

Course Specification

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Produced By:	Oliver Jones
Status:	Validated

Core Information

Awarding Body / Institution:	University of Wolverhampton		
School / Institute:	Wolverhampton School of Sciences		
Course Code(s):	FS013Q01UV	Full-time	4 Years
	FS013Q31UV	Part-time	8 Years
Course Title:	MSci (Hons) Forensic Science		
Hierarchy of Awards:	Master in Science with Honours Forensic Science 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:	24/May/2017		
Last Review:	2017/8		
Course Specification valid from:	2012/3		
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 ABB or AAC to include Chemistry and Biology.
- BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Applied Science grade DDM.
- 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 [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:

The University of Wolverhampton has a long-standing reputation for the provision of training in Forensic Science at undergraduate level. In particular, the undergraduate course has full accreditation from the Forensic Science Society, and recognition from the Royal Society of Chemistry. The University has recently developed a number of successful Forensic masters courses and the MSci in Forensic Science degree is a four year undergraduate qualification where the final year is taught entirely at Masters level. This course gives a broad education in Forensic science before allowing the student to specialize at Masters level in a variety of Forensic areas, thus preparing students for a career in modern Forensic Science.

The course has been designed to be at the forefront in the development of applied Forensic Science techniques and investigations. The research-active staff team provide a highly research-focused environment which informs both teaching and the students' own research projects. The key difference between the level 6 and IM project is the IM project builds directly from the investigation outcomes of the level 6 preliminary project to allow both longer term development and depth.

Educational Aims of the Course:

The Master in Forensic Science degree is a four year undergraduate degree where the final year is studied completely at Masters level. This course gives a broad education in the core areas of Forensic Science. It introduces students to the latest developments in the Forensic Science and investigation and develops key practical and research skills. Once a thorough education in a broad range of Forensic Science has been accomplished in the first three years, this course allows you to study forensic science in more depth by specialising in areas such as identification of human remains or forensic mark analysis. Research projects are linked to active research within the University. Employment is available in large and small forensic companies, the police, scene of crime units and analytical companies. This Masters course can lead to careers

in research and further study at PhD level.

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

PSRB:

FS013Q01UV (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
08/Mar/2017	08/Mar/2017	07/Mar/2023	07/Mar/2023

FS013Q31UV (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
08/Mar/2017	08/Mar/2017	07/Mar/2023	07/Mar/2023

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
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)

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

September (Full-time)

Year 3

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

September (Full-time)

Year 4

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
7FS014	Integrated Masters Project (40 credits)	40	IN YR	Core

For this option group you must choose a minimum of 40 credits and a maximum of 40 credits

7FS010	Introduction to Forensic Mark Comparison	20	IN YR
7FS011	Fingerprint identification, CCTV comparison and NABIS	20	IN YR
7FS002	Forensic Genetics	20	IN YR
7FS019	Forensic Entomology and Taphonomy	20	IN YR

For this option group you must choose a minimum of 40 credits and a maximum of 40 credits

7FS001	Forensic Anthropology	20	IN YR
7FS003	Human Identification from Physical Characteristics	20	IN YR
7FS020	Investigating Drug Crime: From Scene to Court	20	IN YR

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:

Section 1.2.8. Exemption to permit 1 x 40 credit Project Module at both levels 6 and 7.

Approved by Chairs Action 17/03/16. Ratified by AFRSC 05/04/2016.

Effective Date: September 2016.

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:

CertHE Course Learning Outcome 1 (CHECLO1)

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

CertHE Course Learning Outcome 2 (CHECLO2)

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.

