MODULE DESCRIPTOR

Module Title

Trace Evidence Analysis

Reference	AS3067	Version	6
Created	August 2021	SCQF Level	SCQF 9
Approved	June 2002	SCQF Points	30
Amended	August 2021	ECTS Points	15

Aims of Module

To extend the student's ability in the search, recovery, analysis and interpretation of evidence with the emphasis being placed on the techniques used when working with trace evidence. To further develop the student's skills in communication, team work and time management through various laboratory based, scene of crime and courtroom exercises.

Learning Outcomes for Module

On completion of this module, students are expected to be able to:

1	Classify and assess the major types of trace evidence.
2	Research, devise, implement and manage correctly and safely a range of analytical procedures appropriate to given trace forensic samples.
3	Recover, assess and analyse trace samples collected in a group crime scene exercise.
4	Interpret and communicate effectively (orally and in writing) the results of forensic examinations.

Indicative Module Content

Trace evidence: nature, types, recognition, recovery, security, analysis including hair, fibres, glass, paint, particulates, firearm discharge residues, soil. Contamination avoidance, control samples, packaging, assessment of significance. Students undertake a range of experiments using macroscopic, microscopic, spectroscopic and chromatographic techniques applied to forensic problems.

Module Delivery

This module is delivered using a mixture of laboratory work, crime scene examination, lectures and tutorials and a moot court exercise.

Indicative Student Workload	Full Time	Part Time
Contact Hours	94	N/A
Non-Contact Hours	206	N/A
Placement/Work-Based Learning Experience [Notional] Hours	N/A	N/A
TOTAL	300	N/A
Actual Placement hours for professional, statutory or regulatory body		

ASSESSMENT PLAN

If a major/minor model is used and box is ticked, % weightings below are indicative only.

Component 1

Type:	Coursework	Weighting:	40%	Outcomes Assessed:	4
Description:	A written formal court report and a 15 minute cross examination in the moot court.				

Component 2

Type:	Examination	Weighting:	30%	Outcomes Assessed:	1
Description:	Written examination on course material, Evidence examination protocols, related instrumentation and crime scene work.				

Component 3

Type:	Coursework	Weighting:	30%	Outcomes Assessed:	2, 3
Description:	A written record of examined forensic samples relating to a crime scene scenario.				

MODULE PERFORMANCE DESCRIPTOR

Explanatory Text

This module is assessed using the three components of assessment as detailed in the Assessment Plan. A minimum module grade of D is required for a pass, with compensation of grade E in Component 1, Component 2 or Component 3 permitted. Non-submission of either component will result in an NS grade.

Module Grade	Minimum Requirements to achieve Module Grade:
A	A minimum of any combination of AAC
B	A minimum of any combination of BBD
C	A minimum of any combination of CCE
D	A minimum of any combination of DDE
E	A minimum of any combination of EE with A, B, C, D or E
F	An F grade is obtained in any one or more components.
NS	Non-submission of work by published deadline or non-attendance for examination

Module Requirements

Prerequisites for Module	Successful completion of Stage 2 Forensic and Analytical Science or equivalent.
Corequisites for module	None.
Precluded Modules	None.

INDICATIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY

1	*AS3067 Laboratory Manual,* School of Pharmacy & Life Sciences, Robert Gordon University. Current Issue.
2	ROBERTSON, J. ed. *Forensic Examination of Hair*. Current Edition. Taylor and Francis.
3	CADDY, B. ed., *Forensic Examination of Glass and Paint: Analysis and Interpretation*. Current Edition. Taylor and Francis.
4	ROBERTSON, J. AND GRIEVE, M., *Forensic Examination of Fibres*. Current Edition. Taylor and Francis.
5	LUCY, D. *Introduction to Statistics for Forensic Scientists*. Current Edition. Wiley.