

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):	FS011P01UV FS011P31UV	Full-time Part-time	1 Years 2 Years
Course Title:	MSc Fire Scene Investigation		
Hierarchy of Awards:	Master of Science Fire Scene Investigation Postgraduate Diploma Fire Scene Investigation Postgraduate Certificate Fire Scene Investigation Postgraduate Certificate Fire Scene Investigation University Statement of Credit University Statement of Credit		
Language of Study:	English		
Date of DAG approval:	01/Jun/2017		
Last Review:	2017/8		
Course Specification valid from:	2012/3		
Course Specification valid to:	2023/4		

Academic Staff

Course Leader:	Dr Catherine Tobin
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)

Successful applicants will normally be required to have a 2ii (or better) honours degree in science, engineering, law, forensic or uniformed service. Students with lesser qualifications who can demonstrate relevant experience and knowledge (through APA/APEL) may also be accepted. On occasions students with exceptional backgrounds may be considered suitable for this course. English competence for international applicants should be in-line with University requirements for science-based Masters-level taught degrees (IELTS currently 6.5).

Distinctive Features of the Course:

1. The delivery of the course would involve a partnership between one of the leading centres of fire investigation in the UK and the University. Both partners have an established track record in delivering training and education with a vocational aspect in this area.
2. The Oldbury Fire Investigation facility will allow the student a unique hands-on practical experience that is not offered by any other MSc course in the Midlands region.
3. There are opportunities for experienced fire investigators and forensic scene investigators to fast-track to the MSc.

Educational Aims of the Course:

This course aims to:

- Take students from a diverse range of backgrounds from graduates in fire and forensic degree disciplines through to professional practitioners working in crime scene investigation or fire service and develop an in depth knowledge and understanding of the underlying theories and their practical application in fire investigation.
- provide extensive practical experience of the major techniques, methodologies through direct practical experience in fire investigation.
- Develop your report writing technique to equip you to report to wide variety of stakeholders for a wide variety of purposes within the context of fire investigation.
- Develop your skills at undertaking an independent investigation related to fire investigation.

Intakes:

September

Major Source of Funding:

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	Overseas	Full Time	£13350.00
2020/1	H	Full Time	£10650.00
2020/1	H	Part Time	£5325.00

PSRB:

None

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.

Year 1

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
7FS005	Fire science and building construction	20	IN YR	Core
7FS006	Evidence Gathering at Fire Scenes	20	IN YR	Core
7FS008	Interpretation of fire scenes	20	IN YR	Core
7FS009	Managing the fire scene and report writing	20	IN YR	Core
7AB007	Research Methods	20	IN YR	Core
7FS007	Fire Scene Investigation Practical	20	IN YR	Core
7AB005	Masters Research Project	60	CRYRA	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:

4	Reference points <i>To include consideration of professional body requirements and QAA Subject Benchmarks. This section is to inform students of the national reference points for their course and will be made available through the Course Guide.</i>
QAA subject benchmark (list those used)	There is no QAA subject benchmark for this award. Some of the material is drawn from appropriate subject benchmarks, such as Forensic Science[1] and architecture[2]. However, the award draws on the generic criteria for masters level courses that can be found at: http://www.qaa.ac.uk/Publications/InformationAndGuidance/Documents/MastersDegreeCharacteristics.pdf
Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)	This will be produced with the guidance of UK Quality Code for Higher Education of which the General introduction has been produced. This will replace the set of national reference points known as the Academic Infrastructure from the 2012-13 academic year.
Professional, Statutory & Regulatory Body requirements	None.
Equality Act (2010)	As described in University and School documentation. Some parts of this course may not be suitable for students who have special needs. The practical part of the course would not be able to be taken by colour blindness, hearing impaired, visually impaired and some types of mobility impairment as defined in Fire Service working regulations. Students applying for this course should be made aware of this on application. https://www.gov.uk/equality-act-2010-guidance Accessed April 2013.
School documents	School of Applied Sciences: Assessment Handbook. Staff Guide to Procedure and Practice 2005
Other (please list)	Forensic Science Society's postgraduate diploma in Fire Investigation.[3]

Learning Outcomes:

PGCert Course Learning Outcome 1 (PGCCLO1)

Demonstrate a systematic understanding of knowledge, and a critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights, much of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of your academic discipline, field of study or area of professional practice with a conceptual understanding that enables the student: a) to evaluate critically current research and advanced scholarship in the discipline b) to evaluate methodologies and develop critiques of them and, where appropriate, to propose new hypotheses.

PGCert Course Learning Outcome 2 (PGCCLO2)

Demonstrate originality in the application of knowledge, together with a practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in the discipline

PGCert Course Learning Outcome 3 (PGCCLO3)

Ability to deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively, make sound judgements in the absence of complete data, and communicate your conclusions clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences.

PGCert Course Learning Outcome 4 (PGCCLO4)

Demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level.

PGCert Course Learning Outcome 5 (PGCCLO5)

Demonstrate the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring: (a) the exercise of initiative and personal responsibility (b) decision-making in complex and unpredictable situations (c) the independent learning ability required for continuing professional development.

PGDip Course Learning Outcome 1 (PGDCL01)

Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of techniques applicable to your own research or advanced scholarship and ability to continue to advance your knowledge and understanding, and to develop new skills to a high level.

PGDip Course Learning Outcome 2 (PGDCL02)

Demonstrate originality in the application of knowledge, together with a practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in the discipline.

