Deconstructing Crime & Criminality	20		✓		

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 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) Criminal Justice and Forensic Science

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22c	**Level 9** **Criteria for Progression and Award**
	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 in Criminal Justice and 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.

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	SCQF LEVEL 10 **Learning Outcomes (Maximum of 5 per heading)**
Knowledge and Understanding	
A1	Demonstrate an extensive and comparative knowledge and understanding of Forensic Science as a whole and its links to related subjects.
A2	Demonstrate knowledge of, and evaluate, the trend and effects of crime, harm and victimisation in relation to criminal justice practices.
A3	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.
A4	Demonstrate a sound knowledge and understanding of a range of appropriate research methods - including qualitative and quantitative - used in support of Criminal Justice and Forensic Science.
A5	Demonstrate a critical understanding of the philosophical underpinnings of criminal justice as a discipline, its historical origins, development and limitations.
Practice - Applied Knowledge and Understanding	
B1	Demonstrate practical skills in related to forensic science including some at the forefront of the subject.
B2	Identify and critically assess questions for empirical investigation, formulate appropriate research questions and operationalise constructs accordingly.

B3	Display knowledge and awareness of laboratory issues in forensic science including quality assurance, health and safety and record keeping.
B4	Have the ability to select, conduct, analyse/evaluate and synthesise a range of Criminal Justice and Forensic Science materials.
B5	Use a wide range of the principal professional skills, techniques, practices and materials associated with criminal justice practice.
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	
C1	Show competence in information management skills, especially IT skills including databases and on-line searches
C2	Demonstrate the ability to present information to an informed audience.
C3	Demonstrate the ability to comprehend and critically evaluate numerical, statistical and other forms of data within the research context.
C4	Communicate with professional level peers and subject specialists.
C5	Demonstrate competencies in a range of IT skills.
Generic Cognitive Skills - Problem Solving, Analysis, Evaluation	
D1	Demonstrate effective information retrieval and handling skills.
D2	Demonstrate the ability to describe and critically evaluate research literature.
D3	Be able to systematically identify problems and formulate questions for empirical investigation.
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	Be able to work effectively as part of a team and manage interpersonal and contextual factors.
E2	Demonstrate the ability to undertake and manage self-directed study to achieve specified goals.
E3	Demonstrate the ability to work independently and manage one's own time.
E4	Function as an independent learner capable of adopting a self-reflective approach to learning.

E5	Be able to work effectively as part of a team and manage interpersonal and contextual factors.

Learning Outcomes - Level 10 Core Modules

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Name	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
10	CHEM10019	Criminal Justice and Forensic Science Project	40	✓	✓		
10	CHEM10008	Forensic Evidence	20	✓			
10	CHEM10010	Forensic Biology	20		✓		

Footnotes for Core Modules:

Learning Outcomes - Level 10 Optional Modules

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Name	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
10	CRIM10009	Crime as Social Harm	20	✓			
10	CRIM10010	Working in Criminal Justice	20	✓			
10	CRIM10005	Security in a Global Age	20		✓		
10	CRIM10001	Victimology	20		✓		

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.

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22d	**Level 10** **Criteria for Award**
	The award of BSc (Hons) Criminal Justice and 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.

Change/Version Control

Changes made to the programme since it was last published:

What	When	Who
Updated Links: • Academic Engagement Procedure • Equality and Diversity • University Regulatory Framework • Removed invalid links	19/10/2023	C Winter
Guidance Note 2023-24 provided	12/12/23	D Taylor
General housekeeping to text across sections and addition of links and some specific guidance. Addition of Duration of Study and some other text – for CMA.	12/12/23	D Taylor

Version Number: UG 1 (2023-24)