# Course Specification

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| **Published Date:** | 16-May-2019 |
| **Produced By:** | Oliver Jones |
| **Status:** | Deletion Approved |

# Core Information

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| **Awarding Body / Institution:** | University of Wolverhampton | | |
| **School / Institute:** | Wolverhampton School of Sciences | | |
| **Course Code(s):** | FS007J01UV<br>FS007J31UV | Full-time<br>Part-time | 3 Years<br>6 Years |
| **Course Title:** | BSc (Hons) Forensic Science and Criminology | | |
| **Hierarchy of Awards:** | Bachelor of Science with Honours Forensic Science and Criminology<br>Bachelor of Science Forensic Science and Criminology<br>Diploma of Higher Education Forensic Science and Criminology<br>Certificate of Higher Education Forensic Science and Criminology<br>University Statement of Credit University Statement of Credit | | |
| **Language of Study:** | English | | |
| **Date of DAG approval:** | 19/May/2017 | | |
| **Last Review:** | 2017/8 | | |
| **Course Specification valid from:** | 2010/1 | | |
| **Course Specification valid to:** | 2017/8 | | |

# Academic Staff

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| **Course Leader:** | Dr Michael Whitehead |
| **Head of Department:** | Dr Edward Mole |

# Course Information

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| **Location of Delivery:** | University of Wolverhampton |
| **Category of Partnership:** | Not delivered in partnership |
| **Teaching Institution:** | University of Wolverhampton |
| **Open / Closed Course:** | This course is open to all suitably qualified candidates. |

## Entry Requirements:

Entry requirements are subject to regular review. The entry requirements applicable to a particular academic year will be published on the University website (and externally as appropriate e.g. UCAS

### 2017 Entry

- A level minimum of BB or CDD to include Biology or Chemistry.
- Access to HE with 60 credits in total, 45 level 3 credits, 36 must be in Science of which 18 passed with minimum Merit.
- BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Applied Science grade MMP or BTEC National Diploma grade DM.
- Applicants will normally be expected to hold GCSE English and Maths at grade C+/4 or equivalent
- If you've got other qualifications or relevant experience, please contact The Gateway for further advice before applying.
- International entry requirements and application guidance can be found here
- Successful completion of the International Foundation Year in Science and Engineering guarantees entry on to this course

### Other Requirements

An offer of a place will not be made until you have attended a formal interview

Those who do not meet the entry requirements may be offered an alternative course

## Distinctive Features of the Course:

The Forensic Science aspects of the course contribute to professional body accredited awards.

The blend of criminology and forensic science will allow you to develop yourself in either area.

A different approach to academic study is taken by both disciplines and gives you a broader range of analytical tools with which to investigate topics for yourself.

## Educational Aims of the Course:

Forensic science makes a significant impact on procedures for solving crimes and on legal processes in the UK – this course blends these two topical subject areas:

- You will be introduced to the principles and methods of forensic practice, important techniques in forensic analysis such as analysis of crime scenes, biological information such as DNA profiling, time and cause of death and the information that can be gained form a study of skeletal remains. Selected topics such as the use of forensic ballistics, paint, soil and fibre analysis in making meaning out of evidence and the role of expert witnesses
- You will also have the opportunity to research in an area combining forensic science and criminology.
- Criminology is the study of how crime is defined, why some people commit crime and what happens when they do. It is also the study of the police, the courts and penal system, as well as the prevention and

deterrence of criminal behaviour. Crime and its impact are at the forefront of current political and social debate and this degree will enable you to explore the reality behind the newspaper headlines.

- You will get the chance to gain invaluable work experience on an optional third-year placement.

## Intakes:

September

## Major Source of Funding:

HE FUNDING COUNCIL FOR ENGLAND (HEFCE)

## Tuition Fees:

Tuition fees are reviewed on an annual basis. The fees applicable to a particular academic year will be published on the University website.

| Year | Status | Mode | Amount |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2017/8 | H | Full Time / Sandwich | £9250.00 |
| 2017/8 | EU | Full Time / Sandwich | £9250.00 |
| 2017/8 | Overseas | Full Time / Sandwich | £11475.00 |
| 2017/8 | H | Part Time | £2835.00 |
| 2017/8 | EU | Part Time | £2835.00 |
| 2017/8 | Overseas | Part Time | £5738.00 |
| 2018/9 | H | Full Time / Sandwich | £9250.00 |
| 2018/9 | EU | Full Time / Sandwich | £9250.00 |
| 2018/9 | Overseas | Full Time / Sandwich | £11700.00 |
| 2018/9 | H | Part Time | £2925.00 |
| 2018/9 | Overseas | Part Time | £5850.00 |
| 2018/9 | EU | Part Time | £2925.00 |
| 2019/0 | H | Full Time / Sandwich | £9250.00 |
| 2019/0 | EU | Full Time / Sandwich | £9250.00 |
| 2019/0 | Overseas | Full Time / Sandwich | £12000.00 |
| 2019/0 | H | Part Time | £2975.00 |
| 2019/0 | Overseas | Part Time | £6000 |
| 2019/0 | EU | Part Time | £2975.00 |

