Module Definition Form (MDF)

Module code: MOD002747	**Version:** 9 **Date Amended:** 28/Mar/2022

1. Module Title
United Kingdom Legal Systems and Law for Forensic Scientists

2a. Module Leader
Samantha Gair

2b. School
School of Life Sciences

2c. Faculty
Faculty of Science and Engineering

3a. Level
4

3b. Module Type
Standard (fine graded)

4a. Credits
15

4b. Study Hours
150

5. Restrictions

Type	Module Code	Module Name	Condition
Exclusions:	None		
Courses to which this module is restricted:	Forensic Science Pathway and Crime and Investigative Studies		

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

6a. Module Description

Working in the field of forensic science requires an understanding of the different legal systems of the United Kingdom: England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. In this module you will look at the development of law across these different legal systems and exploring the Jury system and the investigation of crime in each. As a part of your learning you will apply legislation to real life case studies, giving you the chance to apply your knowledge to real-world scenarios throughout this module.

You will develop knowledge of the different powers of the police as well as the expected requirements of those working as CSIs (Crime Scene Investigators) or forensic scientists. You will develop an understanding of the laws of evidence as they relate to these roles as well as the codes of practice of the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) or Procurator Fiscal. You will have the opportunity to visit the magistrates and crown court to observe how real-life trials are conducted within the UK, giving you a better understanding of the processes of criminal justice system during trials.

Through examining previous cases you will develop critical thinking skills as well as the ability to read legislation. You will also develop communication skills through interactive tutorial sessions, and carry out debates within lectures.

6b. Outline Content

Difference between the legal systems of England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Role of the Judiciary and members of the legal profession

Powers of Stop and Search, Arrest, Search and Seizure

Rules of Evidence

Case-reading skills

CPS Codes of practice

Forensic Scientist and Expert Witness

Witness statements

6c. Key Texts/Literature

The reading list to support this module is available at: https://readinglists.aru.ac.uk/

6d. Specialist Learning Resources

None

7. Learning Outcomes (threshold standards)		
No.	**Type**	**On successful completion of this module the student will be expected to be able to:**
1	Knowledge and Understanding	Compare and contrast the different legal systems of the United Kingdom and analyse and review the rules of evidence within these systems
2	Knowledge and Understanding	Demonstrate a knowledge of the Crown Prosecution Service, judiciary, and the legal profession, and their role in the legal system
3	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Communicate effectively in an appropriate format (witness statements)
4	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Contextualise various legislation to different case studies/scenarios based on the facts of the case(s)

8a. Module Occurrence to which this MDF Refers				
Year	**Occurrence**	**Period**	**Location**	**Mode of Delivery**
2026/7	ZZF	Template For Face To Face Learning Delivery		Face to Face

8b. Learning Activities for the above Module Occurrence			
Learning Activities	**Hours**	**Learning Outcomes**	**Details of Duration, frequency and other comments**
Lectures	22	1-3	11 x 2 hrs lectures/active learning
Other teacher managed learning	14	1-3	Tutorials (11 x 1 hr) + revision (1 hr) + In-class test (2 hrs)
Student managed learning	114	1-3	Background reading, online activities, preparation for lectures and practicals, and completion of assessments
TOTAL:	150		

9. Assessment for the above Module Occurrence

The assessment for some modules includes a presentation (see below for details on how this particular module is assessed). We recognise that presenting, especially to a large group, can cause significant anxiety or distress for some students. If this may affect you, please contact your Module Leader or the Disability and Neurodiversity Service as early as possible. We will work with you to consider appropriate reasonable adjustments. Depending on your individual needs, these might include, for example, presenting to a smaller group or presenting only to a member of academic staff.

Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
010	Coursework	1-3	50 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)
Coursework: 1500 words equivalent					

Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
011	Coursework	1-3	50 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)
In class test: 1500 words (equivalent)					

In order to pass this module, students are required to achieve an overall mark of 40% (for modules at levels 3, 4, 5 and 6) or 50% (for modules at level 7*).

In addition, students are required to:
(a) achieve the qualifying mark for each element of fine graded assessment as specified above
(b) pass any pass/fail elements

[* the pass mark of 50% applies for all module occurrences from the academic year 2024/25 – see Section 3a of this MDF to check the level of the module and Section 8a of this MDF to check the academic year]