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Course Handbook

BSc (Hons) Forensic Science

2016-17

Faculty of Computing, Engineering and Sciences

School of Sciences

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Sources of Additional Information

This handbook provides useful information about your course, how it will be delivered and how you will be assessed. It does not try to give you all the information you will need during your time at the university. More information can be found in the following places:

On-Line Student Guide

The on-line student guide (<http://www.staffs.ac.uk/student/guide>) provides important information about the university and the services available to students, including:

- Welcome Week
- Student Cards
- e:VisionStaffs Portal
- Our Student Charter
- The Staffordshire Graduate
- Term Dates
- Timetabling
- Student accommodation
- Campus and travel information
- Finance, fees and support
- Disclosure and Barring Service applications
- Visas
- Course and module enrolment
- Recognition of Prior Learning
- University rules and regulations
- Disciplinary matters including academic misconduct
- Appeals and complaints
- Changing your award or modules
- Withdrawing or intermitting from your course
- What to do if you can't hand in work due to circumstances beyond your control
- Referencing and study skills (including guidance on completing assessments)
- Examinations
- Getting feedback on your work
- The student voice
- Employability and careers
- IT services and support
- Disability and dyslexia
- Counselling
- The Nursery
- The Multi-Faith Chaplaincy
- Graduation
- Certificates, Transcripts and Verification Letters

Module Handbooks

Your course is made up from a number of individual modules. Detailed information on each module is provided in separate module handbooks. Your module tutor will tell you how to access the handbook for their module.

The Blackboard On-Line Learning Environment

Information and learning materials for your modules and your course will be provided on the Blackboard on-line Learning Environment. Blackboard will form an important part of your learning experience. Please let your module or course tutor know if you encounter any problems accessing this material. You can access Blackboard at <https://blackboard.staffs.ac.uk> using your university username and password. If you have not done so already, please change your Blackboard default password (date of birth) to ensure others cannot access your account.

Welcome to the Faculty of Computing, Engineering and Sciences



The Faculty is home to three subject based Schools located on the Stoke-on-Trent campus. As well as our on-campus students we have many students who are learning away from our University campuses in Staffordshire – with many learners studying in educational partners both in and outside of the UK, work-based learners studying in their workplace and also distance learners from across the globe using the internet

to interact with their tutors and peers. Consequently, you are now a student in one of the largest such faculty in UK universities, and we are delighted that you are one of our students. The Faculty is host to one of the first UK university computing departments, to science programmes which are some of the highly rated by students in the UK, and to an engineering scheme founded upon the needs of engineering employers. Your course of study will therefore be up to date and relevant, will be serviced by well qualified staff, and will also be geared to preparing you for life and employment after university. Our Staffordshire Graduate Pledge aims to help all of our students achieve what they want to in life.

As one of our students we expect you to work hard, to set high standards for yourself. To help you to succeed you will have access to excellent staff and facilities, and also to a range of student support services to help deal with your particular needs. Of course, to do this academic, administration and technical staff that you come across as part of your studies will readily advise and support you. Your part is to take your study seriously, to ensure that you set-aside appropriate time for your study, and to make full use of the diverse range of learning opportunities – both in class and outside of classes – provided by your course. It is important to us that you are successful and that you go on to be a good ambassador for the university.

Inevitably at the start of term you will be bombarded with a host of well-intentioned information. Some of that information is immediately important to start your studies to make sure that you are in the right place at the right time. Some information you will need later in your course e.g. about assessments, changing modules, extenuating claims etc. Whilst other information is about the services the University offers generally which you may need to utilise in the future. We suggest that you download this handbook and keep it for reference and familiarise yourself with the range of information it contains. This should be the first document of your own digital-archive - get into the habit of downloading essential documents like module descriptors and module handbooks when the course starts.

You are now part of the 'family' of Computing, Engineering and Sciences and we look forward to working with you to help you to succeed as a Staffordshire Graduate.

Very best wishes,

Professor Hastings McKenzie – Dean, Faculty of
Computing, Engineering and Sciences

1. Welcome to your programme

My name is David Flatman-Fairs and I am the Award Leader for awards in Forensic Science. Let me take the opportunity to welcome you to the Forensic and Crime Sciences subject area. For many of you this will be a big step in your life taking you away from home for the first prolonged time or, for the mature student, redirecting yourself. Whatever the reason, I hope you spend a happy and successful three years at the University studying for your undergraduate degree.

The purpose of this student handbook is to provide understandable information relatively free from jargon about the course you are studying. Other useful information is also provided through pages of the University Website (homepage: www.staffs.ac.uk). This handbook will cover all three years of the course so please put it in a safe place and refer to it as and when required. I have tried to make the handbook succinct but still remain informative, and I would appreciate any comments about it (things not included or things that might be excluded).

Awards at Staffordshire University (as with most universities) are modular and each module is rated with credits based on 15 credits per single module. Modules are built around learning outcomes and you will achieve specific outcomes for your award at each level of your award. (Level 4 (first year), level 5 (second year) and level 6 (third year).

Details about the award structures and learning outcomes are listed within the following pages.

For each individual module you study, you will be provided with a handbook which will provide you with more specific information about the content of the module (including its specific learning outcomes) and you should refer to this for specific requirements for that module.

Enjoy!

David Flatman-Fairs

d.p.flatman-fairs@staffs.ac.uk

Tel: +44 1782 294609

2. Your Course Team

Award leader:	David Flatman-Fairs d.p.flatman-fairs@staffs.ac.uk	R142	01782 294609
Final Year Project Co-ordinator:	Julian Partridge J.D.Partridge@staffs.ac.uk	R140	01782 295926,
Academic Group Leader:	Professor Andrew Jackson a.r.jackson@staffs.ac.uk	R132	01782 294579

A full list of staff contacts can be found below:

Forensic – Academic Staff

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Kevin Reiling	k.reiling@staffs.ac.uk	R113	01782 294746
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3. An Introduction to your Course

The aim of the programme is to provide you with an undergraduate education in the field of forensic science, including both biological and chemical aspects alongside criminalistics methods and crime scene processing. The focus is on the application of techniques and knowledge. Throughout the course you will work with applied examples and make use of a range of specialist equipment. We believe that this will prepare you for a range of interesting and fulfilling careers.

