MODULE DESCRIPTOR

Module Title

Interpretation, Evaluation and Presentation of Evidence

Reference	AS4083	Version	5
Created	April 2023	SCQF Level	SCQF 10
Approved	March 2018	SCQF Points	30
Amended	September 2023	ECTS Points	15

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	Develop hypotheses and propositions in relation to case information, justifying your choices.
2	Critique, interpret and evaluate analytical data in the forensic context.
3	Interpret and evaluate in writing the results of the forensic science examinations.
4	Communicate effectively the evaluations of the forensic science report in a courtroom setting.

Indicative Module Content

Continuity of evidence. Interpretation and statistical analysis of analytical data as evidence, including Bayesian statistical evaluations. Prosecutor's fallacy. Potential pitfalls of DNA profiling; profile interpretation, sample problems, physical problems. Casework related experimentation, use of databases, frequency of occurrence. Ethical considerations and potential quality control issues (e.g. cognitive bias) in forensic practice. 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.

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Indicative Student Workload	Full Time	Part Time
Contact Hours	50	N/A
Non-Contact Hours	250	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:	60%	Outcomes Assessed:	1, 2, 3
Description:	A portfolio comprising data handling and short essays on set topics plus a written formal court report.				

Component 2

Type:	Practical Exam	Weighting:	40%	Outcomes Assessed:	4
Description:	Cross examination in the Moot court.				

MODULE PERFORMANCE DESCRIPTOR

Explanatory Text

The first grade represents Component 1 (Portfolio) weighted as major and the second, Component 2 (Moot court cross examination), weighted as minor. A minimum module grade of D is required for a pass, with compensation of Grade E in Component 1 or Component 2 permitted.

Module Grade	Minimum Requirements to achieve Module Grade:
A	AA, AB
B	AC, AD, BA, BB, BC, CA
C	AE, BD, BE, CB, CC, CD, DA, DB, EA
D	CE, DC, DD, DE, EB, EC
E	AF, BF, CF, DF, ED, EE, EF, FA, FB, FC, FD
F	FE, FF
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.

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INDICATIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY

1	ROBERTSON, B. et al. *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., NORDBY, J.J. and BELL, S. *Forensic Science: An Introduction to Scientific and Investigative Techniques.* Current Edition. CRC Press: Boca Raton.
4	JACKSON, G., AITKEN, C. and ROBERTS, P. *Practitioner Guide No. 4 - Case Assessment and Interpretation of Expert Evidence: Guidance for Judges, Lawyers, Forensic Scientists and Expert Witnesses.* 2015. Royal Statistical Society.