MODULE DESCRIPTOR

Module Title

Interpretation, Evaluation and Presentation of Evidence

Reference	AS4073	Version	3
Created	June 2017	SCQF Level	SCQF 10
Approved	September 2004	SCQF Points	15
Amended	September 2017	ECTS Points	7.5

Aims of Module

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

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.

Module Delivery

This is a lecture based module supplemented with tutorials, case studies and guided reading. External practitioners/experts may be involved in the delivery of material.

Indicative Student Workload	Full Time	Part Time
Contact Hours	30	N/A
Non-Contact Hours	120	N/A
Placement/Work-Based Learning Experience [Notional] Hours	N/A	N/A
TOTAL	150	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:	Practical Exam	Weighting:	70%	Outcomes Assessed:	2
Description:	A written formal court report and cross examination in the moot court				

Component 2

Type:	Examination	Weighting:	30%	Outcomes Assessed:	1
Description:	Written class test on evaluation of evidence				

MODULE PERFORMANCE DESCRIPTOR

Explanatory Text

This module is assessed using the two components as detailed in the Assessment Plan. To pass this module, candidates must achieve a Module Grade D or better.

Module Grade	Minimum Requirements to achieve Module Grade:
A	Final aggregate mark of 70% or greater and a minimum of 35% in C1 and C2
B	Final aggregate mark of between 60%-69% and a minimum of 35% for C1 and C2
C	Final aggregate mark of between 50%-59% and a minimum of 35% for C1 and C2
D	Final aggregate mark of between 40%-49% and a minimum of 35% for C1 and C2
E	MARGINAL FAIL. Final aggregate mark of between 35%-39% and a minimum of 35% for C1 and C2
F	FAIL. A mark of less than 35% in either component
NS	Non-submission of work by published deadline or non-attendance for examination

Module Requirements

Prerequisites for Module	Successful completion of Stage 3 Forensic and Analytical Science or equivalent.
Corequisites for module	None.
Precluded Modules	None.

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*.