The Forensic Science Course has been designed with the following aims:

- To provide a coherent learning experience for you to acquire a broad knowledge and understanding of the scientific principles and techniques underpinning forensic science.
- To train you to become proficient in the documentation of, and collection and analysis of, evidence from simulated crime scene scenarios.
- To enable you to act the role of expert witness in presenting evidence in a mock courtroom.
- To develop your transferable skills, especially in team working and in the communication and reporting of evidence in a fashion understandable to the general public.
- To develop research skills that you can utilise effectively to pursue independent work in a specified area within the disciplines of either forensic science.
- For you to gain the skills necessary for independent learning and for attaining responsibility for your own career planning and development
- To develop a fully scientific approach to your study programme.
- To train you in the operation of an extensive range of equipment and instrumentation encountered in the chemical analysis of forensic evidence.
- To develop your knowledge and understanding of the value and importance of biological evidence, especially DNA-profiling.

Your award has a set of written learning outcomes that describe what you should be able to do by the end of the course. These statements are designed to help you understand what you need to do to pass your course and receive your award. The outcomes for your course can be found in appendix A of this handbook.

Each module you study has separate learning outcomes which join together to enable you to demonstrate that you have achieved the overall learning outcomes for your award. The learning outcomes for your modules can be found in your module handbooks.

The specific learning outcomes for your award and modules have been matched to eight university wide learning outcome statements (knowledge and understanding; learning; enquiry; analysis; problem solving; communication; application; and reflection). These standard statements describe the abilities and skills all Staffordshire University students should demonstrate in order to pass their course. The statements have been designed to meet national expectations contained within the [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#). This ensures that the learning outcomes for your course are equivalent to similar courses at other UK universities and colleges. A table showing how your module learning outcomes have been aligned with the eight

university learning outcome statements plus two subject specific outcomes can be found in appendix B.

The design of your course has been guided by the QAA national subject benchmark for [Forensic Science](#). Written by national experts, the benchmark describes the defining characteristics of the subject area and the abilities and skills you should be able to demonstrate by the end of the course. A table showing how your course reflects the subject benchmark can be found in appendix B.

4. The Structure of your Course

This BSc Honours Award usually takes 3 years to complete if you are full time (or 4 years if a placement is taken) and typically 6 years if studied part-time. The course consists of 3 levels (level 4, 5 and 6) and for each level you are required to study and pass 120 credits (full-time students study one level / 120 credits per year, part-time students typically study half a level / 60 credits per year). The maximum number of years you can be registered on a course is 8 years and the maximum amount of time you can take to complete any given level is 3 years.

The academic year is split into two semesters running from September through to June. The length of each teaching block is twelve weeks plus independent study, revision and assessment weeks. The [academic calendar for 2016-17](#) specifies the start and end dates of semesters. Full-time students typically study 60 credits per semester whilst part-time students typically study 30 credits per semester.

Each level / 120 credits is divided into smaller credit modules. You will study both 15 credit modules (lasting one semester and equivalent to 150 hours of learning time) and 30 credit modules (spanning both semesters and equivalent to 300 hours of learning time).

You will study two types of modules:

- **Core** modules are ones that you **must** pass and cannot be replaced
- **Option** modules are chosen from a restricted list of modules relevant to your course and may, if failed, be replaced with alternative option modules (up to a maximum of 30 credits per level may be replaced).

L E V E L 4	Teaching Block 1	FORE40253 INTRODUCTION TO FORENSIC SCIENCE (30 credits)	FORE40244 CHEMICAL PRINCIPLES FOR FORENSIC SCIENCE (30 credits)	BIOL40450 BIOLOGICAL PRINCIPLES FOR FORENSIC SCIENCES (30 credits)	FORE40270 CRIME SCENE DOCUMENTATION (15 credits)
	Teaching Block 2				SUBJECT SPECIFIC OPTION MODULE (15 credits)

Level 4 subject specific option modules may include: [FORE40257](#) FACIAL RECOGNITION: SCIENTIFIC AND INVESTIGATIVE TOOLS, [FORE40273](#) PERIODICITY

L E V E L 5	Teaching Block 1	FORE50314 METHODS OF CRIME DETECTION (30 credits)	FORE50317 DNA-PROFILING AND FORENSIC BIOLOGY (30 credits)	FORE50313 METHODS OF CHEMICAL ANALYSIS (30 credits)	SUBJECT SPECIFIC OPTION MODULE (15 credits)
	Teaching Block 2				FORE50241 RESEARCH AND PROFESSIONAL SKILLS (15 credits)

Level 5 subject specific option modules may include: [FORE50246](#) PERIODICITY, [FORE50316](#) DRUGS OF ABUSE, [FORE50319](#) VEHICLE COLLISION INVESTIGATION, [FORE50327](#) FORENSIC ARCHAEOLOGY, [FORE50286](#) EXPERIMENTAL CHEMISTRY

L E V E L 6	Teaching Block 1	FORE60331 INDEPENDENT PROJECT (30 credits)	FORE60332 INVESTIGATING AND REPORTING OF CRIME SCENES (30 credits)	SUBJECT SPECIFIC OPTION (15 credits)	SUBJECT SPECIFIC OPTION (15 credits)
	Teaching Block 2			SUBJECT SPECIFIC OPTION (15 credits)	FORE60334 EXPERT WITNESS AND THE LEGAL SYSTEM (15 credits)

Level 6 subject specific option modules may include: [BIOL60496](#) ADVANCED DNA PROFILING, [BIOL60620](#) TOXICOLOGY, [FORE60322](#) TECHNIQUES IN IDENTIFICATION OF HUMAN REMAINS, [FORE60320](#) ANALYSIS AND INVESTIGATION OF TERRORISM INCIDENTS, [FORE60348](#) FIELD SCHOOL IN FORENSIC ARCHAEOLOGY, [FORE60351](#) FORENSIC MULTIMEDIA, [FORE60252](#) EXPERIMENTAL CHEMISTRY

5. The Staffordshire Graduate and Employability

The Staffordshire Graduate represents a set of qualities that the University passionately believes is necessary for success in the 21st century. Our aim is to make you a reflective and critical learner with a global perspective, prepared to contribute in the world of work.

