1. KentVision Code and title of the module

PSCI7020 – Contemporary and Advanced Issues in Forensic Science

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

Division of Natural Sciences (Chemistry and Forensic Science)

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

Level 7

## 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)

Autumn and 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:

MSc 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 specialist knowledge of techniques within particular areas of forensic science.

8.2 Show engagement and familiarity with recent and current research methods, results and publications.

8.3 Demonstrate clear recognition of the constraints and opportunities of the environment in which professional forensic science is carried out.

8.4 Discuss the moral and ethical issues involved in the practice of forensic science.

8.5 Demonstrate confidence in their ability to interpret complex technical information and to communicate it in a professional situation.

8.6 Communicate the need and application of quality standards supporting the delivery of forensic science.

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

9.1 Use self-direction and originality in applying and adapting problem-solving skills to unfamiliar, complex and open-ended situations.

9.2 Use independent learning ability required for continuing professional development

## A synopsis of the curriculum

This module enables students from a variety of backgrounds (e.g. graduates in Forensic Science, Chemistry, Biochemistry, Forensic Biology etc.) to develop their expertise within selected areas of forensic science. Areas for development (e.g. crime scene analysis, ballistics, drug analysis, face recognition, DNA, etc.) will be identified during an initial meeting of the module convenor with each student.

Students will then be assigned a supervisor in the appropriate area who will guide them towards appropriate learning resources such as lecture and practical materials within the School’s portfolio of modules, textbooks and research journals, as well as providing tutorial guidance throughout the module. Guidance will be also given in preparing the dissertation and the presentation. Students will be expected to present verbally, and in writing, the background and advances (focussing on the last ten years) in their selected area of expertise.

## 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: 130

Contact Hours: 20

Total: 150

## Assessment methods

13.1 Main assessment methods

* Presentation (30 minutes) – 30%
* Literature Review (5,000 words) – 70%

13.2 Reassessment methods

* Like-for-like

## 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 | 9.1 | 9.2 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Private Study | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |
| Tutorials | **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 | 9.1 | 9.2 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Presentation | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |
| Literature Review | **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

Forensic science is an inherently international and constantly evolving disciple with physical laws discovered and techniques developed and refined by scientists across the globe. It is facilitated by well-defined conventions in terminology and mathematical modelling which allow complex concepts to be communicated across language barriers. This module introduces students to the work of these pioneers, as well as the fundamentals behind it and so enables them to interact with this community. Where possible, the reading list has been chosen, in part, to demonstrate the diversity of backgrounds of forensic scientists working in the field

**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) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 9 Dec 2021 | Minor | Sept 2022 | 13 | No |
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| Revised FSO Jan 2018 |