

MODULE DESCRIPTOR

Module Title

Forensic Practice - Forensic Examination

Reference	PL2662	Version	1
Created	August 2023	SCQF Level	SCQF 8
Approved	December 2023	SCQF Points	15
Amended	August 2022	ECTS Points	7.5

Aims of Module

To provide the principles and practice of techniques used by forensic analysts and document examiners.

Learning Outcomes for Module

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

- 1 Undertake experimental procedures using selected imaging instruments.
- 2 Show understanding of the principles of use and report accurately the results.
- 3 Compare the methods of construction of characters used in all instances of handwriting.
- 4 Identify both natural and deliberate modifications made to handwriting.

Indicative Module Content

Students will undertake and report the findings of several prescribed experiments using different forensic imaging techniques, including microscopy, to analyse a range of forensic samples including fibres, footprints, fingerprints, bullets and documents. This will also include analysis of documents using a range of techniques including ESDA, microscopy, and video spectral comparison. Students will examine handwriting and signatures, construction of characters, natural variation, accidental and deliberate modification. Origin and history of documents: inks, paper, impressions, erasures and obliteration. Analysis of documents using a range of techniques e.g. ESDA, chromatography, microscopy, spectroscopy. Video Spectral Comparator, comparison microscope.

Module Delivery

This module uses a blended delivery with lectures supplemented by tutorials, practical laboratory classes and case study workshops.

Indicative Student Workload

	Full Time	Part Time
Contact Hours	50	N/A
Non-Contact Hours	100	N/A
Placement/Work-Based Learning Experience [Notional] Hours	N/A	N/A
TOTAL	150	N/A
<i>Actual Placement hours for professional, statutory or regulatory body</i>		

ASSESSMENT PLAN

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

Component 1

Type:	Practical Exam	Weighting:	100%	Outcomes Assessed:	1, 2, 3, 4
Description:	Skills test				

MODULE PERFORMANCE DESCRIPTOR**Explanatory Text**

The first grade represents Component 1 (Written Report) equally weighted with the second, Component 2 (Skills Test). A minimum of a Module Grade D is required to pass, with compensation of grade E in Component 1 or Component 2 permitted.

Module Grade	Minimum Requirements to achieve Module Grade:
A	AA, AB, BA
B	AC, AD, BB, BC, CA, CB, DA
C	AE, BD, BE, CC, CD, DB, DC, EA, EB
D	CE, DD, DE, EC, ED
E	AF, BF, CF, DF, EE, EF, FA, FB, FC, FD, FE
F	FF
NS	Non-submission of work by published deadline or non-attendance for examination

Module Requirements

Prerequisites for Module	None, in addition to SCQF level 8 entry requirements.
Corequisites for module	None.
Precluded Modules	None.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

This module is taught exclusively by Forensics.

INDICATIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 1 LANGFORD, A.M., DEAN J., REED R., HOLMES D.A., WEYERS J., and JONES A. 2018, *Practical Skills in Forensic Science*. 3rd Edition. Prentice Hall.
- 2 WHITE, P.C., 2016, *Crime Scene to Court, The Essentials of Forensic Science*. 4th Edition. The Royal Society of Chemistry.
- 3 JACKSON A.R.W., JACKSON J.M., MOUNTAIN H., and BREARLEY D. 2016, *Forensic Science*. 4th Edition. Pearson.
- 4 BELL S. and MORRIS K. 2009, *An Introduction to Microscopy*. 1st Edition. CRC Press Taylor & Francis Group.
- 5 AUCHIE, D., 2018. Evidence. 5th Edition. Edinburgh: W. Green. (Law Basics series)
- 6 CHRISTIE, S., 2009. An introduction to Scots criminal law.. 2nd Edition. Dundee: Dundee University Press.
- 7 WHITE, R., WILLOCK, I., and MACQUEEN, H., 2013. The Scottish legal system. 5th Edition. Hayward Heath: Bloomsbury Professional.