Specifically we will develop your skills in the following areas:

- Discipline Expertise
- Professionalism
- Global Citizenship
- Communication and Teamwork
- Reflective and Critical Learner
- Lifelong Learning

*At Staffordshire University
we grow people
who think and act
for themselves.*

At all levels of your study we provide opportunities to develop and achieve these attributes. We prepare you for the workplace by enhancing your organisation and time management skills. Group work opportunities are provided to develop your team working skills whilst other modules you study will improve your communication skills or enhance your use of technology so that you can hit the ground running when you start your career. Also, there are modules specifically designed to improve your career planning and assist in your professional development. Your final year project will bring all of these aspects together and allow you to demonstrate your readiness for the work place.

Our past graduates have gone on to a wide variety of careers: as forensic scientists with a range of forensic service providers such as LGC and Key Forensics; as Scenes of Crimes Officers across the country; as quality assurance officers in pharmaceutical companies as well as others moving on to postgraduate study.

Appendix C contains a breakdown of the Staffordshire Graduate characteristics and where, within your course, these characteristics are addressed.

More information on the Staffordshire Graduate can be found at:

<http://www.staffs.ac.uk/study/staffordshiregraduate/>

6. Professional Recognition

By undertaking this course you will be completing a course that is fully accredited by the Chartered Society for Forensic Sciences. The Chartered Society for Forensic Sciences is the professional body for the forensic field, more details on the society, and membership, can be found at the following web address: <http://www.csofs.org/>.



The
Chartered
Society of
Forensic
Sciences

Staffordshire University was one of the first four institutions to obtain accreditation. The accreditation scheme was developed by the Chartered Society for Forensic Sciences to help establish and maintain standards of education in forensic science. The development involved major employers and professional interests. It is based on a series of component standards which address specific areas of forensic practice.

There is a requirement for all accredited courses to meet the Interpretation, Evaluation and Presentation of Evidence component. In addition to this, BSc (Hons) Forensic Science at Staffordshire University, also meets the Crime Scene Investigation and Laboratory Analysis components. Full details of each of the component standards are available at the following web address: <http://www.csofs.org/Accreditation-outline>.

The Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) prior to changing its accreditation process, formally recognised this degree provided certain criteria were met. Though the RSC no longer offer recognition as a level of accreditation for courses, they will still allow students who have graduated from this degree having followed the correct option choices to become affiliate members of the RSC. The criteria for this are:

- achieve a BSc (Hons) Forensic Science degree
- plus undertake a chemistry based project at level 6
- and during the course take the following options:
 - Experimental Chemistry
 - Periodicity.

Affiliate member is the base level of membership offered by the RSC, however provided you continue to work in a chemistry related field this can be converted to Member and then to Fellow.

7. Learning, Teaching and Assessment on your Course

7.1 Learning and Teaching

In recognition of the different ways students learn, over the course of your degree you will be taught by a variety of learning and teaching strategies, which include lectures, project supervision, demonstrations, tutorials, practical classes and workshops. During your course where possible you will be given the opportunity to put into practice that which you learn in theory.

At levels 4 and 5 this is facilitated by the use of 30 credit modules delivered over two semesters. This style of delivery allows for an integrated approach to theory and practice. Meaning you can undertake practical work and demonstrations alongside your theory classes. This in turn exposes you to a variety of processes and equipment types you may make use of in future careers. Level 4 focuses on the delivery of principles and concepts relating to chemical, biological and forensic elements. With lectures and practical sessions being supported with small group tutorials. Your average class contact will be 12-14 hours at this level.

Level 5 develops your skills and knowledge gained at level 4, by introducing more equipment/technology focused laboratory classes and workshops. This is achieved through the use of split group practical sessions. Level 5 will also see a change of learning focus to a more student-centred, independent style with average class contact of 10- 13 hours.

There is an even greater shift of emphasis to student-centred, independent study in your final year. Due to this Level 6 does not contain laboratory based group practicals, but you will need to organise laboratory sessions to successfully complete your Independent Project. You will also further develop your time management, team working and problem solving skills through processing of mock crime scenes and subsequent evidence analysis. This level also allows you to select combinations of options modules to develop potential career paths. Average contact hours (including project time) will be 10-12 hours per week.

In conjunction with the tutor led sessions, directed study supports and builds upon the knowledge and skills learnt in class to provide a fuller understanding of the subject. Personal and module tutors are on hand to provide support to students to discuss queries. The curriculum is structured so that skills and knowledge developed in core modules can be transferred, re-applied and further developed the between levels. Regular meetings are built into the personal tutorial system and personal development planning to ensure that you constantly reflect upon, adapt and enhance your learning.

7.2 Assessment

Forensic and Crime Sciences employs an innovative range of assessments including essays, examinations, poster presentations, reports, laboratory notes, data worksheets, oral presentations, and role play exercises. This is to: ensure that learning outcomes are tested in the most appropriate way; reflect the sorts of tasks you may be asked to undertake in your future career; and recognise that learners have different abilities. Although the practical and skills based nature of forensic science and its delivery at Staffordshire University means that some emphasis is placed on coursework, formal examinations and class tests are also used to assess knowledge-based and problem-solving elements across all levels. Please see module descriptors for a full breakdown of the assessment requirement for each of the core modules you will take during the course - module descriptors can be searched for through the following web address, using the module codes listed above: <http://www.staffs.ac.uk/current/student/modules/>

Enquiry-based learning is a particularly effective approach to learning and involves you on your own or in a project group being asked to investigate, collect and analyse information and generate new knowledge. This is considered to facilitate deep, as opposed to shallow, learning and develops many of our Staffordshire Graduate attributes. On most awards the final year project is the format through which your attainment of enquiry skills will be demonstrated. On your award you will practice and develop enquiry-based learning through a number of modules such as Chemical Principles for Forensic Science and Methods of Crime Detection before embarking on

your final year project. Within the Faculty of Computing, Engineering and Sciences you will have the opportunity to showcase to tutors, the public and potential employers your final year project in our end of year GradEx exhibition.

