

Module specification

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Module Code	SCI431
Module Title	Crime Scene Investigation
Level	4
Credit value	20
Faculty	FSLS
HECoS Code	101222
Cost Code	GAFS
Pre-requisite module	N/A

Programmes in which module to be offered

Programme title	Core/Optional/Standalone
BSc (Hons) Forensic Science	Core
BSc (Hons) Forensic Science with Placement Year	Core

Breakdown of module hours

Learning and teaching hours	12 hrs
Placement tutor support hours	0 hrs
Supervised learning hours e.g. practical classes, workshops	24 hrs
Project supervision hours	0 hrs
Active learning and teaching hours total	36 hrs
Placement hours	0 hrs
Guided independent study hours	164 hrs
Module duration (Total hours)	200 hrs

Module aims

The aim of this module is to introduce students to observation, recording and preservation of crime scenes and evidence. This module will develop knowledge of anti-contamination strategies implemented at crime scenes in order to preserve forensic evidence in line with ISO17020. Practical experience in the collection of fingerprints, the correct use of sterile swabs and tape lifts, along with how to collect marks and impression evidence, will be gained. Students will also be taught how to accurately record the crime scene using diagrams, photographs and contemporaneous notes.

Module Learning Outcomes

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

1	Follow anti-contamination strategies in line with industry standards when processing a crime scene.
2	Recover appropriate types of evidence.
3	List key risks present at a given crime scene.
4	Identify remedial actions required to minimise risks present at a given crime scene.
5	Accurately document a given crime scene using the provided template.
6	Complete an evidence log for a given crime scene.
7	Draw a detailed sketch of the crime scene.

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 process a simulated crime scene in line with industry standards. Students will be assessed on their ability to locate and recover different evidence types and their understanding and use of anti-contamination strategies.

Assessment 2: Based on the simulation students will produce an industry style crime scene report which will typically include photographs, evidence log and sketch.

Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Duration/Word Count	Weighting (%)	Alternative assessment, if applicable
1	1 & 2	Practical	Two hours	Pass / refer	N/A
2	3 - 7	Written Assignment	1,500 words	100	N/A

Derogations

N/A



Learning and Teaching Strategies

Students will be immersed in a large number of practical sessions in specialist teaching facilities including the laboratory and the Crime Scene House. These sessions will provide students with experience processing crime scenes in line with industry standards, including anti-contamination strategies, assessing risks, as well as gaining experience in the search, identification and documentation of scenes. Students will also gain theoretical knowledge in a series of seminars and through online resources and directed study

Welsh Elements

Students will be able to submit their work through the medium of Welsh. Students will receive introductory Welsh lessons suitable for police staff.

Indicative Syllabus Outline

- Anti-contamination strategies
- Different evidence types
- Documenting crime scenes (sketches, photography, contamination avoidance and contemporaneous notes)
- Preservation of evidence
- Priority sequence of evidence recovery
- ISO17020
- Roles, responsibilities and liabilities
- Introductory language skills for CSIs working in Wales
- Systematic search and recovery techniques
- Recovering and recording reference and control samples
- Crime scene complexity
- Value of information
- Chain of custody
- Major and volume crimes

Indicative Bibliography

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

Essential Reads:

Sutton, R., Trueman K. & Moran, C. (2017), Crime Scene Management: Scene Specific Methods, 3rd Edition, Chichester: John Wiley & Sons

Other indicative reading:

ISO/IEC 17020:2012(en) Conformity assessment — Requirements for the operation of various types of bodies performing inspection.



Langford, A.M., Dean, J., Reed, R., Weyers, J. & Holmes, D.A. (2019), Practical Skills in Forensic Science, 3rd Edition, London: Pearson.

Weiss, S.L. (2022), Handbook of Forensic Photography, 1st Edition, Florida: CRC Press.

White, P.C. (2016), Crime Scene to Court: The Essentials of Forensic Science, 4th Edition, London: Royal Society of Chemistry

Welsh Language development:

Gruffudd, H. (2018), Learn Welsh – Phrasebook & Basic Grammar, Wales: Y Lolfa.

Lewis, D.G. (2018), DIY Welsh: Your step-by-step guide to building Welsh sentences, Wales: Gomer Press.

North Wales Police & North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner (2018), Welsh Language Strategy

Administrative Information

For office use only	
Initial approval date	10/05/2023
With effect from date	Sept 2023
Date and details of revision	07.01.2026: Major Modification to change the module learning outcomes and indicative syllabus outline.
Version number	2

