

Course Specification

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Produced By:	Laura Clode
Status:	Validated

Core Information

Awarding Body / Institution:	University of Wolverhampton		
School / Institute:	Wolverhampton School of Sciences		
Course Code(s):	FS001S01UV	Full-time	2 Years
	FS001S31UV	Part-time	4 Years
Course Title:	HND: Forensic Science		
Hierarchy of Awards:	Higher National Diploma Forensic Science awarded by the University of Wolverhampton Certificate of Higher Education Forensic Science awarded by the University of Wolverhampton 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:	2023/4		

Academic Staff

Course Leader:	Dr Michael Whitehead
Head of Department:	Georgina Manning

Course Information

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 DD or CE to include Biology or Chemistry
- The access to HE (Science) Diploma is also accepted. You will need to have achieved 18 credits in Science based subjects at Level 3. You will also need to have passed Maths & English at minimum Level 2.
- BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Applied Science grade PPP or BTEC National Diploma grade MP.
- 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](#)

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

Distinctive Features of the Course:

This course consists of the first two years of the BSc (Hons) Forensic Science course. On successful completion of the HND Forensic Science, students will be able to apply to complete level 6 of the BSc (Hons) Forensic Science course.

Educational Aims of the Course:

This course aims to equip you with the skills and knowledge of forensic science techniques that are used as investigative tools to assist the police and legal professions. It will enable you to develop your skills in scientific and critical thinking. You will be introduced to the principles and methods of forensic practice, and to important techniques in forensic analysis such as analysis of crime scenes, DNA profiling, analysis of skeletal remains and forensic toxicology. You will also be introduced to other selected topics such as ballistics, paint and soil analysis.

Intakes:

September

Major Source of Funding:

Office for Students (OFS)

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
2020/1	HEU	Full Time	£
2020/1	Overseas	Full Time	£
2020/1	Home / EU	Full Time	£
2020/1	Home / EU	Part Time / Full Time	£
2020/1	H	Part Time	£3050.00
2020/1	Overseas	Part Time	£6125.00

PSRB:

None

Course Structure:

September (Full-time)

Year 1

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
4BC003	Cell Biology and Genetics	20	SEM1	Core
4FS008	Fundamentals of Forensic Science	20	SEM1	Core
4FS004	Introduction to Forensic Analysis	20	SEM2	Core
4FS009	Methods in Forensic Science	20	SEM2	Core
4FS005	Introduction to Forensic Toxicology	20	SEM2	Core
4BC001	Chemistry for Forensic and Molecular Science	20	SEM1	Core

September (Full-time)

Year 2

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
5FS010	Trace Evidence	20	SEM1	Core
5FS013	Physical Evidence	20	SEM2	Core
5FS001	Crime Scene Investigation	20	SEM1	Core
5FS002	Forensic Biology & Anthropology (FB I.I)	20	SEM1	Core
5FS003	Forensic Analysis and Toxicology	20	SEM2	Core
5FS006	Crime Scene Practice	20	SEM2	Core

Please note: Optional modules might not run every year, the course team will decide on an annual basis which options will be running, based on student demand and academic factors, to create the best learning experience.

Learning, Teaching and Assessment

Academic Regulations Exemption:

Exemption to permit the Dip. HE Forensic Science and HND Forensic Science to share modules

1. 1.2.5. Where students are offered specialist options there must be at least 33% difference in course content.

APPROVED by ARSC 17/3/11.

Reference Points:

UK Quality Code for Higher Education <https://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code>

UK Quality Code for Higher Education Advice & Guidance <https://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/quality-code/advice-and-guidance>

Subject Benchmark Statements <https://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/quality-code/subject-benchmark-statements>

Qualifications and Credit Frameworks <https://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/quality-code/qualifications-and-credit-frameworks>

Learning Outcomes:

HNC Course Learning Outcome 1 (HNCCLO1)

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

HNC Course Learning Outcome 2 (HNCCLO2)

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.