## PSRB:

None

## Course Structure:

# September (Full-Time)

## Year 1

| Module | Title | Credits | Period | Type |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4CJ005 | Legal Issues and Human Rights | 20 | SEM1 | Core |
| 4FS002 | Introduction to Forensic Science | 20 | SEM1 | Core |
| 4CJ003 | Thinking About Crime | 20 | SEM1 | Core |
| 4FS005 | Introduction to Forensic Toxicology | 20 | SEM2 | Core |
| 4PY013 | Molecular Basis of Life | 20 | SEM2 | Core |
| 4CJ002 | Criminal Justice | 20 | SEM2 | Core |

Continuing students will follow the programme indicated below:

# September (Full-Time)

## Year 2

| Module | Title | Credits | Period | Type |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5FS006 | Crime Scene Practice and Investigative Methods | 20 | SEM2 | Core |
| 5CJ002 | Theories of Crime | 20 | SEM1 | Core |
| 5LW002 | Criminal Law | 20 | SEM1 | Core |
| 5FS013 | Physical Evidence | 20 | SEM2 | Core |
| 5CJ003 | Police and Society | 20 | SEM2 | Core |
| 5FS002 | Forensic Biology and Anthropology | 20 | SEM1 | Core |

# September (Full-Time)

## Year 3

| Module | Title | Credits | Period | Type |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6FS010 | Honours Project (Forensic Science) | 40 | YEAR | Core |
| 6FS003 | Advanced Forensic Biology and Pathology | 20 | SEM1 | Core |
| 6CJ006 | Controlling Crime | 20 | SEM1 | Core |
| 6FS004 | The Expert Witness | 20 | SEM2 | Core |
| 6CJ005 | Contemporary Issues in Criminology | 20 | SEM2 | Core |

# Learning, Teaching and Assessment

Academic Regulations Exemption:

None

## Reference Points:

Students who graduate with a BSc Forensic Science and Criminology have the advantage of developing a broad approach to the solution of problems.  You will have an in-depth knowledge and understanding of crime and its consequences, both theoretical and applied. You will understand how physical materials can be analysed to provide intelligence in criminal enquiries.  You will develop subject specific skills, such as knowledge of the social processes of crime and the criminal justice system. This will be complemented by the type of transferable key skills that are highly valued by employers in the graduate job market. These include the ability to present and develop a cohesive argument, IT skills, research and problem-solving skills, communication skills the important numeracy skills expected of science graduates and working as part of a team.

Careers are open to you in the police force as an officer or in intelligence work, as a scene of crime officer, in the prison and probation services, as well as in insurance companies and legal firms. The course could help you to further your studies or pursue a career in teaching.

You can undertake further study by directing your direction towards either discipline at Masters level.

## Learning Outcomes:

CertHE Course Learning Outcome 1 (CHECLO1)

Demonstrate knowledge of the underlying concepts and principles associated with your area(s) of study, and an ability to evaluate and interpret these within the context of that area of study.

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CertHE Course Learning Outcome 2 (CHECLO2)

Demonstrate an ability to present, evaluate and interpret qualitative and quantitative data, in order to develop lines of argument and make sound judgements in accordance with basic theories and concepts of your subject(s) of study.

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CertHE Course Learning Outcome 3 (CHECLO3)

Evaluate the appropriateness of different approaches to solving problems related to your area(s) of study and/or work.

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CertHE Course Learning Outcome 4 (CHECLO4)

Communicate the results of your study/work accurately and reliably, and with structured and coherent arguments.

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CertHE Course Learning Outcome 5 (CHECLO5)

Demonstrate the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring the exercise of some personal responsibility.

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DipHE Course Learning Outcome 1 (DHECLO1)

Demonstrate knowledge and critical understanding of the well-established principles of your area(s) of study, and of the way in which those principles have developed with an understanding of the limits of your knowledge, and how this influences analyses and interpretations based on that knowledge.

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DipHE Course Learning Outcome 2 (DHECLO2)

Demonstrate the ability to apply underlying concepts and principles outside the context in which they were first studied, including, where appropriate, the application of those principles in an employment context

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DipHE Course Learning Outcome 3 (DHECLO3)

Demonstrate knowledge of the main methods of enquiry in the subject(s) relevant to the named award, and ability to evaluate critically the appropriateness of different approaches to solving problems in the field of study.

