**SECTION 1: MODULE SPECIFICATIONS**

1. Title of the module

PS702 Contemporary and Advanced Issues in Forensic Science

1. School or partner institution which will be responsible for management of the module

School of Physical Sciences

1. Start date of the module

September 2015

1. The number of students expected to take the module

10

1. Modules to be withdrawn on the introduction of this proposed module and consultation with other relevant Schools and Faculties regarding the withdrawal

None

1. The level of the module (*e.g.* Certificate [C], Intermediate [I], Honours [H] or Postgraduate [M])

M

1. The number of credits and the ECTS value which the module represents

15 (ECTS 7.5)

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

Terms 1 and 2

1. Prerequisite and co-requisite modules

None

1. The programmes of study to which the module contributes

Forensic Science - MSc - full-time at Canterbury

1. The intended subject specific learning outcomes

11.1. A deep specialist knowledge and experience of techniques within particular areas of forensic science. (SB7.12.1)

11.2. Engagement and familiarity with recent and current research methods, results and publications (SB7.12.2)

11.3. A clear recognition of the constraints and opportunities of the environment in which professional forensic science is carried out (SB7.12.5)

11.4. A familiarity with the moral and ethical issues involved in the practice of forensic science (SB7.12.8)

11.5. Confidence in their ability to interpret complex technical information and to communicate it in a wide variety of professional situations (SB7.12.9)

11.6 A deep appreciation of the need and application of quality standards supporting the delivery of forensic science.

1. The intended generic learning outcomes

12.1. Self-direction and originality in applying and adapting problem-solving skills to unfamiliar, complex and open-ended situations (SB7.12.6)

12.2. The independent learning ability required for continuing professional development. (SB7.12.10)

1. 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.

1. Indicative Reading List

The Templeman Library has extensive holdings of recently published texts and journals relevant to this module.

Examples include:

Gill.P Misleading DNA Evidence, Reasons For Miscarriages Of Justice, 2014

Gunn. A Essential Forensic Biology,2009

Ubelaker, D.H.. Forensic Science: Current Issues, Future Directions. 2013

Heard, B.J. Forensic Ballistics in Court: Interpretation and Presentation of Firearms Evidence. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2013.

Kintz, P., & Kintz, P. Toxicological aspects of drug-facilitated crimes. 2014

Stuart, B. Forensic Analytical Techniques. 2013

Lentini, J.J. Scientific Protocols for Fire Investigation. Second edition. Boca Raton, Fla.: CRC Press, 2013.

Carlin, M, and Dean J.R. Forensic Applications of Gas Chromatography. 2013

Journal of Forensic Sciences [0022-1198]

Forensic Science International [0379-0738]

Journal of the Forensic Science Society [0015-7368]

1. Learning and Teaching Methods, including the nature and number of contact hours and the total study hours which will be expected of students, and how these relate to achievement of the intended module learning outcomes

This Master’s level module uses directed independent learning as the main learning and teaching method.

Tutorials, 18 hours,these will address learning outcomes 11.1, 11.2, 11.3, 11.4, 11.5, 11.6, 12.1, 12.2

Independent study (may include attending some lectures and practical sessions), 72 hours,this will address learning outcomes 11.1, 11.2, 11.3, 11.4, 11.5, 11.6, 12.1, 12.2

Preparing and presenting talk, 20 hours, this will address learning outcome 11.5

Writing dissertation, 40 hours, this will address learning outcomes 11.1, 11.2, 11.3, 11.4, 11.5, 11.6, 12.1, 12.2

Total number of hours: 150

1. Assessment methods and how these relate to testing achievement of the intended module learning outcomes

Presentation (30 mins including questions), 30%,this will test learning outcomes 11.1, 11.2, 11.3, 11.4, 11.5, 11.6, 12.1, 12.2

Dissertation (5,000 words), 70%, this will test learning outcomes 11.1, 11.2, 11.3, 11.4, 11.5, 11.6, 12.1, 12.2

1. Implications for learning resources, including staff, library, IT and space

This module will use existing staff, library, IT and space resources.

1. The School recognises and has embedded the expectations of current disability equality legislation, and supports students with a declared disability or special educational need in its teaching. Within this module we will make reasonable adjustments wherever necessary, including additional or substitute materials, teaching modes or assessment methods for students who have declared and discussed their learning support needs. Arrangements for students with declared disabilities will be made on an individual basis, in consultation with the University’s disability/dyslexia support service, and specialist support will be provided where needed.
2. Campus where module will be delivered: Canterbury

**SECTION 2: MODULE IS PART OF A PROGRAMME OF STUDY IN A UNIVERSITY SCHOOL**

**Statement by the School Director of Learning and Teaching/School Director of Graduate Studies (as appropriate):** "I confirm I have been consulted on the above module proposal and have given advice on the correct procedures and required content of module proposals"

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ................................................................Director of Learning and Teaching/Director of Graduate Studies (delete as applicable)…………………………………………………Print Name | ..............................................Date |

**Statement by the Head of School:** "I confirm that the School has approved the introduction of the module and, where the module is proposed by School staff, will be responsible for its resourcing"

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| .................................................................Head of School…………………………………………………….Print Name | ..............................................Date |

Module Specification Template
Last updated February 2013