

Course Specification

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Status:	Validated

Core Information

Awarding Body / Institution:	University of Wolverhampton		
School / Institute:	Wolverhampton School of Sciences		
Course Code(s):	FS002T01UV	Full-time	4 Years
	FS002T31UV	Part-time	8 Years
UCAS Code:			
Course Title:	BSc (Hons) Forensic Science with Foundation Year		
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 Foundation and Preparatory Studies Forensic Science		
Language of Study:	English		
Date of DAG approval:	01/Sep/2017		
Last Review:	2017/8		
Course Specification valid from:	2017/8		
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)

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:

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
2023/4	H	Full Time / Sandwich	£9250.00
2023/4	Overseas	Full Time / Sandwich	£14950.00
2023/4	H	Part Time	£4625

PSRB:

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	31/Mar/2029	

FS002T31UV (Part-time)

Professional Accreditation Body:
Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences

Accrediting Body:
Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences

Accreditation Statement:

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Approved	Start	Expected End	Renewal
06/Sep/2022	06/Sep/2022	31/Mar/2029	

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	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:

None.

Reference Points:

This course refers to;

Biosciences and Chemistry subject benchmark statements

The Forensic Science Society accreditation component standards

The Skills for Justice National Occupational Standards for Forensic Science

Equality Act 2010.

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
FY01 Solve real world problems using mathematical and statistical techniques.	
FY02 Communicate scientifically using oral and written skills to provide information to a variety of audiences.	
FY03 Demonstrate and apply problem solving skills to a range of scientific and technological scenarios.	
FY04 Demonstrate and apply knowledge of a range of scientific and technological subjects.	

CERTHE01 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

CERTHE02 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.

CERTHE03 Evaluate the appropriateness of different approaches to solving problems related to your area(s) of study and/or work

CERTHE04 Communicate the results of your study/work accurately and reliably, and with structured and coherent arguments

CERTHE05 Demonstrate the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring the exercise of some personal responsibility

DIPHE02 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.

DIPHE03 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.

DIPHE04 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.

DIPHE05 Use a range of established techniques to initiate and undertake critical analysis of information, and to propose solutions to problems arising from that analysis.

DIPHE06 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.

DIPHE07 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.

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

Modules

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.

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.

Teaching, Learning and Assessment:

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 Libraries](#) are the key source of academic information for students. Libraries provide physical library resources (books, journals, 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. Libraries also provide access to wide range of online information sources, including eBooks, eJournals and subject databases.

Libraries 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 on-line 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:

Aside from lectures, practical-, seminar sessions and other time-tabled activities, student learning in the involved modules will be supported by Canvas pages and the use of learning resource centre as well as on-line resources for recommended and independent study.

On-line materials for each module are available (on Canvas), as well as web-based information on a number of relevant topics, web-based literature databases for comprehensive literature research, and the on-line resources provided by the libraries.

Students are supported in a number of specific ways.

Module-specific support is provided through the module team via face-to-face and electronic tutorials, scheduled drop-in sessions or SAMS appointments (using the Student Appointment Management System) to book sessions with module staff for extra support.

Students are assigned a personal tutor to act as a main "port of call" for students as they progress through the course. The personal tutor typically staying with the student throughout the duration of their studies can oversee their academic progress and can be useful for advising on study skills and any issues that the students raise.

The module 4FS007 Skills for Forensic Science is designed to develop a strong grounding in key skills such as mathematical, statistical, IT, literature searching and literacy skills. This will include use of an e-portfolio, the Undergraduate Skills Recording (USR) tool. This introduces students to the concepts of reflective practice, life-long learning and professional practice. The USR tool focuses on key transferable skills and allows students to assess their strengths and weaknesses and take responsibility for their own development. The use of the USR tool continues throughout levels 5 and 6 and students should use it as a means to identify when and where they need to seek support.

Subject librarians provide additional support in specific literature searching for the Honours project and other modules.

The team of demonstrators (associate teachers) provides drop-in sessions for specific module queries and also more general study skills advice. Feedback from formative and some summative assessments is designed to support learning by assisting the student in identifying and improving areas of weakness, and further developing areas of strength.

Libraries have study skills advisors who can give additional support.

The Faculty of Science and Engineering Student Support Office is a key additional source of support for non-academic related matters.

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