

Module specification

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NOTE: This module has some bilingual delivery and so this specification will also be made available in Welsh.

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|--------------|--|
| Module Code | SCI651 |
| Module Title | Professional Practice & the Expert Witness |
| Level | 6 |
| Credit value | 20 |
| Faculty | FAST |
| HECoS Code | 100388 |
| Cost Code | GAFS |

Programmes in which module to be offered

| Programme title | Is the module core or option for this programme |
|---|---|
| BSc (Hons) Forensic Science | Core |
| BSc (Hons) Forensic Science with Placement Year | Core |

Pre-requisites

None

Breakdown of module hours

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Learning and teaching hours | 12 hrs |
| Placement tutor support | 0 hrs |
| Supervised learning e.g. practical classes, workshops | 12 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 | 10/05/2023 |
| With effect from date | September 2023 |
| Date and details of revision | |
| Version number | 1 |

Module aims

This module aims to consolidate learning from across the course to allow students to better understand the role forensic science can play in the wider criminal justice system. By following a simulated case from the crime scene through to the court room student will better understand the professional, legal, and regulatory frameworks that govern expert witnesses whilst conducting and presenting expert testimony of their own.

Module Learning Outcomes - at the end of this module, students will be able to:

| | |
|---|--|
| 1 | Demonstrate advanced knowledge of concepts, principles and theories relating to a specialist area of forensic science. |
| 2 | Compose an industry style expert witness report to communicate the analysis of forensic evidence. |
| 3 | Express awareness of key concepts underpinning the expectations of the expert witness and their use of evidence in criminal cases. |
| 4 | Present and defend scientific findings through oral testimony in professional manner suitable for the court room. |
| 5 | Devise appropriate expert responses to a range of questions posed during a cross examination process. |

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: Written Assignment (~1500 words)

Students will write an expert witness report based on a simulated case

Assessment 2: Oral Assessment (15 minutes)

Students will participate in a Mock Court assessment where they will be cross examined on the report produced in Assessment 1

| Assessment number | Learning Outcomes to be met | Type of assessment | Weighting (%) |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| 1 | 1-3 | Written Assignment | 50% |
| 2 | 3-5 | Oral Assessment | 50% |

Derogations

None

Learning and Teaching Strategies

In line with the University's Active Learning Framework, teaching on this module will include:

Case studies: analysing real-world forensic archaeology cases, helping students understand the practical application of the techniques and methods they are learning.

Role-playing and simulated scenarios: helping students develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills by placing them in realistic, simulated forensic scenarios.

Collaborative learning: encouraging students to work in groups or pairs to analyse data and interpret findings, providing an opportunity for peer-to-peer teaching and learning.

Online resources: using online resources such as videos, podcasts, articles, or discussion boards to supplement classroom instruction and provide additional resources for students to explore.

Self-directed learning: providing students with the opportunity to research and develop their own topics or projects, with guidance and support from the instructor.

Indicative Syllabus Outline

- Forensic Regulation
- Professional Practice Standards & Accreditation
- Admissibility of Evidence
- Responsibilities of Experts
- Interpretation and Evaluation of Evidence
- Bayesian Statistics
- Expert Report Writing
- Presentation of Evidence
- Experts in the Courtroom
- Welsh for working professionals
- The Welsh Language in law and the Court

Indicative Bibliography:

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

Essential Reads

White, P.C. (2020), *Crime Scene to Court: The Essentials of Forensic Science*, Cambridge: Royal Society of Chemistry.

Other indicative reading

Hackman, S.L., Raitt, F. & Black, S. (2019), *The Expert Witness, Forensic Science, and the Criminal Justice Systems of the UK*, Boca Raton: Taylor & Francis.

Richmond, K.M. (2022), *Marketisation and Forensic Science Provision in England and Wales*, Bingley: Emerald Publishing Limited.

Stockdale, M. & Roberts, P. (2018), *Forensic Science Evidence and Expert Witness Testimony: Reliability Through Reform?*, Cheltenham: Edward Elgar Publishing, Incorporated.

Welsh language development

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*.

Welsh language Commissioners Web page: www.welshlanguagecommissioner.wales
Williams, Rh. & Jewell, Rh. (2022), *Y Gymraeg a Gweithle'r Gymru Gyfoes*, Wales: University of Wales Press

Various sections of legislation will also be key for this module and will be sign posted

Employability skills – the Glyndŵr Graduate

Each module and programme is designed to cover core Glyndŵr Graduate Attributes with the aim that each Graduate will leave Glyndŵr having achieved key employability skills as part of their study. The following attributes will be covered within this module either through the content or as part of the assessment. The programme is designed to cover all attributes and each module may cover different areas.

Core Attributes

Engaged
Creative
Ethical

Key Attitudes

Commitment
Curiosity
Resilience
Confidence
Adaptability

Practical Skillsets

Digital Fluency
Organisation
Leadership and Team working
Critical Thinking
Emotional Intelligence
Communication