Summative assessments – assessments that contribute to your overall module grades, level averages and in turn to your award classification (Level 5 and Level 6 modules only) – will be marked using percentages. All summative assessments are marked anonymously unless this is not possible or practical, for example an oral presentation.

To help you to understand how you are performing you will also be given formative learning tasks which will not contribute to your course grades but will provide you with feedback on your learning.

The University's Undergraduate [Regulations](#) require you to achieve at least 40% to pass a module. If you marginally fail a module with a mark of 30-39% the end of year award board may, compensate the marginal failure if you have passed at least 90 credits in the same level. The regulations also require you to get at least 20% for each specific element of assessment (see the module descriptor which identifies the elements of assessment) to demonstrate a minimum engagement with the module's assessment. If this minimum percentage threshold for an assessment is not achieved then the overall module grade will be down-graded to 19% requiring you to reattempt the assessment.

7.3 How to Submit Assessments

Written assignments will be submitted online through Blackboard unless stated otherwise by the module leader. Each individual assessment will make it clear how you will be expected to submit your work. It is vital that you are clear on the submission method, date and time of each assessment as failure to submit on time via the correct method will result in a mark of zero for that assessment WITHOUT EXCEPTION.

It is important that you attempt all your assessments so that you can self-evaluate your own performance from the feedback you receive and to demonstrate to us that you are engaging with the studies and the assessment process. Failure to do so is likely to result in failure of the module overall. The award board at the end of the year will review your level performance and if modules have been failed due to non-submission / non-participation then the board may not offer referral opportunities to retrieve failed modules.

We understand that there may be occasions when you are unable to submit or undertake a piece of assessment due to circumstances beyond your control. The University has put in place a procedure for dealing with such extenuating circumstances. This process requires to provide appropriate evidence to support any claim for mitigation. You can find more information on the university's extenuating circumstances procedure at: <http://www.staffs.ac.uk/extenuating/>

7.4 Feedback on your Work

On many occasions feedback will be provided by a member of staff annotating your submitted assessment but this is not the only form of feedback. Feedback is also provided during tutorials and practical sessions as you work through formative exercises. It may also be provided by your peers in class discussions or through peer assessment during group work. Feedback on examinations and tests is also provided but may be generic or personalised depending on the module.

The University hopes that you will also play your part by ensuring that you collect feedback from the relevant sources as soon as it is available. The feedback is also designed to feedforward, i.e. to help you improve your performance on your next assessment either in the same module, on the next module in the same level or in the following level. So it is important that you use your feedback – for you to review it, understand it, reflect on it and apply it. To help you maximise the benefit of your feedback you can discuss specific feedback with module tutors and your personal tutor.

You will normally receive feedback on all your assessments within 20 working days following the date of submission of your assessment or actual date of the assessment (in the case of class tests). However, it may be the case that the 20 day rule for some assessments cannot be met for justified reasons (for example, modules on which a large number of students are enrolled). However, it is anticipated that this will apply to only a small number of modules on your course and, in those cases, the feedback return period will not exceed 25 days. The anticipated feedback return times for all assessments will be published in your module handbooks.

In order to ensure that feedback is provided within 20 days, in most cases, the marks for your work will be provisional and will be subject to second marking and final ratification by the external examiner and the appropriate Assessment Board at the end of the year.

At the start of level 5 you will have a feedback discussion with your personal tutor about your level 4 performance. This is repeated at level 6 but will be with your award leader.

7.5 External Examiners Appointed to your Course

External examiners help the university to ensure that the standards of your course are comparable to those provided by other universities or colleges in the UK. More information on the role performed by external examiners can be found at:

www.staffs.ac.uk/externalexaminers/

External examiner(s) who are responsible for your award are:

Name: Dr. Roman Kresinski
Position: Senior Lecturer, School of Pharmacy and Chemistry
Institution: Kingston University

And

Name: Darren Phillips
Position: Programme Tutor & Lecturer Forensic Biology
Institution: University of Abertay

NB: It is not appropriate for you to make direct contact with external examiners, in particular regarding your individual performance in assessments. There are other mechanisms you can use if you are unhappy with your results or other aspects of your award, such as the appeal and complaints procedures.

External examiners have been informed that if they are contacted directly by students they should decline to comment and refer the student back to the University.

8. Extra Costs

All students are expected to provide their own stationary and may purchase recommended textbooks (our library does have relevant hard-copy and digital learning materials that can be accessed to support your learning on the course). Depending on the area your level 6 independent project is undertaken in you may also be required to provide some consumables at your own expense. Beyond this, your Forensic Science course does not require you to purchase any specialist equipment, consumables nor attend visits which might cause you to incur additional costs.

9. Communication

In most cases, if a member of the course team needs to contact you they will do so via email using your **University email account**. It is important that you check your university email account regularly as important information is sent to this account.

Course/Module specific information may also be communicated via Blackboard and again it is important that you regularly log in to check for updated information. In addition on Blackboard we have created a learning community which is identified as 'FACS Awards Information', this is used to provide a variety of information to you please check this on a regular basis.

If you have a query about **anything** then the first point of contact should be the relevant member of the course.

10. Support and Guidance

On enrolment you will be allocated a Personal Tutor and you will meet them during Welcome Week or in the first teaching week. You will keep the same Personal Tutor in Levels 4 and 5. The School of Sciences Personal Tutoring Scheme requires a number of group and individual meetings during the course of the year. However, if you have any problems or queries, you should contact your Personal Tutor to discuss them, as soon as possible – don't wait for a scheduled meeting. At Level 6 your project supervisor is your Personal Tutor.

Your personal tutor will:

- be your first point of contact to give you advice or direct you to further support on academic and pastoral matters and University services;
- help you develop your academic skills;
- oversee your academic progress on your award including providing general feedback on your overall academic performance and help you enhance your learning by you reflecting on your feedback;
- encourage you to engage with all the opportunities the University has to offer to enhance your Staffordshire Graduate Attributes and employability;
- encourage you to give feedback to the University on your modules and in course surveys;
- be prepared, if requested, to provide written references for you.