CertHE Course Learning Outcome 3 (CHECLO3)

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

CertHE Course Learning Outcome 4 (CHECLO4)

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

CertHE Course Learning Outcome 5 (CHECLO5)

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

DipHE Course Learning Outcome 1 (DHECLO1)

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

DipHE Course Learning Outcome 2 (DHECLO2)

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

DipHE Course Learning Outcome 3 (DHECLO3)

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

DipHE Course Learning Outcome 4 (DHECLO4)

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

DipHE Course Learning Outcome 5 (DHECLO5)

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

DipHE Course Learning Outcome 6 (DHECLO6)

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

Ordinary Degree Course Learning Outcome 1 (ORDCLO1)

Demonstrate a systematic understanding of key aspects of your field of study, including acquisition of coherent and detailed knowledge, at least some of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of defined aspects of a discipline with an appreciation of the uncertainty, ambiguity and limits of knowledge

Ordinary Degree Course Learning Outcome 2 (ORDCLO2)

Demonstrate an ability to deploy accurately established techniques of analysis and enquiry within a discipline and apply the methods and techniques that they have learned to review, consolidate, extend and apply your knowledge and understanding, and to initiate and carry out projects.

Ordinary Degree Course Learning Outcome 3 (ORDCLO3)

Demonstrate conceptual understanding that enables the student: (a) to devise and sustain arguments, and/or to solve problems, using ideas and techniques, some of which are at the forefront of a discipline (b) to describe and comment upon particular aspects of current research, or equivalent advanced scholarship, in the discipline

Ordinary Degree Course Learning Outcome 4 (ORDCLO4)

Demonstrate the ability to manage your own learning, and to make use of scholarly reviews and primary sources (for example, refereed research articles and/or original materials appropriate to the discipline) and communicate information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialist and non-specialist audiences.

Ordinary Degree Course Learning Outcome 5 (ORDCLO5)

Critically evaluate arguments, assumptions, abstract concepts and data (that may be incomplete), to make judgements, and to frame appropriate questions to achieve a solution - or identify a range of solutions - to a problem

Ordinary Degree Course Learning Outcome 6 (ORDCLO6)

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 contexts (c) the learning ability needed to undertake appropriate further training of a professional or equivalent nature.

Honours Degree Course Learning Outcome 1 (DEGCLO1)

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

Honours Degree Course Learning Outcome 2 (DEGCLO2)

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

Honours Degree Course Learning Outcome 3 (DEGCLO3)

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

Honours Degree Course Learning Outcome 4 (DEGCLO4)

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

Honours Degree Course Learning Outcome 5 (DEGCLO5)

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

Honours Degree Course Learning Outcome 6 (DEGCLO6)

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.

Integrated Masters Course Learning Outcome 1 (IMACLO1)

Demonstrate a systematic knowledge and understanding of Forensic Science

Integrated Masters Course Learning Outcome 2 (IMACLO2)

Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the practical, professional and/or research skills necessary for working as a Forensic Scientist

Integrated Masters Course Learning Outcome 3 (IMACLO3)

Demonstrate the intellectual skills of handling complex issues systematically and creatively enabling originality in problem solving. To evaluate critically current research and advanced scholarship

Integrated Masters Course Learning Outcome 4 (IMACLO4)

Demonstrate understanding of latest developments in Forensic science and forensic investigations, and have a critical awareness of their applications to fields such as human identification and tool mark analysis

Integrated Masters Course Learning Outcome 5 (IMACLO5)

Exhibit postgraduate generic skills of initiative and personal responsibility, enabling independent decision making. Independent learning skills allowing continuing professional development. Effective communication and numerical skills

Overview of Assessment:

