

Module specification

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Refer to guidance notes for completion of each section of the specification.

Module Code	POL608
Module Title	Police Investigations 2
Level	6
Credit value	20
Faculty	Social and Life Science
HECoS Code	100484
Cost Code	GACJ

Programmes in which module to be offered.

Programme title	Is the module core or option for this programme
BSc (Hons) Professional Policing	Core

Pre-requisites

None

Breakdown of module hours

Learning and teaching hours	24 hrs
Placement tutor support	0 hrs
Supervised learning e.g. practical classes, workshops	0 hrs
Project supervision (level 6 projects and dissertation modules only)	0 hrs
Total active learning and teaching hours	24 hrs
Placement / work based learning	0 hrs
Guided independent study	176 hrs
Module duration (total hours)	200 hrs

For office use only	
Initial approval date	15 th August 2024
With effect from date	September 2024
Date and details of revision	
Version number	1

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	<p>Critically evaluate Complex Investigation Techniques and the Importance of Continuous Learning from previous investigations.</p> <p>NPC mapping</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Conducting Investigations</u>: Understand the additional actions in relation to specific complex investigations: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7. • <u>Conducting Investigations</u>: Explain the importance of applying learning from previous investigations (and/or interviewing) to future investigations: 2.1. • <u>Conducting Investigations</u> Understand the additional investigative actions that may be required according to the complexity of the investigation: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4. •
2	<p>Apply Specialist Knowledge in Conducting Interviews.</p> <p>NPC mapping</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Conducting Investigations</u> Understand the importance of specialist knowledge when conducting interviews.2.1, 2.2. •
3	<p>Critically examine how to optimise Victim and Witness Care in Investigations</p> <p>NPC mapping:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Conducting Investigations</u>: Identify specific considerations when interviewing victims/witnesses: 5.1. • <u>Victims and Witnesses</u>: Understand the best practice when dealing with the individual needs of victims and witnesses 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.6a • <u>Victims and Witnesses</u> Understand the options available to protect and support victims and witnesses.4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4. • <u>Conducting Investigations</u> Understand the importance of the concept of memory upon interview methods and processes: 6.1, 6.2. • <u>Victims and Witnesses</u> Understand the intricacies associated with victim and witness care during a complex investigation: 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4.
4	<p>Critically assess investigations through Specialist Collaboration-</p> <p>NPC mapping</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Conducting Investigations</u>: Describe the importance of liaising with specialists in relation to complex live or cold cases: 3.1

Assessment

Indicative Assessment Tasks:

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 and conduct an ABE interview with vulnerable victim of crime.

(15 minutes)

Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Weighting (%)
1	1 & 4	Written Assignment	50%
2	2 & 3	Practical	50%

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.

Indicative Syllabus Outline

LO1 - Critically evaluate Complex Investigation Techniques and the Importance of Continuous Learning from previous investigations.

- 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

LO2 - Apply Specialist Knowledge in Conducting Interviews.

- 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.

LO3 - Critically examine how to optimise Victim and Witness Care in Investigations

- 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.

LO4 - Critically assess investigations through Specialist Collaboration

- 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>