To ensure that you get the most from your personal tutorials your course team expect you to:

- maintain regular communication with your personal tutor, attending all meetings/making contact as arranged;
- proactively contact with your personal tutor when you need help or guidance which may impact on their academic performance or pose any risk to their withdrawal or progression;
- prepare for and engage in personal tutor-related activities;
- positively respond to advice provided to resolve any issues that you have with your studies.

Throughout your course you will meet the Module Tutors at the taught sessions. Details of academic support process will be provided during your award induction meeting.

If you have any general concerns, the Faculty Student Guidance Advisor can help you with a wide range of educational issues as well as offering specialist information and support. A drop-in service is available, but to discuss an issue in depth you can then book an appointment. Further details can be found at

http://www.staffs.ac.uk/support_depts/studentguidance/advisors/.

The University offers help and support in many areas including counselling, disability, learning support agreements, equality & diversity, international students, mature students etc. Information on university support services can be found in the on-line student guide (available at: <http://www.staffs.ac.uk/student/guide>)



The Student Advice Centre run by the Student's Union provides independent, impartial and confidential advice to students free of charge. More information on the Student's Union can be found at: <https://www.staffsunion.com/>.

11. The Student Voice

During the course you will have the opportunity to share your views and opinions on your modules, degree course and the university. Your feedback is key to ensuring that we get an accurate picture of what it is like to be a student at Staffordshire University and enables us to enhance the learning experience for current and future students.

In each module that you study you will have the opportunity to complete a module evaluation questionnaire and provide some feedback to help us continuously improve the classes that we deliver to you.

At levels 4 and 5 you are invited to complete the SVS (Student Viewfinder Survey) and at level 6 you will complete the NSS (National Student Survey). The SVS is conducted internally by the University, whilst the NSS is an external survey conducted across the whole of the UK. Both the SVS and the NSS measure student satisfaction.

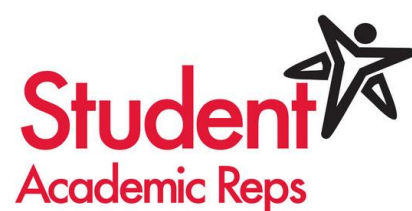
National Student Survey



Six months after graduating you will be asked to complete the DLHE (a survey about the Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education); another external survey to collect information about graduate employment.

The NSS and DLHE feed into University league tables and can be used to compare across courses and universities.

Student liaison committee meetings are held once each semester. The scheduled meetings are announced on Blackboard and students are invited to raise any points for discussion with their student representative. Each level is usually represented by one student who is responsible for raising your views and any issues about the course.



Student representatives are elected via the University election scheme and are expected to attend the student liaison committees.

12. Rules and Regulations

If your course operates in accordance with the university's standard regulations include the statement: Your course is delivered and assessed according to the University's Academic Award Regulations. These can be accessed at:

<http://www.staffs.ac.uk/regulations>

Module handbooks will make clear what the component of assessments are for that module. In order to qualify for an honours degree the final project module must be passed and is not able to be compensated.

Appendix A – BSc (Hons) Forensic Science Award Learning Outcomes

	<i>Level 4 (Certificate)</i>	<i>Level 5 (Diploma)</i>	<i>Level 6 (Honours)</i>
Subject Specific (SS1)	Understand the importance of the continuity, preservation and non-contamination of evidence during collection.	Develop skills to operate specialised equipment for analysing evidence from crime scenes. Evaluate results and demonstrate understanding of their value and limitations in the courtroom.	Critically appraise results in the production of expert witness reports and presentation in the courtroom. This requires the demonstration of an in depth understanding of continuity, preservation and non-contamination of evidence during collection and analysis.
Subject Specific (SS2)	Develop skills in the carrying out of chemical and biological practical experiments and the manipulation of results.	Understand the theory of and operate confidently a wide range of modern equipment for chemical and biological analysis of samples, appreciating the scope and limitations of results.	Critically evaluate and compare the usefulness of different types of equipment for analysis of evidence, which leads to the development of methodologies and programmes for use of equipment in special situations.
Knowledge & Understanding (KU)	Demonstrate a broadly based knowledge of the underlying forensic, biological and chemical concepts and principles.	Demonstrate a critical understanding of the appropriate concepts and their application to analysis of physical, biological and chemical evidence.	Demonstrate a systematic understanding of key aspects, at least some of which lies at the forefront of forensic science and its applications.
Learning (LE)	Develop an initial understanding of the diversity of learning processes within forensic science and the support disciplines of chemistry and biology.	Develop an understanding of the importance of independent learning and group working and adopt an appropriate learning strategy for the task in hand.	Demonstrate a capacity to drive and sustain independent learning and to evaluate individual contributions to team working.
Enquiry (EN)	Collect, present, evaluate and interpret quantitative data accrued through practical exercises and qualitative data provided in classes or acquired from the literature.	Demonstrate a critical knowledge of the main methods of enquiry for investigating forensic issues and for relating results from practical exercises in chemical and biological to published information.	Select, deploy and adapt techniques and methodologies to carry out a team project and an independent research project in a specific area of forensic science. Evaluate use of Information Literacy, including the ethical use of information in forensic science.

