POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Programme Title: MSc Top up Programme

Awarding Body: Staffordshire University

Teaching Institution: Staffordshire University

Final Awards:
- MSc Crime Scene investigation
- MSc Fire investigation
- MSc Firearm examination
- MSc Questioned Documents

Intermediate Awards: N/A

Mode of Study: FT/PT

UCAS Codes: N/A

QAA Subject Benchmarks:

Professional/Statutory Body: Forensic Science Society

Date of Production: February 2010

Date of Revision:

If you require this document in a larger text or a different media please contact us.
EDUCATIONAL AIMS OF THE PROGRAMME

- To further develop skills in the operation of specialised equipment and instrumentation in the analysis related to EITHER crime scene investigation, firearm examination, fire investigation OR the analysis of questioned documents for research purposes.

- To widen the experience of the use of VLE in the delivery of educational material and to develop skills in independent learning.

- To develop your research skills and innovative thinking, especially in the carrying out of a substantial independent research project.

- To develop your transferable skills further, especially in the communication and reporting of scientific findings.

- To provide an enjoyable (and value for money) learning experience.

What is distinctive about this programme?

- This programme allows you to add to your existing post-graduate Forensic Science Society Diploma and obtain a masters qualification in your subject specialism.

- The programme offers flexibility in its duration and methods of execution.

- You will be supervised by academic staff who have expertise in your subject specialism. You will also have access equipment, laboratories and computing facilities within the university.

- The programme will provide you with the opportunity to study a topic of interest to you in considerable depth with the potential to publish the results in refereed journals.
# PROGRAMME OUTCOMES

What will this programme teach me to do? At the end of your studies you should be able to:

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<tr>
<th>MSc Crime Scene Investigation</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Devise and carry out a substantial coherent experimental programme in crime scene investigation to produce novel results and demonstrate originality in application, theory and practice, whilst showing compliance with current standards of safety and ethics.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Produce an extensive independent report which demonstrates a synoptic and systematic understanding of concepts and which relates findings and conclusions to current practice and research in crime scene investigation.</td>
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<tr>
<th>MSc Fire Investigation</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Devise and carry out a substantial coherent experimental programme in fire investigation to produce novel results and demonstrate originality in application, theory and practice, whilst showing compliance with current standards of safety and ethics.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Produce an extensive independent report which demonstrates a synoptic and systematic understanding of concepts and which relates findings and conclusions to current practice and research in fire investigation.</td>
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<th>MSc Firearm Investigation</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Devise and carry out a substantial coherent experimental programme in Firearm examination to produce novel results and demonstrate originality in application, theory and practice, whilst showing compliance with current standards of safety and ethics.</td>
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<td>2. Produce an extensive independent report which demonstrates a synoptic and systematic understanding of concepts and which relates findings and conclusions to current practice and research in Firearm examination.</td>
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<th>MSc Questioned Documents</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Devise and carry out a substantial coherent experimental programme in questioned documents to produce novel results and demonstrate originality in application, theory and practice, whilst showing compliance with current standards of safety and ethics.</td>
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<td>2. Produce an extensive independent report which demonstrates a synoptic and systematic understanding of concepts and which relates findings and conclusions to current practice and research in questioned documents.</td>
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PROGRAMME STRUCTURE, MODULES AND CREDITS

Programme Title

Potential award = Masters Degree 180 credits passed with distinction, merit or pass.

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<th>LEVEL 7</th>
<th>Teaching Block 1</th>
<th>SHS82707-7 Independent Research Project (60 credits)</th>
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<td>Teaching Block 2</td>
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HOW WILL I BE TAUGHT AND ASSESSED?

Teaching and Learning

You will have tuition delivered by distance learning using the Blackboard virtual learning environment. The practical work on your project will be carried out either in your own laboratory or at the University. Any data handling that may be necessary to analyse your results can be done at the university if you do not have access to the necessary software. Your supervisor will be able to advise you of aspects of the data handling.

You will have access to the university's library facilities and you will use the electronic journals in particular, for literature searching as part of the background research for your project.

Assessment

The mark for the project is based on the practical work you carry out – and its quality. This is assessed by your supervisor.

Once you have finished writing your dissertation you submit two copies to the faculty. These are marked independently by your supervisor and another member of staff. If the marks differ significantly a third tutor marks the project. The mark remains provisional until it is verified by the external examiners. It is current practice that all projects are scrutinised by the external examiners to ensure comparability of standards across UK universities.

For the masters to be awarded the written dissertation has to receive a pass mark (Grade Point 7 or higher).
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Entry Requirements (including IELTS score)

Those for whom English is not their first language must have IELTS score 6 or higher.

What qualifications would I need to join this programme?

The entry requirements for the award are normally:

The appropriate current postgraduate Forensic Science Society Diploma in EITHER Crime Scene Investigation, Fire Investigation, Firearm Examination OR Questioned Documents.

Disability Statement

Staffordshire University operates a policy of inclusive teaching and learning to ensure that all students have an equal opportunity to fulfil their educational potential. Details about how to apply to have your needs assessed can be found at: http://www.staffs.ac.uk/study_here/disabled_students/index.jsp

AWARD SPECIFIC INFORMATION

Laboratory work. There is no additional charge if you carry out your project at the University.

Accommodation If you do carry out your project here you will have to pay for any travelling costs and accommodation you require. We can help arrange accommodation for you if you wish.

Further information about the award can be found in the relevant Student Handbook and on the University Website. This includes information about optional modules, student support, and academic regulations.