

Prifysgol Wreccsam Wrexham University

Module specification

When printed this becomes an uncontrolled document. Please access the Module Directory for the most up to date version by clicking on the following link: [Module directory](#)

Module Code	POL608
Module Title	Police Investigations 2
Level	6
Credit value	20
Faculty	Social and Life Science
HECoS Code	100484
Cost Code	GACJ
Pre-requisite module	None

Programmes in which module to be offered

Programme title	Core/Optional/Standalone
BSc (Hons) Professional Policing	Core

Breakdown of module hours

Learning and teaching hours	24 hrs
Placement tutor support hours	0 hrs
Supervised learning hours e.g. practical classes, workshops	0 hrs
Project supervision hours	0 hrs
Active learning and teaching hours total	24 hrs
Placement hours	0 hrs
Guided independent study hours	176 hrs
Module duration (Total hours)	200 hrs

Module aims

This module aims to develop students' understanding of police investigations and apply an advanced knowledge of police investigations and suspect, victim and witness interviewing processes.

Module Learning Outcomes

At the end of this module, students will be able to:

1	Critically evaluate Complex Investigation Techniques and the Importance of Continuous Learning from previous investigations.
2	Apply Specialist Knowledge in Conducting Interviews.
3	Critically examine how to optimise Victim and Witness Care in Investigations.
4	Critically assess investigations through Specialist Collaboration.

Assessment

Indicative Assessment Tasks:

This section outlines the type of assessment task the student will be expected to complete as part of the module. More details will be made available in the relevant academic year module handbook.

Assessment 1:

Students will conduct an in-depth review of a complex investigation, focusing on the investigative techniques employed and the role of specialist collaboration in achieving the investigation's objectives. Words: 1500.

Assessment 2:

Plan an ABE interview with vulnerable victim of crime and complete a Special Measures Assessment form, MG2 for that vulnerable victim (15 minutes).

Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Duration/Word Count	Weighting (%)	Alternative assessment, if applicable
1	1 & 4	Written Assignment	1500 words	50%	N/A
2	2 & 3	Coursework	N/A	50%	N/A

Derogations

Module cannot be compensated or condoned on BSc (Hons) Professional Policing.

All elements of the assessments must be passed at 40% on the BSc (Hons) Professional Policing.

Learning and Teaching Strategies

The learning and teaching strategy are grounded in the University's commitment to an Active Learning Framework (ALF) so that learning will be both accessible and active and include synchronous and a-synchronous elements. Face to face classroom teaching will be supplemented by online lectures wherein students will be expected to complete activities such as watching Panopto videos; undertake Other Indicative Reading; complete quizzes and exercises; and post comment for a-synchronous debate. These activities will be the subject of formative feedback by the module tutor. Added to this, will be access to staff who provide presence, challenge and support for student learning and can relate learning to real world uses.

Welsh Elements

Students can present their work, access forms, resources, email correspondence, placement support and personal tutorials in Welsh.

Indicative Syllabus Outline

- Actions associated with 'serious and complex' investigations
 - Case discussions prior to engaging relevant police or external specialist(s)
 - Considerations / actions associated with first-hand, delayed, third-party or anonymous reporting.
 - Role of internal specialists and their differing response to volume and complex crime
 - Additional strategies that may be required to support the investigation.
 - Considerations and procedures regarding recording interview(s) in complex cases
 - Covert methods and their use in an investigation
 - Importance of operational learning e.g., personal reflective practice and learning
-
- Complexities associated with interviews and how to address these
 - Skills and behaviours of interviewers, including how these would need to be employed, depending on the nature of the investigation.
 - How to interview vulnerable, intimidated, significant witnesses.
 - Best practice, and the use of the Victims' Code when working with victims and witnesses.
 - Impact of poly-victimisation and multi-victimisation on victims and witnesses, including when they are not dealt with appropriately from the outset of an investigation.
 - Considerations for taking an initial account from victims and witnesses ensuring that concerns are taken seriously, and victims feel 'believed', including:
 - How to work with victims e.g., special measures, withdrawal of support for the prosecution, retraction or partial retraction
 - Victim's right to review.
 - Ongoing processes for witness management in complex cases
 - Dealing with a witness who becomes a suspect in complex investigations.
 - Measures available to protect victims and witnesses.
 - Actions and options available to help victims, safeguard and prevent victimisation.

- The choices and autonomy available to victims in pursuing an outcome and what to do should they not support, or wish to pursue, a formal criminal justice outcome.
- Psychological and physiological influences on memory (including impact of trauma)
- Different methodologies for conducting an interview i.e., cognitive / enhanced cognitive.
- Types of reviews, statutory, or non-statutory, including cold case reviews

Indicative Bibliography

Please note the essential reads and other indicative reading are subject to annual review and update.

Essential Reads:

College of Policing (2013) College of Policing Authorised Professional Practice – Investigations. <https://www.college.police.uk/app/investigation>

College of Policing (2023) *College of Policing Authorised Professional Practice – Working with victims and witnesses* - <https://www.college.police.uk/app/investigation/working-victims-and-witnesses>

Newburn, T., Williamson, T., and Wright, A. (eds) (2007) *Handbook of Criminal Investigation*. Abingdon: Willan Publishing.

O'Neill, M (2018) *Key Challenges in Criminal Investigation*. London: Palgrave

Other indicative reading:

Hibbitt, S., Shaw, G., and Cook, T. (2023) *Blackstone's Crime Investigators' Handbook*. Third edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Ministry of Justice (2023) – Achieving best evidence in criminal proceedings. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/achieving-best-evidence-in-criminal-proceedings>

Administrative Information

For office use only	
Initial approval date	15 th August 2024
With effect from date	September 2024
Date and details of revision	May 2025 – AM0 removal of CoP mapping details. June 2026 – AM2 to update individual module assessment type which does not affect the overall programme level assessment strategy.
Version number	3