1. KentVision Code and title of the module

FSCI6120 – Advanced Topics in Forensic Science

## Division and School/Department or partner institution which will be responsible for management of the module

Division of Natural Sciences (Chemistry & Forensic Science)

## The level of the module (Level 4, Level 5, Level 6 or Level 7)

Level 6

## The number of credits and the ECTS value which the module represents

15 Credits (7.5 ECTS)

## Which term(s) the module is to be taught in (or other teaching pattern)

Spring

## Prerequisite and co-requisite modules and/or any module restrictions

None

## The course(s) of study to which the module contributes

Compulsory for the following courses:

BSc (Hons) Forensic Science

BSc (Hons) Forensic Science with a Year in Industry

BSc (Hons) Forensic Science with a Year Abroad

BSc (Hons) Forensic Science with a Foundation Year

MSci Forensic Science

Not available as an elective module

## The intended subject specific learning outcomes. On successfully completing the module students will be able to:

8.1 Demonstrate a detailed comprehension of the current issues affecting forensic science.

8.2 Appreciate the value of statistical approaches to testimony whilst understanding the strengths and weaknesses of the qualitative and quantitative approaches to expressing opinion.

8.3 Understand the importance of key cases in shaping the weight of opinion and how cases are evaluated in modern-day forensic testimony.

8.4 Understand the role of quality in forensic science. Appreciate the different quality standards associated with the forensic process, as well as recognise the value of competency testing, proficiency trials and continuing professional development.

8.5 Demonstrate systematic knowledge of the codes of ethical conduct applicable to forensic scientists and identify ethical challenges using a review of contemporary cases.

8.6 Critically analyse a range of contemporary and advanced topics associated with forensic science.

8.7 Appreciate the impact and potential consequences of cognitive bias in both assessment and interpretation of casework.

## The intended generic learning outcomes. On successfully completing the module students will be able to:

9.1 Demonstrate strong communication skills.

9.2 Demonstrate information-retrieval skills, in relation to primary and secondary information sources, including information retrieval through on-line computer searches, keeping up-to-date with the contemporary topics in professional practice.

9.3 Demonstrate skills relevant to employment in a range of forensic disciplines.

## A synopsis of the curriculum

This module intends to illustrate the contemporary topics, underpinning professional practice those students wishing to enter the forensic science profession. The indicative content draws upon much of the guidance, published by the Forensic Science Regulator, UKAS, ENFSI, CSFS as well as academic and professional commentary. The module covers several broad topics – namely, evaluative reporting, case assessment and interpretation (CAI), quality standards, ethics in forensic science and bias.

## Reading list

## The University is committed to ensuring that core reading materials are in accessible electronic format in line with the Kent Inclusive Practices.

## The most up to date reading list for each module can be found on the university's [reading list pages](https://kent.rl.talis.com/index.html).

## Contact Hours

Private Study: 124

Contact Hours: 26

Total: 150

## Assessment methods

13.1 Main assessment methods

* Essay (3,000 words) – 40%
* Examination (3 hours) – 60%

13.2 Reassessment methods

* 100% Examination

## Map of module learning outcomes (sections 8 & 9) to learning and teaching methods (section 12) and methods of assessment (section 13)

**Module learning outcomes against learning and teaching methods:**

| **Module learning outcome** | 8.1 | 8.2 | 8.3 | 8.4 | 8.5 | 8.6 | 8.7 | 9.1 | 9.2 | 9.3 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Private Study | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |
| Lectures | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |

**Module learning outcomes against assessment methods:**

| **Module learning outcome** | 8.1 | 8.2 | 8.3 | 8.4 | 8.5 | 8.6 | 8.7 | 9.1 | 9.2 | 9.3 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Essay | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |  | **x** | **x** |
| Examination | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |

## Inclusive module design

The Division recognises and has embedded the expectations of current equality legislation, by ensuring that the module is as accessible as possible by design. Additional alternative arrangements for students with Inclusive Learning Plans (ILPs)/declared disabilities will be made on an individual basis, in consultation with the relevant policies and support services.

The inclusive practices in the guidance (see Annex B Appendix A) have been considered in order to support all students in the following areas:

a) Accessible resources and curriculum

b) Learning, teaching and assessment methods

## Campus(es) or centre(s) where module will be delivered

Canterbury

## Internationalisation

Science is an international discipline with widely applicable international resonance. This module presents subject-specific knowledge generated, developed, and refined by scientists around the world. Mastery of the learning outcomes will equip students to apply the knowledge in a wide range of international contexts and these will be addressed in making the content relevant to current global issues. The Division of Natural Sciences is an international community of students and staff and group activities and teaching will provide a platform for internationally-focussed discussion.

**DIVISIONAL USE ONLY**

**Module record – all revisions must be recorded in the grid and full details of the change retained in the appropriate committee records.**

| Date approved | New/Major/minor revision | Start date of delivery of (revised) version | Section revised  (if applicable) | Impacts PLOs (Q6&7 cover sheet) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 22 Nov 2022 | Minor | Sept 2023 | 12-14 | No |
|  |  |  |  |  |