ROBERT GORDON UNIVERSITY ABERDEEN

MODULE DESCRIPTOR

Module Title

Trace Evidence Analysis

Reference	PL3603	Version	1
Created	October 2023	SCQF Level	SCQF 9
Approved	June 2002	SCQF Points	30
Amended	September 2023	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	Formulate a plan to manage correctly and safely a range of analytical procedures appropriate to given trace forensic samples.
2	Demonstrate the ability to recover, classify, assess, and analyse trace evidence collected in a crime scene exercise.
3	Defend interpretation of analytical results under cross examination.

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, and spectroscopic techniques applied to forensic problems. This module aligns with United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions. Students learn how to maintain the integrity of evidence during forensic examination, analysis, and interpretation, contributing towards a fair judicial system and strong institutions.

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	80	N/A
Non-Contact Hours	220	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

Description:	A portfolio containing a written record of examined forensic samples relating to a crime scene scenario and a formal court report on that evidence.

Component 2

Type:	Practical Exam	Weighting:	40%	Outcomes Assessed:	3

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 (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 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.