HNC Course Learning Outcome 3 (HNCCLO3)

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

HNC Course Learning Outcome 4 (HNCCLO4)

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

HNC Course Learning Outcome 5 (HNCCLO5)

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

HND Course Learning Outcome 1 (HNDCL01)

Demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of, and an ability to apply, the basic scientific and associated

principles that underpin the study of forensic science

HND Course Learning Outcome 3 (HNDCL03)

Work safely in a laboratory and perform scientific and associated analysis appropriate to forensic science

HND Course Learning Outcome 4 (HNDCL04)

Analyse, review and evaluate scientific information presented in a variety of formats

HND Course Learning Outcome 5 (HNDCL05)

Demonstrate a basic knowledge and understanding of professional practice in forensic science, and the role of the forensic scientist in the work place

Overview of Assessment:

Module	Title	Course Learning Outcomes
4BC001	Chemistry for Forensic and Molecular Science	HNCCLO1, HNCCLO2, HNCCLO3, HNCCLO4, HNCCLO5
4BC003	Cell Biology and Genetics	HNCCLO1, HNCCLO2, HNCCLO3, HNCCLO4, HNCCLO5
4FS004	Introduction to Forensic Analysis	HNCCLO1, HNCCLO2, HNCCLO3, HNCCLO4, HNCCLO5
4FS005	Introduction to Forensic Toxicology	HNCCLO1, HNCCLO2, HNCCLO3, HNCCLO4, HNCCLO5
4FS008	Fundamentals of Forensic Science	HNCCLO1, HNCCLO2, HNCCLO3, HNCCLO4, HNCCLO5
4FS009	Methods in Forensic Science	HNCCLO1, HNCCLO2, HNCCLO3, HNCCLO4, HNCCLO5
5FS001	Crime Scene Investigation	HNDCL04, HNDCL05
5FS002	Forensic Biology & Anthropology (FB I.I)	HNDCL01, HNDCL04
5FS003	Forensic Analysis and Toxicology	HNDCL01, HNDCL04
5FS006	Crime Scene Practice	HNDCL03, HNDCL04, HNDCL05
5FS010	Trace Evidence	HNDCL01, HNDCL02, HNDCL03, HNDCL04
5FS013	Physical Evidence	HNDCL01, HNDCL04

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 5 modules are a little 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. Practical skills will similarly be developed through the course. Level 4 practicals will be directed towards developing basic laboratory skills, which are put into context at level 5.

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 a basic

understanding of professional practice and ethics in forensic science.

This will be developed in particular through the modules 'Introduction to Forensic Science' at level 4 and 'Crime Scene Investigation' at level 5.

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 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 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. As part of the module 5FS006 Crime Scene Practice and Investigative Methods, they will also 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.

Assessment Methods:

At the University of Wolverhampton, a variety of modes of assessment will be used to support and test your learning and progress and to help you develop capabilities that are valued beyond your University studies and into your working life. Your course may include a variety of assessment activities:

Written examinations (including online examinations, open and closed book examinations and quizzes)
Coursework (for example, essays, reports, portfolios, project proposals and briefs, CVs, poster presentation)
Practical (for example, oral and video presentations, laboratory work, performances, practical skills assessment)

In the final year of your undergraduate degree, and at the end of your postgraduate degree, you are likely to be expected to write an extended piece of work or research, such as a dissertation or a practice-based piece of research.

Student Support:

General University support:

[University Learning Centres](#) are the key source of academic information for students. Learning Centres

provide physical library resources (books, journal, DVDs etc.) and offer a range of study areas to allow students to study in the environment that suit them best: Social areas, quiet and silent areas. Learning Centres also provide access to wide range of online information sources, including eBooks, e-Journals and subject databases.

Learning Centres also provide students with academic skills support via the [Skills for Learning programme](#). Students on campus can attend workshops or ask for one-to-one help on a range of skills such as academic writing and referencing. Students can access a range of online skills material at: www.wlv.ac.uk/lib/skills

The [University Student Support website](#) offers advice on a variety of matters (careers, counselling, student union advice, etc.) Students can also access these services by booking appointment with the SU, careers, counselling services, etc.

Course Specific Support

Employability in the Curriculum:

Forensic Science graduates have excellent job prospects. According to unistats.com, 85% of our graduates are in employment within 6 months of leaving, whilst 60% find "graduate level" jobs, placing us in the top 15 universities for employability.

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.

On successful completion of your HND you could study for a third year to complete your BSc (honours) Forensic science degree.

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.



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