	<i>Level 4 (Certificate)</i>	<i>Level 5 (Diploma)</i>	<i>Level 6 (Honours)</i>
Analysis (AN)	Analyse, evaluate and interpret data and information with reference to fundamental concepts and principles of chemical, biological and forensic knowledge.	Use a range of established techniques to initiate and undertake analysis of chemical, biological and forensic data and information	Demonstrate and comment on current research or equivalent advanced scholarship. Make judgement as to its value in crime scene investigation and laboratory analysis of forensic evidence.
Problem Solving (PS)	Demonstrate a basic understanding of different approaches to problem solving in forensic science and the underpinning disciplines of chemistry and biology	Critically evaluate the appropriateness of different approaches to solving forensic problems and design solutions to them.	Devise, refine and apply research questions to achieve a critical understanding of issues of importance in crime scene investigation and analysis of evidence.
Communication (CO)	Demonstrate competence and confidence in a range of communication media to express forensic, biological and chemical knowledge and information in a structured and coherent manner.	Communicate effectively forensic-related information and arguments in a variety of different contexts and scenarios.	Demonstrate an advanced standard of competence in a range of communication skills, especially in presenting scientific data and information in a fashion understandable to the general public.
Application (AP)	Undertake further training and new skills in the planning, photographing and documenting of crime scenes.	Develop a capacity to apply forensic, chemical and biological concepts, principles and skills in various contexts / scenarios to construct and present appropriate informed arguments and positions.	Apply knowledge and skills learned to review, consolidate and extend further an advanced understanding of forensic science to construct, articulate and defend advanced intellectual arguments and positions.
Reflection (RE)	Undertake self-appraisal of learning achievements; and understand the need / value of a reflective approach to pastoral and intellectual development.	Refine and develop critical reflective skills in relation to personal qualities and transferable skills. Exercise personal responsibility in developing competencies to match academic and / or vocational aspirations.	Manage learning, exercise initiative and personal responsibility. Demonstrate the learning abilities, qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment or further academic or professional training.

Appendix B – Curriculum Maps

Relationship of Core Modules on BSc (Hons) Forensic Science award to Staffordshire University Learning Outcomes

			University Learning Outcomes										
			KU	LE	EN	AN	PS	AP	CO	RE	SS1	SS2	
LEVEL 4	Core	Introduction to Forensic Science	X	X			X		X	X	X		
		Chemical Principles for Forensic Science	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		X	
		Biological Principles for Forensic Science	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
		Crime Scene Documentation	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
LEVEL 5	Core	Methods of Chemical Analysis	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		X	
		Methods of Crime Detection	X		X	X	X	X			X		
		DNA Profiling and Forensic Biology	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	
		Research and Professional Skills		X		X	X		X	X			
LEVEL 6	Core	Independent Project	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	
		Investigating and Reporting Crime Scenes		X	X	X	X		X	X	X		
		Expert Witness and Legal System	X		X	X		X	X		X		

KEY:

- KU Knowledge and Understanding
- LE Learning
- EN Enquiry
- AN Analysis
- PS Problem Solving
- AP Application
- CO Communication
- RE Reflection
- SS1 Subject Specific 1
- SS2 Subject Specific 2

The table above shows the relationship between core modules on the award and the Staffordshire University learning outcomes. Option modules offer additional learning outcomes, depending on choice of option

Relationship of Level 6 Modules on BSc (Hons) Forensic Science award to QAA Benchmark statements

	BSc (Hons) Forensic Science (including QAA benchmark statements)
Subject Specific 1	Critically appraise results in the production of expert witness reports and presentation in the courtroom. This requires the demonstration of an in depth understanding of continuity, preservation and non-contamination of evidence during collection and analysis. QAA Benchmark: 4.1-4.6, 4.7CSI, 5.4
Subject Specific 2	Critically evaluate and compare the usefulness of different types of equipment for analysis of evidence, which leads to the development of methodologies and programmes for use of equipment in special situations. QAA Benchmark: 4.7LEA, 4.7IEPE, 4.8, 5.2, 6.3
Knowledge & Understanding	Demonstrate a systematic understanding of key aspects, at least some of which lies at the forefront of forensic science and its applications. QAA Benchmark:4.1-4.10, 5.2, 5.4, 5.8
Learning	Demonstrate a capacity to drive and sustain independent learning and to evaluate individual contributions to team working. QAA Benchmark: 5.8, 6.2, 6.3, 6.5, 6.6
Enquiry	Select, deploy and adapt techniques and methodologies to carry out a team project and an independent research project in a specific area of forensic science. Evaluate use of Information Literacy, including the ethical use of information in forensic science. QAA Benchmark: 5.2, 5.4, 5.8
Analysis	Describe and comment on current research or equivalent advanced scholarship. Make judgement as to its value in crime scene investigation and laboratory analysis of forensic evidence. QAA Benchmark: 4.7LEA, 5.2, 5.8
Problem Solving	Devise, refine and apply research questions to achieve a critical understanding of issues of importance in crime scene investigation and analysis of evidence. QAA Benchmark: 4.7LEA, 5.2, 5.6, 6.6
Communication	Demonstrate an advanced standard of competence in a range of communication skills, especially in presenting scientific data and information in a fashion understandable to the general public. QAA Benchmark: 4.9, 5.4, 5.6, 6.6
Application	Apply knowledge and skills learned to review, consolidate and extend further an advanced understanding of forensic science to construct, articulate and defend advanced intellectual arguments and positions. QAA Benchmark: 4.7, 5.2, 5.4, 5.6, 6.5, 6.6
Reflection	Manage learning, exercise initiative and personal responsibility and demonstrate the learning abilities, qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment or further academic or professional training. QAA Benchmark: 5.6, 5.8, 6.6
Mapping listed in table above is to QAA Benchmark statement for Forensic Science which can be located at the following web address: http://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/Publications/Documents/Subject-benchmark-statement-forensic-science.pdf	

Appendix C – The Staffordshire Graduate

AWARD TITLE:	BSc (Hons) Forensic Science
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Attribute Characteristic	Level	Module(s) code: title	No of Credits	Core or Option C / K / O	Brief description of activity / activities	How is achievement 'assessed'? <small>(will assume it is an individual assessment - please indicate otherwise)</small>
Work-ready and employable	4	FORE40253 Introduction to Forensic Science	30	c	Develops generic skills such as literacy, communication skills, presentation skills, group working and research skills within forensic science. Also develops knowledge of key academic areas such as assessment, time management, personal skill development and life long learning.	Portfolio of worked exercises, oral presentation and group poster presentation
	5	FORE50241 Research and Professional Skills	15	c	Develops transferable skills for employability such as research, problem solving, critical analysis data handling skills, oral and written communication, time management and critical reflection.	Portfolio containing literature review and presentation
		FORE50314 Methods of Crime Detection	30	c	Develops key skills including; evidence analysis, critical thinking, problem solving, report writing, team working and case based interpretation. Also includes a practical proficiency test which based on current British Standards	Portfolio of worked exercises and two class tests.