Module	Title	Course Learning Outcomes
4BC001	Chemistry for Forensic and Molecular Science	CHECLO1, CHECLO2, CHECLO3, CHECLO4, CHECLO5
4BC003	Cell Biology and Genetics	CHECLO1, CHECLO2, CHECLO3, CHECLO4, CHECLO5
4FS004	Introduction to Forensic Analysis	CHECLO1, CHECLO2, CHECLO3, CHECLO4, CHECLO5
4FS005	Introduction to Forensic Toxicology	CHECLO1, CHECLO2, CHECLO3, CHECLO4, CHECLO5
4FS008	Fundamentals of Forensic Science	CHECLO1, CHECLO2, CHECLO3, CHECLO4, CHECLO5
4FS009	Methods in Forensic Science	CHECLO1, CHECLO2, CHECLO3, CHECLO4, CHECLO5
5AB017	Sandwich Placement	DHECLO1, DHECLO2, DHECLO3, DHECLO4, DHECLO5, DHECLO6
5FS001	Crime Scene Investigation	DHECLO1, DHECLO2, DHECLO3, DHECLO4, DHECLO5, DHECLO6
5FS002	Forensic Biology & Anthropology (FB I.I)	DHECLO1, DHECLO2, DHECLO3, DHECLO4, DHECLO5, DHECLO6
5FS003	Forensic Analysis and Toxicology	DHECLO1, DHECLO2, DHECLO3, DHECLO4, DHECLO5, DHECLO6
5FS006	Crime Scene Practice	DHECLO1, DHECLO2, DHECLO3, DHECLO4, DHECLO5, DHECLO6
5FS010	Trace Evidence	DHECLO1, DHECLO2, DHECLO3, DHECLO4, DHECLO5, DHECLO6
5FS013	Physical Evidence	DHECLO1, DHECLO2, DHECLO3, DHECLO4, DHECLO5, DHECLO6
6FS002	Quality Assurance in Forensic Science	DEGCLO2, DEGCLO4, DEGCLO5, ORDCLO2, ORDCLO4, ORDCLO5
6FS005	Advanced Forensic Chemical Analysis	DEGCLO2, DEGCLO4, DEGCLO5, ORDCLO2, ORDCLO4, ORDCLO5
6FS008	Advanced Forensic Biology and Pathology	DEGCLO4, DEGCLO5, DEGCLO6, ORDCLO4, ORDCLO5, ORDCLO6
6FS009	The Expert Witness	DEGCLO4, DEGCLO6, ORDCLO4, ORDCLO6
6FS010	Honours Project (Forensic Science)	DEGCLO3, DEGCLO4, DEGCLO5, ORDCLO3, ORDCLO4, ORDCLO5
7FS001	Forensic Anthropology	IMACLO1, IMACLO3, IMACLO4, IMACLO5
7FS002	Forensic Genetics	IMACLO1, IMACLO2, IMACLO3, IMACLO4, IMACLO5
7FS003	Human Identification from Physical Characteristics	IMACLO1, IMACLO3, IMACLO4, IMACLO5
7FS010	Introduction to Forensic Mark Comparison	IMACLO1, IMACLO2, IMACLO3, IMACLO4
7FS011	Fingerprint identification, CCTV comparison and NABIS	IMACLO1, IMACLO2, IMACLO3, IMACLO4
7FS014	Integrated Masters Project (40 credits)	IMACLO1, IMACLO2, IMACLO3, IMACLO4, IMACLO5
7FS019	Forensic Entomology and Taphonomy	IMACLO1, IMACLO2, IMACLO3, IMACLO4, IMACLO5
7FS020	Investigating Drug Crime: From Scene to Court	IMACLO1, IMACLO2, IMACLO3, IMACLO4, IMACLO5

Teaching, Learning and Assessment:

- Lectures to provide research and practice-based comprehension of the major areas of Forensic Science to an advanced level. Introduction and development of programming and database processing.
- Tutorials initially to ensure thorough understanding of topics, and then to focus on research or case-based issues.
- Practicals to develop key laboratory and crime scene skills.

- Seminars to allow exchange of ideas and knowledge with peers and with tutors.
- Workshops to develop practical skills such as information and data-handling.
- Research project to enhance practical research skills, problem-solving abilities and competencies to analyse, evaluate and present research.

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.

Employability in the Curriculum:

Graduates who have obtained the Masters will be eligible to seek employment in the following areas:

- Scene of Crime Officer
- Police
- Fire Investigation
- Public Health Laboratory Service (PHLS)/ microbiology laboratories
- Veterinary and agricultural laboratories
- Forensic laboratories
- Private Pathology Service Laboratories
- Research Laboratories
- Industrial Science roles
- Pharmaceutical Industry roles
- Further Study

The Masters also provides suitable preparation for further research/professional study at Doctoral level

leading to a PhD or Professional doctorate (DBMS).



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