

## Course Specification

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## Core Information

<b>Awarding Body / Institution:</b>	University of Wolverhampton		
<b>School / Institute:</b>	Wolverhampton School of Sciences		
<b>Course Code(s):</b>	FS002T01UV FS002T31UV	Full-time Part-time	4 Years 8 Years
<b>UCAS Code:</b>	F411		
<b>Course Title:</b>	BSc (Hons) Forensic Science with Foundation Year		
<b>Hierarchy of Awards:</b>	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 Forensic Science		
<b>Language of Study:</b>	English		
<b>Date of DAG approval:</b>	01/Sep/2017		
<b>Last Review:</b>	2017/8		
<b>Course Specification valid from:</b>	2010/1		
<b>Course Specification valid to:</b>	2023/4		

## Academic Staff

<b>Course Leader:</b>	David Walker
<b>Head of Department:</b>	Georgina Manning

# 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.

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## Entry Requirements:

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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

- DD from A level
- BTEC QCF Extended Diploma grade PPP, BTEC QCF Diploma grade MP
- Pass Access to HE Diploma (Full Award)
- 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](#)

### Other Requirements

Students must have studied a minimum of two years post GCSE level. However, it is expected that some applicants will be mature students with work experience, who wish to further their career development. These applicants will be processed through standard procedures, which may involve an interview as part of the process. Please see <http://wlv.ac.uk/mature> for further information.

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

### Distinctive Features of the Course:

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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.

You can develop the skills and knowledge that you need to study at undergraduate level, building on your strengths and working on your weaknesses, so that you can feel confident that by the end you are ready to commence a degree course, and to apply the skills to undertake the directed and independent learning which will help you to achieve your potential. This will allow you to embark on Level 4 study in an appropriate undergraduate discipline or combined award, confident that you have developed the skills and chosen the most relevant subject area(s) to specialise in, which will allow you to perform strongly at degree level and enhance your career aims.

### Educational Aims of the Course:

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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:

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September

#### Major Source of Funding:

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Office for Students (OFS)

#### Tuition Fees:

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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:

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FS002T01UV (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
06/Sep/2022	06/Sep/2022	06/Sep/2028	

FS002T31UV (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
06/Sep/2022	06/Sep/2022	06/Sep/2028	

Course Structure:

## September (Full-time)

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
3CC004	Problem Solving in Science and Technology	20	SEM1	Core
3PY002	Communication and study skills	20	SEM1	Core
3MM003	Foundation Mathematics I	20	SEM1	Core
3AB003	Fundamentals of Bioscience	20	SEM2	Core
3CH002	Chemistry for Foundation Sciences	20	SEM2	Core
3MM004	Foundation Mathematics II	20	SEM2	Core

## September (Full-time)

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)

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)

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:

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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:

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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:

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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
<b>CERTHE01</b> "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."	
<b>CERTHE02</b> "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."	
<b>CERTHE03</b> Evaluate the appropriateness of different approaches to solving problems related to your area(s) of study and/or work.	
<b>CERTHE04</b> "Communicate the results of your study/work accurately and reliably, and with structured and coherent arguments."	
<b>CERTHE05</b> Demonstrate the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring the exercise of some personal responsibility.	
<b>BHONS01</b> "Demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of, and an ability to apply, the basic scientific and associated principles that underpin the study of forensic science."	
<b>BHONS02</b> "Demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of, and an ability to apply, the techniques of scientific and associated analysis appropriate to forensic science."	
<b>BHONS03</b> Work safely in a laboratory and perform scientific and associated analysis appropriate to forensic science.	
<b>BHONS04</b> "Critically analyse, review and evaluate scientific and associated information presented in a variety of formats."	
<b>BHONS05</b> Undertake and carry out an in-depth research and study into selected topics in forensic science at the level of the primary literature.	
<b>BHONS06</b> 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.	
<b>DIPHE01</b> "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."	
<b>DIPHE02</b> "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"	

Learning Outcomes	Modules
<b>DIPHE03</b> "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."	
<b>DIPHE04</b> "Use a range of established techniques to initiate and undertake critical analysis of information, and to propose solutions to problems arising from that analysis."	
<b>DIPHE05</b> "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."	
<b>DIPHE06</b> "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."	
<b>BHONSN01</b> "Demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of, and an ability to apply, the basic scientific and associated principles that underpin the study of forensic science."	
<b>BHONSN02</b> "Demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of, and an ability to apply, the techniques of scientific and associated analysis appropriate to forensic science."	
<b>BHONSN03</b> Work safely in a laboratory and perform scientific and associated analysis appropriate to forensic science.	
<b>BHONSN04</b> "Critically analyse, review and evaluate scientific and associated information presented in a variety of formats."	
<b>BHONSN05</b> Undertake and carry out an in-depth study into selected topics in forensic science at the level of the primary literature.	
<b>BHONSN06</b> "Demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of professional practice in forensic science, and the role of the forensic scientist in the work place."	
<b>UGCRED01</b> Solve real world problems using mathematical and statistical techniques.	
<b>UGCRED02</b> Communicate scientifically using oral and written skills to provide information to a variety of audiences.	
<b>UGCRED03</b> Demonstrate and apply problem solving skills to a range of scientific and technological scenarios.	
<b>UGCRED04</b> Demonstrate and apply knowledge of a range of scientific and technological subjects.	
<b>UGCRED05</b> Demonstrate personal development in terms of career choice.	

### 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:

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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:

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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](http://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.

## Employability in the Curriculum:

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As a Forensic Science graduate, you will have excellent job prospects. According to [unistats.com](http://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.

