

Course Specification

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Core Information

Awarding Body / Institution:	University of Wolverhampton		
School / Institute:	Wolverhampton School of Sciences		
Course Code(s):	FS002H01UV FS002H31UV	Full-time Part-time	3 Years 6 Years
UCAS Code:			
Course Title:	BSc (Hons) Forensic Science		
Hierarchy of Awards:	Bachelor of Science with Honours Forensic Science Bachelor of Science Forensic Science Diploma of Higher Education Forensic Science Certificate of Higher Education Forensic Science University Statement of Credit University Statement of Credit		
Language of Study:	English		
Date of DAG approval:	10/May/2017		
Last Review:	2017/8		
Course Specification valid from:	2010/1		
Course Specification valid to:	2023/4		

Academic Staff

Course Leader:	David Walker
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 AA or CCC 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 MMM or BTEC National Diploma grade DD.
- 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 foundation year of our [BSc \(Hons\) Science and Engineering with Foundation Year](#) guarantees entry on to this course
- 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:

This course has been assessed by three different external bodies and has been found to meet their various requirements. This should give you great confidence that it is a high quality course.

The course is accredited by the Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences, it is fully endorsed by Skills for Justice via the Skillsmark for Forensic process, and it is recognised by the Royal Society for Chemistry (RSC) as meeting the requirements for Associate Membership of the RSC.

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 as well as independent study.

You will be introduced to the principles and methods of forensic practice, and the role of professional forensic scientists as expert witnesses in the legal system.

You will be introduced to important techniques in forensic analysis such as analysis of crime scenes, DNA profiling, analysis of skeletal remains and forensic toxicology, as well as selected other topics such as

ballistics, paint and soil analysis.

You will have the opportunity to undertake research in an area of forensic science.

In addition, if you choose to undertake the optional sandwich version of the degree, the course will allow you to acquire technical skills in the workplace and enable you to integrate knowledge gained in the theoretical aspects of the course into the professional environment.

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	Home / EU	Full Time / Sandwich	£9250.00
2020/1	Overseas	Full Time / Sandwich	£12250.00
2020/1	H	Part Time	£3050.00
2020/1	Overseas	Part Time	£6125.00
2021/2	H	Full Time / Sandwich	£9250.00
2021/2	Overseas	Full Time / Sandwich	£13450.00
2021/2	H	Part Time	£3100.00
2022/3	H	Full Time / Sandwich	£9250.00
2022/3	Overseas	Full Time / Sandwich	£13950.00
2022/3	H	Part Time	£3120.00

PSRB:

FS002H01UV (Full-time)

Professional Accreditation Body:
Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences

Accrediting Body:
Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences

Accreditation Statement:

The Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences provides an accreditation system for both undergraduate and postgraduate courses in forensic science and related topics. Accreditation is given provided the course content meets with the Society's component standards which provide a quality endorsement of the course.

Approved	Start	Expected End	Renewal
01/Apr/2007	01/Apr/2007		07/Mar/2023

FS002H31UV (Part-time)

Professional Accreditation Body:
Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences

Accrediting Body:
Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences

Accreditation Statement:

The Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences provides an accreditation system for both undergraduate and postgraduate courses in forensic science and related topics. Accreditation is given provided the course content meets with the Society's component standards which provide a quality endorsement of the course.

Approved	Start	Expected End	Renewal
01/Apr/2007	01/Apr/2007		07/Mar/2023

Course Structure:

September (Full-time)

Full time and Sandwich Undergraduate Honours students normally study 120 credits per academic year; 60 credits semester 1 and 60 credits semester 2.

Part time students study alongside full time students. However, they do not study more than 80 credits in each academic calendar year.

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

September (Full-time)

Full time and Sandwich Undergraduate Honours students normally study 120 credits per academic year; 60 credits semester 1 and 60 credits semester 2.

Part time students study alongside full time students. However, they do not study more than 80 credits in each academic calendar year.

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
5FS013	Physical Evidence	20	SEM2	Core
5FS010	Trace Evidence	20	SEM1	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

September (Full-time)

Full time and Sandwich Undergraduate Honours students normally study 120 credits per academic year; 60 credits semester 1 and 60 credits semester 2.

Part time students study alongside full time students. However, they do not study more than 80 credits in each academic calendar year.

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
6FS010	Honours Project (Forensic Science)	40	YEAR	Core
6FS008	Advanced Forensic Biology and Pathology	20	SEM1	Core
6FS002	Quality Assurance in Forensic Science	20	SEM1	Core
6FS009	The Expert Witness	20	SEM2	Core
6FS005	Advanced Forensic Chemical Analysis	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 from Section 1.2.5.. to permit the sharing of modules between the HND Forensic Science and the intermediate award of DipHE on BSc Forensic Science. 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>

Overview of Assessment:

As part of the course approval process, the course learning outcomes were mapped to each of the modules forming the diet of the programme of study. This process confirmed that all course learning outcomes can be met through successful completion of the modules. This mapping applies to the final award as well as to all of the intermediate awards.

Learning Outcomes	Modules
BHONS01 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.	
BHONS02 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.	
BHONS03 Evaluate the appropriateness of different approaches to solving problems related to your area(s) of study and/or work.	
BHONS04 Communicate the results of your study/work accurately and reliably, and with structured and coherent arguments.	
BHONS05 Demonstrate the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring the exercise of some personal responsibility.	
BHONS01 Demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of, and an ability to apply, the basic scientific and associated principles that underpin the study of forensic science.	
BHONS02 Demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of, and an ability to apply, the techniques of scientific and associated analysis appropriate to forensic science.	
BHONS03 Work safely in a laboratory and perform scientific and associated analysis appropriate to forensic science.	
BHONS04 Critically analyse, review and evaluate scientific and associated information presented in a variety of formats.	
BHONS05 Undertake and carry out an in-depth research and study into selected topics in forensic science at the level of the primary literature.	
BHONS06 Demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of professional practice in forensic science, and the role of the forensic scientist in the work place including the qualities and skills necessary for professional development.	
BHONS01 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.	
BHONS02 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	
BHONS03 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.

Learning Outcomes

Modules

BHONS04 Use a range of established techniques to initiate and undertake critical analysis of information, and to propose solutions to problems arising from that analysis.

BHONS05 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.

BHONS06 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.

BHONSN01 Demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of, and an ability to apply, the basic scientific and associated principles that underpin the study of forensic science.

BHONSN02 Demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of, and an ability to apply, the techniques of scientific and associated analysis appropriate to forensic science.

BHONSN03 Work safely in a laboratory and perform scientific and associated analysis appropriate to forensic science.

BHONSN04 Critically analyse, review and evaluate scientific and associated information presented in a variety of formats.

BHONSN05 Undertake and carry out an in-depth study into selected topics in forensic science at the level of the primary literature.

BHONSN06 Demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of professional practice in forensic science, and the role of the forensic scientist in the work place.

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.

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. At level 6, students will be expected to employ the practical skills they have learned in a research project in their area of interest.

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 'Introduction to Forensic Science' 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 eDPDs 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 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. 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:

As a Forensic Science graduate, you will 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 the University of Wolverhampton 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.

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.



THE UNIVERSITY OF OPPORTUNITY