Module specification

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

Module Code	SCI431
Module Title	Crime Scene Investigation
Level	4
Credit value	20
Faculty	FAST
HECoS Code	101222
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	24 hrs
Project supervision (level 6 projects and dissertation modules only)	0 hrs
Total active learning and teaching hours	**36** hrs
Placement / work based learning	0 hrs
Guided independent study	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 crimes 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	Locate and recover different types of physical evidence.
2	Use anti-contamination strategies in line with industry standards when processing a crime scene.
3	List key risks present at a given crime scene and any remedial actions required.
4	Accurately record and document a given 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: Practical (2 hours)
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: Written Assignment (~1,500 words)
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	Weighting (%)
1	1-2	Practical	Pass/Refer
2	3-4	Written Assignment	100

Derogations

None

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.

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
- Forensic photography
- Roles, responsibilities, and liabilities
- Introductory language skills for CSI's 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.*

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
Ethical

Key Attitudes

Commitment
Curiosity
Resilience
Confidence
Adaptability

Practical Skillsets
Digital Fluency
Organisation
Leadership & Team working
Critical Thinking
Emotional Intelligence
Communication