PGDip Course Learning Outcome 3 (PGDCL03)

Ability to deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively, make sound judgements in the absence of complete data, and communicate your conclusions clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences.

PGDip Course Learning Outcome 4 (PGDCL04)

Demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level.

PGDip Course Learning Outcome 5 (PGDCL05)

Demonstrate the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring: (a) the exercise of initiative and personal responsibility (b) decision-making in complex and unpredictable situations (c) the independent learning ability required for continuing professional development.

PGDip Course Learning Outcome 6 (PGDCL06)

Demonstrate the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring: (a) the exercise of initiative and personal responsibility (b) decision-making in complex and unpredictable situations (c) the independent learning ability required for continuing professional development.

Masters Course Learning Outcome 1 (MACLO1)

Apply a systematic understanding of the underpinning science, technology and legal issues that informs fire investigation.

Masters Course Learning Outcome 2 (MACLO2)

Demonstrate a comprehensive knowledge of the investigative techniques and the current tools used in fire investigation.

Masters Course Learning Outcome 3 (MACLO3)

Critically evaluate current research and methodologies in fire investigation.

Masters Course Learning Outcome 4 (MACLO4)

Show originality in the application of knowledge, together with a practical understanding of how established

techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in fire investigation.

Masters Course Learning Outcome 5 (MACLO5)

Demonstrate the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring: (a) the exercise of initiative and personal responsibility (b) decision-making in complex and unpredictable situations (c) the independent learning ability required for continuing professional development.

Masters Course Learning Outcome 6 (MACLO6)

Demonstrate the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring: (a) the exercise of initiative and personal responsibility (b) decision-making in complex and unpredictable situations (c) the independent learning ability required for continuing professional development.

Overview of Assessment:

Module	Title	Course Learning Outcomes
7AB005	Masters Research Project	MACLO2, MACLO3, MACLO4, MACLO5, MACLO6
7AB007	Research Methods	MACLO2, MACLO3, MACLO4, MACLO5, MACLO6, PGCCLO2, PGCCLO3, PGCCLO4, PGCCLO5, PGDCLO2, PGDCLO3, PGDCLO4, PGDCLO5, PGDCLO6
7FS005	Fire science and building construction	MACLO1, MACLO2, MACLO3, MACLO4, MACLO5, MACLO6, PGCCLO1, PGCCLO2, PGCCLO3, PGCCLO4, PGCCLO5, PGDCLO1, PGDCLO2, PGDCLO3, PGDCLO4, PGDCLO5, PGDCLO6
7FS006	Evidence Gathering at Fire Scenes	MACLO1, MACLO2, MACLO3, MACLO4, MACLO5, MACLO6, PGCCLO1, PGCCLO2, PGCCLO3, PGCCLO4, PGCCLO5, PGDCLO1, PGDCLO2, PGDCLO3, PGDCLO4, PGDCLO5, PGDCLO6
7FS007	Fire Scene Investigation Practical	MACLO1, MACLO5, MACLO6, PGCCLO1, PGCCLO4, PGCCLO5, PGDCLO1, PGDCLO5, PGDCLO6
7FS008	Interpretation of fire scenes	MACLO1, MACLO2, MACLO5, MACLO6, PGCCLO1, PGCCLO2, PGCCLO3, PGCCLO4, PGCCLO5, PGDCLO1, PGDCLO2, PGDCLO5, PGDCLO6
7FS009	Managing the fire scene and report writing	MACLO1, MACLO2, MACLO3, MACLO4, MACLO5, MACLO6, PGCCLO1, PGCCLO2, PGCCLO3, PGCCLO4, PGCCLO5, PGDCLO1, PGDCLO2, PGDCLO3, PGDCLO4, PGDCLO5, PGDCLO6

Teaching, Learning and Assessment:

- Lectures to provide research and practice-based comprehension of the major areas of Fire Investigation to an advanced level including the primary concepts of fire related science and technology.
- Tutorials to apply understanding gained in lectures on research or case-based issues.
- Case Studies to provide formative assessment and feedback
- Practical sessions to develop key scene investigation and interpretive skills.
- Fire Scene Simulation activities
- Seminars to allow exchange of ideas and knowledge with peers and with tutors.
- Workshops to develop team approaches to fire investigation.
- Research project to enhance practical research skills, problem-solving abilities and competencies to analyse, evaluate and present research.

The Development of Graduate Attributes

Global Citizenship

Throughout the course, students will consider the role fire investigation 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 in fire investigation, which will be developed in particular throughout all of the modules.

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 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 fire investigation through all the subject specific module content. In addition, the development of transferable skills improves and enhances employability beyond the field of fire investigation, and indeed science in general. All modules develop employability skills by providing a professional practice approach to fire investigation but nowhere will this be more exemplified than in the Practical module, 7FS007.

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:

Tutor support is available formally through timetabled tutorials. Demonstrators are available for individual appointments to assist with generic study skills. Electronic support is available via VLE. Academic skills are developed through feedback on assessments and through individual appointments available with tutors.

LIS provide a range of information & academic skills support at www.wlv.ac.uk/lib/skills

Employability in the Curriculum:

The applied nature of this course means that a number of career paths are available including:

- Crime scene investigators.
- Fire Investigators working for Fire Services.

- Independent Fire Investigators working for a range of insurance companies.

The MSc also provides suitable preparation for further research/professional study at Doctoral level leading to a PhD or Professional doctorate (DBMS).



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