

MODULE SPECIFICATION PROFORMA

Module Title:	Science in Court	Level:	6	Credit Value:	20
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Module code:	SCI635	Is this a new module?	No	Code of module being replaced:	
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Cost Centre(s):	GAFS	JACS3 code:	F410
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With effect from:	September 18
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School:	Applied Science, Computing & Engineering	Module Leader:	Amy Rattenbury
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Scheduled learning and teaching hours	50 hrs
Guided independent study	150 hrs
Placement	
Module duration (total hours)	200 hrs

Programme(s) in which to be offered	Core	Option
BSc (Hons) Forensic Science	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Pre-requisites
None.

Office use only

Initial approval: February 17

APSC approval of modification: *Enter date of approval*

Version: 1

Have any derogations received SQC approval?

Yes No N/A

If new module, remove previous module spec from directory?

Yes No

Module Aims

The aim of this module is for students to understand how science is used in court, as part of civil and criminal cases, and to gain experience in presenting evidence in a court room setting.

Intended Learning Outcomes

Key skills for employability

- KS1 Written, oral and media communication skills
- KS2 Leadership, team working and networking skills
- KS3 Opportunity, creativity and problem solving skills
- KS4 Information technology skills and digital literacy
- KS5 Information management skills
- KS6 Research skills
- KS7 Intercultural and sustainability skills
- KS8 Career management skills
- KS9 Learning to learn (managing personal and professional development, self-management)
- KS10 Numeracy

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

Key Skills

		Key Skills	
1	Appraise the roles and responsibilities of expert witness and other specialists in an investigation.	KS1	KS8
2	Assess potential for use of evidence in court.	KS5	
3	Compare the intelligence values of information.	KS3	KS6
4	Construct and conduct reason arguments based on the results of forensic investigations.	KS1	KS3
		KS5	

Transferable skills and other attributes

- Demonstrate good communication and presentational skills.
- Show good time management skills.
- Collect information and evaluate the results.
- Use IT resources to search for information.

Derogations

N/A.

Assessment:

1. Essay composed from information gathered during a practical task. This will be a simulated case that will including the recovery and testing of evidence.
2. Presentation in the style of expert witness testimony. This will be based on information from the previously submitted essay and will be in a mock court room style, including cross examination.

Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Weighting (%)	Duration (if exam)	Word count (or equivalent if appropriate)
1	3-4	Presentation	50	15 mins	
2	1-4	Essay	50		2000

Learning and Teaching Strategies:

Students will attend formal timetabled lectures throughout the module. There will be class discussions and the opportunity to share information, and develop good communication skills.

Students will prepare a case for presentation in court, and will act as a participant in a simulated trial.

Syllabus outline:

- The role of an expert witness
- Problems encountered by expert witnesses in court
- Assessing the suitability of evidence for court
- Assessing the reliability of evidence for court
- Preparation of evidence for court
- Court room proceedings
- How written evidence is presented in court
- How verbal evidence is presented in court
- Preparing to give evidence in court
- Presenting evidence in court
- Cross examination of expert testimony

Bibliography:

Essential reading

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

Other indicative reading

Choo, A.L.T. (2015) *Evidence, 4th Edition*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

CPS (2013) *The Code for Crown Prosecutors*, Crown Prosecution Service, London.

Fitzpatrick, B. (2011) *Going to Court, 3rd Edition*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Hannibal, M. and Mountford, L. (2016) *Criminal Litigation 2016-2017*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Johnston, D. and Hutton, G. (2017) *Blackstone's Police Manual Volume 2: Evidence and Procedure*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.