		FORE50317 DNA Profiling and Forensic Biology	30	c	Develops communication, presentation, team working and lab skills within a laboratory setting that allows students to understand forensic biological work that would be involved in their future careers.	Portfolio of worked exercises and two tests
	6	FORE60332 Investigating and Reporting of Crime Scenes	30	c	Develops specialist skills within crime scene processing and evidence analysis including contemporaneous note taking, evidence processing, risk assessments, evidence interpretation and presentation of findings.	Group report of crime scene and evidence analysis and court report presentation.
		FORE60331 Independent Project	30	c	Includes significant activity relating to project formulation and management, formal presentation and report writing. Also incorporates CV writing and interview skills for the forensic workplace.	Portfolio including project proposal, project lab book, project report and viva voce.
Understanding of enterprise and entrepreneurship	4	FORE40253 Introduction to Forensic Science	30	c	Introduces the forensic marketplace and the roles of individuals with it.	Portfolio of worked exercises, oral presentation and group poster presentation
	5	FORE50241 Research and Professional Skills	15	c	Develops further understanding of the current forensic science workplace, business opportunities and the skills required for the forensic industry. Further developed through the use of guest speakers from forensic science and policing providers, who will provide an insight into the creative opportunities that are available in the forensic science workplace.	Portfolio containing literature review and presentation

	6	FORE60331 Independent Project	30	c	Further development of understanding of enterprise possibilities in the form of research. Encourages students' creativity and innovation skills and where possible, product/technique development for the forensic market.	Portfolio including project proposal, project lab book, project report and viva voce.
Understanding of global issues and graduate's place in the global economy	4	FORE40253 Introduction to Forensic Science	30	c	Develops students understanding of global issues and social impact of forensic science	Portfolio of worked exercises, oral presentation and group poster presentation
	5	FORE50241 Research and Professional Skills	15	c	Develops skills for employability such as research, problem solving, critical analysis and data handling skills. Also incorporates CV writing and interview skills for the forensic workplace.	Portfolio containing literature review and presentation
		FORE50316 Drugs of Abuse	15	o	Includes significant information regarding past and present global legislations and global issues relating to drugs and forensic science	Portfolio containing practical booklet, group presentation and reflective summary
	6	FORE60334 Expert Witness and Legal System	15	c	Includes significant information regarding the current legal system in the UK and compares this with alternative international legal systems and the forensic scientist's role within these systems.	Exam
		FORE60320 Analysis and Investigation of TERREFF Incidents	15	o	Develops understanding of how major terrorist related crime scenes across the world are processed and how international terrorist incidents are investigated.	Exam

Communication skills	4	FORE40253 Introduction to Forensic Science	30	c	Develops oral presentation, written and report writing skills. Develops poster presentation skills.	Portfolio of worked exercises, oral presentation and group poster presentation	
	5	FORE50317 DNA Profiling and Forensic Biology	30	c	Develops communication skills within a laboratory setting as students work in teams to gain knowledge of forensic biology techniques, analyse evidence and complete group reports and a presentation.	Portfolio of worked exercises and two tests	
		FORE50314 Methods of Crime Detection	30	c	Both modules involve the development of team working skills in a practical environment.	Portfolio of worked exercises and two class tests.	
		FORE50313 Methods of Chemical Analysis	30	c		Develops report writing	Portfolio of worked exercises and two class tests.
	6	FORE60331 Independent Project	30	c	Develops high-level, scientific reporting skills and presentational skills	Portfolio including project proposal, project lab book, project report and viva voce.	
		FORE60332 Investigating and Reporting of Crime Scenes	30	c	Develops high-level, scientific reporting skills, presentational skills, team working and specific court oral presentation skills.	Group report of crime scene and evidence analysis and court report presentation.	
		FORE60334 Expert Witness and Legal System	15	c	Develops written skills for the communication of legal terms and evidence interpretation techniques	Exam	
	Presentation skills	4	FORE40244 Chemical Principles for Forensic Science	30	c	Develops scientific note taking, report writing and chemistry based terminology.	Portfolio

		FORE40253 Introduction to Forensic Science	30	c	Develops oral, written, poster and group presentation skills	Portfolio of worked exercises, oral presentation and group poster presentation
	5	FORE50317 DNA Profiling and Forensic Biology	30	c	Includes a group presentation that is based on a practical portfolio that further assesses students ability to present a case, analytical techniques and in-depth interpretation.	Portfolio of worked exercises
		FORE50314 Methods of Crime Detection	30	c	Requires high-quality written lab reports	Portfolio of worked exercises.
	6	FORE60331 Independent Project	30	c	Requires a major oral presentation of research findings	Portfolio including project proposal, project lab book, project report and viva voce.
		FORE60332 Investigating and Reporting of Crime Scenes	30	c	Requires high-quality written lab reports and a major oral presentation of analysis finding in a court role play	Group report of crime scene and evidence analysis and court report presentation.
The ability to interact confidently with colleagues	4	FORE40253 Introduction to Forensic Science	30	c	Required for laboratory work in the investigation of a mock case	Portfolio of worked exercises, oral presentation and group poster presentation
	5	FORE50317 DNA Profiling and Forensic Biology	30	c	Requires good communication skills when working in laboratory teams.	Portfolio of worked exercises.
		FORE50314 Methods of Crime Detection	30	c	Developed during practical sessions	Portfolio of worked exercises.
	6	FORE60332 Investigating and Reporting of Crime Scenes	30	c	Requires good communication skills when working in SOCO and laboratory teams throughout the module and for the group report..	Group report of crime scene and evidence analysis and court report presentation.

