

Module Title Interpretation, Evaluation And Presentation Of Evidence	Reference AS4073 SCQF SCQF Level 10 SCQF Points 15 ECTS Points 7.5 Created February 2004 Approved September 2004 Amended Version No. 1
Keywords Continuity of evidence, evidence interpretation, statistical evaluation, databases, courtroom skills.	

This Version is No Longer Current

The latest version of this module is available [here](#)

Prerequisites for Module

An in-depth knowledge of crime scene examination and chemical and biological forensic analysis techniques.

Mode of Delivery

The module comprises lectures including visiting practitioners, supplemented with tutorials, case studies and guided reading.

Corequisite Modules

Refer to Definitive Course Document.

Precluded Modules

Refer to Definitive Course Document.

Aims of Module

To provide students with the skills and knowledge to assess, interpret and present scientific data in the legal context.

Assessment Plan

	Learning Outcomes Assessed
Component 1	1,2
Component 2	1,2
Component 3	1

Moot Court Exercise (40% weighting)

Evaluation of evidence exercise (20% weighting)

Learning Outcomes for Module

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

1. Assess, interpret and evaluate analytical data in the forensic context;
2. Present orally and in written form, scientific information in an appropriate and comprehensible form for court.

Indicative Module Content

Continuity of evidence.
Interpretation and statistical analysis of analytical data as evidence. Prosecutor's fallacy, potential pitfalls of DNA profiling; profile interpretation, sample problems, physical problems. Casework related experimentation, use of databases, frequency of occurrence. Written and verbal presentation of evidence to lawyers, investigating officers and courts.

Indicative Student Workload

<i>Contact Hours</i>	Full Time
Lectures	30
Tutorials/Case Studies	20
<i>Directed Study</i>	
Directed Study	30

Expert Witness Report (40% weighting)

Indicative Bibliography

1. ROBERTSON, B. AND VIGNAUX, G.A. *Interpreting Evidence: Evaluating Forensic Science in The Courtroom*. Current Edition. Wiley.
2. TOWNLEY, L. AND EDE, R. *Forensic Practice in Criminal Cases*. Current Edition. The Law Society.
3. JAMES, S.H. AND NORDBY, J.J. *Forensic Science: An introduction to Scientific and Investigative Techniques*. Current Edition. Boca Raton. FL: CRC Press.
4. NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL, COMMITTEE ON DNA TECHNOLOGY IN FORENSIC SCIENCE, 1996, *The Evaluation of Forensic DNA Evidence*.