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DipHE Course Learning Outcome 4 (DHECLO4)

Use a range of established techniques to initiate and undertake critical analysis of information, and to propose solutions to problems arising from that analysis.

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DipHE Course Learning Outcome 5 (DHECLO5)

Effectively communicate information, arguments and analysis in a variety of forms to specialist and non-specialist audiences, and deploy key techniques of the discipline effectively.

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DipHE Course Learning Outcome 6 (DHECLO6)

Demonstrate the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment, requiring the exercise of personal responsibility and decision-making and undertake further training, developing existing skills and acquire new competences that will enable them to assume significant responsibility within organisations.

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Honours Degree Course Learning Outcome 1 (DEGCLO1)

Understand concepts and technologies that are appropriate to the corpus of knowledge expected of a forensic science and criminology graduate.

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Honours Degree Course Learning Outcome 2 (DEGCLO2)

Critically analyse the issues surrounding the central role of forensic science and criminology in wider society.

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Honours Degree Course Learning Outcome 3 (DEGCLO3)

Develop and apply a range of transferrable skills to discover information for yourself and review and evaluate this in the light of your subject knowledge.

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Honours Degree Course Learning Outcome 4 (DEGCLO4)

Safely utilise a range of analytical techniques and apply these in a workplace context.

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Honours Degree Course Learning Outcome 5 (DEGCLO5)

Undertake independent study in an aspect of forensic science and criminology utilising a range of appropriate information resources and investigative tools.

## Overview of Assessment:

| Module | Title | Course Learning Outcomes |
|---|---|---|
| 4CJ002 | Criminal Justice | CHECLO1, CHECLO2, CHECLO3, CHECLO4, CHECLO5 |
| 4CJ003 | Thinking About Crime | CHECLO1, CHECLO2, CHECLO3, CHECLO4, CHECLO5 |
| 4CJ005 | Legal Issues and Human Rights | CHECLO1, CHECLO2, CHECLO3, CHECLO4, CHECLO5 |
| 4FS002 | Introduction to Forensic Science | CHECLO1, CHECLO2, CHECLO3, CHECLO4, CHECLO5 |
| 4FS005 | Introduction to Forensic Toxicology | CHECLO1, CHECLO2, CHECLO3, CHECLO4, CHECLO5 |
| 4PY013 | Molecular Basis of Life | CHECLO1, CHECLO2, CHECLO3, CHECLO4, CHECLO5 |
| 5CJ002 | Theories of Crime | DHECLO1, DHECLO2, DHECLO3, DHECLO4, DHECLO5, DHECLO6 |
| 5CJ003 | Police and Society | DHECLO1, DHECLO2, DHECLO3, DHECLO4, DHECLO5, DHECLO6 |
| 5FS001 | Crime Scene Investigation | DHECLO1, DHECLO2, DHECLO3, DHECLO4, DHECLO5, DHECLO6 |
| 5FS002 | Forensic Biology and Anthropology | DHECLO1, DHECLO2, DHECLO3, DHECLO4, DHECLO5, DHECLO6 |
| 5FS005 | Physical Evidence | DHECLO1, DHECLO2, DHECLO3, DHECLO4, DHECLO5, DHECLO6 |
| 5FS006 | Crime Scene Practice and Investigative Methods | DHECLO1, DHECLO2, DHECLO3, DHECLO4, DHECLO5, DHECLO6 |
| 5LW002 | Criminal Law | DHECLO1, DHECLO2, DHECLO3, DHECLO4, DHECLO5, DHECLO6 |
| 6AB003 | Honours Project in Biological and Forensic Sciences | DEGCLO1, DEGCLO2, DEGCLO3, DEGCLO4, DEGCLO5, ORDCLO1, ORDCLO2, ORDCLO3, ORDCLO4, ORDCLO5 |
| 6CJ005 | Contemporary Issues in Criminology | DEGCLO1, DEGCLO2, DEGCLO3, ORDCLO1, ORDCLO2, ORDCLO3 |
| 6CJ006 | Controlling Crime | DEGCLO1, DEGCLO2, DEGCLO3, ORDCLO1, ORDCLO2, ORDCLO3 |
| 6FS003 | Advanced Forensic Biology and Pathology | DEGCLO1, DEGCLO2, DEGCLO3, ORDCLO1, ORDCLO2, ORDCLO3 |
| 6FS004 | The Expert Witness | DEGCLO1, DEGCLO2, DEGCLO3, DEGCLO4, DEGCLO5, ORDCLO1, ORDCLO2, ORDCLO3, ORDCLO4, ORDCLO5 |
| 6FS010 | Honours Project (Forensic Science) | DEGCLO1, DEGCLO2, DEGCLO3, DEGCLO4, DEGCLO5, ORDCLO1, ORDCLO2, ORDCLO3, ORDCLO4, ORDCLO5 |

## Teaching, Learning and Assessment:

Learning activities are focused on moving towards student-centred learning from a more tutor-centred approach. Thus level 4 modules tend to involve tutor-led sessions, with defined student directed activities, whereas level 6 modules are more student-centred, with tutors acting to facilitate students' learning.