Independence of thought	4	BIOL40450 Biological Principles for Forensic Science	30	c	Required in practical work and examinations	Practical examination, report and work book.
		FORE40244 Chemical Principles for Forensic Science	30	c	Required in practical work and assessments	Portfolio and two exams
	5	FORE50317 DNA Profiling and Forensic Biology	30	c	Required in practical work and examinations	Portfolio of worked exercises and two tests
		FORE50314 Methods of Crime Detection	30	c	Required in assessments	Portfolio of worked exercises and two class tests.
	6	FORE60331 Independent Project	30	c	Includes significant activity relating to project formulation and management, formal presentation and report writing	Portfolio including project proposal, project lab book, project report and viva voce.
		FORE60334 Expert Witness and Legal System	15	c	Developed during tutorials sessions in evidence interpretation	Exam
		FORE60332 Investigating and Reporting of Crime Scenes	30	c	Required for analysis of evidence in laboratory and to defend court report in mock court.	Group report of crime scene and evidence analysis and court report presentation.
Skills of teamworking	4	FORE40253 Introduction to Forensic Science	30	c	Team working skills required in practical session and for analysis of case	Portfolio of worked exercises, oral presentation and group poster presentation
	5	FORE50316 Drugs of Abuse	15	o	Includes practical activities and collaborative research to produce a group presentation	Portfolio containing practical booklet, group presentation and reflective summary
		FORE50317 DNA Profiling and Forensic Biology	30	c	Required in practical work and group presentation.	Portfolio of worked exercises

	6	FORE60332 Investigating and Reporting of Crime Scenes	30	c	Developed during multiple crime scene processing and evidence analysis sessions	Group report of crime scene and evidence analysis and court report presentation.
Ability to carry out inquiry-based learning and critical analysis	4	BIOL40450 Biological Principles for Forensic Science	30	c	Developed in the practical work and interpretation of results	Practical examination, report and work book.
		FORE40244 Chemical Principles for Forensic Science	30	c	Developed in practical sessions and analysis of laboratory results	Portfolio and two exams
	5	FORE50317 DNA Profiling and Forensic Biology	30	c	Developed in practical session which involves the investigation of a case and subsequent analysis of data. Development of critical thinking of evidence submission and its evidential value	Portfolio of worked exercises and two tests
		FORE50314 Methods of Crime Detection	30	c	Developed during practical sessions as many are based on case scenarios.	Portfolio of worked exercises and two class tests.
	6	FORE60332 Investigating and Reporting of Crime Scenes	30	c	Developed during investigation of mock cases and interpretation of evidence to court appearance level.	Group report of crime scene and evidence analysis and court report presentation.
		FORE60331 Independent Project	30	c	Developed to a high level during project planning, project implementation and dissertation write-up.	Portfolio including project proposal, project lab book, project report and viva voce.
		FORE60334 Expert Witness and Legal System	15	c	Required in evidence interpretation and use of the Bayesian approach	Exam

Skills of problem solving and creation of opportunities	4	BIOL40450 Biological Principles for Forensic Science	30	c	Developed in the practical work and interpretation of results	Practical examination, report and work book.
		FORE40244 Chemical Principles for Forensic Science	30	c	Developed in practical work and assessments	Portfolio and two exams
	5	FORE50317 DNA Profiling and Forensic Biology	30	c	Required in practical work and examinations	Portfolio of worked exercises and two tests
		FORE50314 Methods of Crime Detection	30	c	Developed during practical sessions and in assessments	Portfolio of worked exercises and two class tests.
	6	FORE60332 Investigating and Reporting of Crime Scenes	30	c	Developed during crime scene processing and evidence analysis and interpretation.	Group report of crime scene and evidence analysis and court report presentation.
		FORE60331 Independent Project	30	c	Developed throughout project	Portfolio including project proposal, project lab book, project report and viva voce.
FORE60334 Expert Witness and Legal System		15	c	Required in evidence interpretation and use of the Bayesian approach	Exam	
Technologically, digitally and information literate	4	FORE40270 Crime Scene Documentation	15	c	Develop skills in digital photography, crime scene processing and mathematical skills	Practical based project and class test
		FORE40253 Introduction to Forensic Science	30	c	Develop skills in evidence analysis using current technology and introduction to the broad topic of forensic science and methods for obtaining information	Portfolio of worked exercises

		FORE40257 Facial recognition	15	o	Develops skills in current facial recognition software and other methods	Written assignment
		BIOL40450 Biological Principles for Forensic Science	30	c	Develops lab skills use of (some) scientific equipment	Practical examination, report and work book.
	5	FORE50317 DNA Profiling and Forensic Biology	30	c	Requires high levels of information literacy and competence in use of scientific equipment	Portfolio of worked exercises and two tests
		FORE50314 Methods of Crime Detection	30	c	Requires high levels of information literacy and competence in use of scientific equipment	Portfolio of worked exercises and two class tests.
		FORE50241 Research and Professional Skills	15	c	Requires knowledge and practical skills in using SPSS software for data handling	Portfolio containing literature review and presentation
	6	FORE60332 Investigating and Reporting of Crime Scenes	30	c	Requires high levels of information literacy and competence in use of scientific equipment.	Group report of crime scene and evidence analysis and court report presentation.
		FORE60331 Independent Project	30	c	Requires high levels of information literacy and competence in use of project related scientific equipment. Includes ability to troubleshoot for different types of software and equipment.	Portfolio including project proposal, project lab book, project report and viva voce.
An understanding of the concepts of life-long learning and life-long success	4	FORE40253 Introduction to Forensic Science	30	c	Develops understanding through tutorials of different methods of learning, skill management and individual goal setting for learning.	Portfolio of worked exercises, oral presentation and group poster presentation
	5	FORE50241 Research and Professional Skills	15	c	Modules aims to develop appreciation of the roles that forensic science and forensic science research play in the	Portfolio containing literature review and presentation

					professional world and encourages a reflexive understanding of how learning contributes to life-long success	
	6	FORE60331 Independent Project	30	c	Module aims to develop transferrable skills further and to prepare students for future research and developments in forensic science.	Portfolio including project proposal, project lab book, project report and viva voce.

Notes:

Award Specific Modules

Indicate which module(s) within the award develop this characteristic

Core / Option

Indicate whether for this award it the module is a core (C), conditional core (K), Subject specific option (O)

Assessment

Indicate how achievement of the characteristic is assessed – unless otherwise stated it will be assumed that assessments are individual assessments