Students will be presented with theoretical information in lecture sessions and then will use workshops, group tutorials, seminars, on-line forums, electronic tutorials, directed reading and a range of IT-based activities and formative assessments to develop these concepts.

The Development of Graduate Attributes

Global Citizenship

Throughout the course, students will consider the role forensic science plays in the broader context of the criminal justice system in the UK. An important aspect of the course is the development of an understanding of professional practice and ethics in forensic science. This will be developed in particular through the modules 'Forensic Science for Criminal Justice' at level 4, 'Crime Scene Investigation' at level 5 and 'The Expert Witness' at level 6. Professional practice and ethics are key concepts in many professions, and while specific details may vary, the understanding of the principles of professional practice and professional ethics

is eminently transferable into many different fields.

Digital Literacy

Throughout the course, students will use a range of standard and specialist software to prepare and present reports, assignments, presentations, etc across a wide range of modules, with increasing sophistication.

Students will be introduced to ePDPs and start their individual e-portfolio using PebblePad.

Students will be expected to make use of CANVAS for accessing module information, submitting assignments, engaging in module forums, etc.

Students will be expected to make use of email for module and other University communications.

By the end of the course, students should be comfortable with and competent in the digital world, and have the flexibility to adapt to a wide range of digital activities.

Knowledgeable and Enterprising

The course develops students' knowledge base and skills in Forensic Science and Criminology through all the subject specific module content. In addition, the development of transferable skills improves and enhances employability beyond the field of forensic science, and indeed science in general. The level 6 module, 'The Expert Witness' tests employability skills by providing a realistic workplace scenario, and it schedules deadlines to be realistic within the workplace.

The emphasis on the students moving to a student centred learning approach also fosters the development of transferrable skills. Students are required to reflect upon their learning experience and to extrapolate from this the skills that would make them stand out in their respective career pathways. In preparation for the project, they will consider job applications, and how best to present themselves, by making a formal written application for an Honours project.  Students will also be directed to the relevant careers support services in the University.

## Learning and Teaching Methods:

This data indicates the proportion of time in each year of study that students can expect to engage in the following activities (expressed as a percentage for each level).

| Level | Teaching | Independent | Placement |
|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 24 | 76 | 0 |
| 5 | 24 | 76 | 0 |
| 6 | 24 | 76 | 0 |

## Assessment Methods:

This data indicates the proportion of summative assessment in each year of study that will derive from the following: (expressed as a percentage for each level).

| Level | Written Exams | Practical Exams | Coursework |
|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 52 | 7 | 42 |
| 5 | 68 | 0 | 32 |
| 6 | 8 | 8 | 83 |

## Student Support:

The design of this award allows students to receive learning support targeted to individual needs. The generic module support delivered by the module teams includes regular reflective support meetings. In addition, more generic advice and feedback derived from the generic electronic assessment feedback to allow students to reflect on their personal issues in the context of the group performance.

The demonstrator team provides extensive learning support for students. The team is qualified to advise students at all stages of undergraduate study and provides regular informal drop-in sessions. This is supported by on-line bookable appointments with either demonstrators or academic staff to act as an additional layer of support. The Learning Centre offers considerable support with regards to study skills, as well as focussing on aspects of information retrieval.

During Level 4 studies, students are introduced to the basic approaches to study skills. This includes online literature searches, academic writing, and referencing skills. This is supported by academic staff within lectures, small group discussions and personal tutorial sessions. Level 5 develops this by the demonstrator team facilitating the transition to primary literature information retrieval through project preparation. Finally, at level 6, each student ins individually supported throughout the project cycle in all aspects of the investigative process.

## Employability in the Curriculum:

Employment opportunities exist for you with the Forensic Science Sector both with independent providers of forensic analysis and police scientific work, insurance companies, legal firms and independent forensic laboratories. Examples of possible future careers include scene of crime work, quality assurance in food and pharmaceutical manufacturing, trading standards, public and industrial health and safety, and accident investigation. You could also train to become a science teacher or continue your studies as a postgraduate either on a Masters course or PhD. Some of our graduates are working for the Forensic Science Service, LGC Forensics and Key Forensics as forensic scientists. Others are working for the West Midlands Police, West Mercia Police, Staffordshire Police and the Leicestershire Constabulary as crime scene investigators, fingerprint and footwear analysts, criminal intelligence analysts and police officers.