Module Definition Form (MDF)

Module code: MOD002817	**Version:** 12 **Date Amended:** 10/Jul/2025

1. Module Title
Forensic Scene Examination

2a. Module Leader
Helen Goodey

2b. School
School of Life Sciences

2c. Faculty
Faculty of Science and Engineering

3a. Level
5

3b. Module Type
Standard (fine graded)

4a. Credits
15

4b. Study Hours
150

5. Restrictions

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

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

6a. Module Description

Forensic scene examination builds on your knowledge of evidence recovery and packaging. You'll be exposed to a variety of authentic volume crime scenes and gain hands-on practical experience that will develop your confidence in recovery techniques. You'll discuss accreditation standards relevant to various roles within the crime and forensic fields and by enhancing your knowledge of quality and competency standards, you'll be able to recognise how the issues around contamination determine the process of your forensic strategy. The recovery and processing of evidence relies on continuity and the integrity of each stage.

As you progress through this module, you'll gain an understanding of how important the chain of evidence from the crime scene to the laboratory is. During hands-on practical sessions, you'll explore the value of multiple evidence types within a variety of scenarios. You'll learn about the hierarchy of propositions and be able to apply this to the interpretation of the evidence. You'll also consider the roles of different specialisms involved in the collection, analysis and interpretation of the evidence.

For the assessments you'll focus on the correct recording of a crime scene using photography, sketching and contemporaneous note taking, whilst maintaining continuity and integrity of your evidence through appropriate recovery and exhibiting. You'll develop communication skills by working in small teams, organising and taking responsibility for all aspects of your evidence. This module will also prepare you for future employment by building your knowledge of crime scene processes, forensic and policing terminology, laboratory etiquette, and how the whole process fits within investigations.

6b. Outline Content

* Nature of contamination issues and preservation of trace evidence

* Risks and hazards at scenes

* Indoor scenes - preservation, cordons, information gathering

* Outdoor scenes - preservation, cordons, additional problems

* Specialist scenes - different actions to be undertaken

* Use of laboratory equipment

* Recording of crime scenes

* Probability and interpretation of the evidence

* Submission of evidence

6c. Key Texts/Literature

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

6d. Specialist Learning Resources

Crime scene facility within the Department Instrumentation available within the Department

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	Justify the selection of appropriate examination techniques used in volume crime scene examinations
2	Knowledge and Understanding	Explain the selection of appropriate evidence types and their value within the investigation process
3	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Identify evidence types with a crime scene and follow appropriate submission processes
4	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Create contemporaneous notes during crime scene examinations, which evidences appropriate reporting and taking responsibility of the scene

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	16	1,2,4	5 x 3 hrs & 1 x 2 hrs Lectures active learning
Other teacher managed learning	24	1-4	Practicals (5 x 4hrs); In-class test (1 x 2 hrs); Crime scene exam (1 x 2 hrs).
Student managed learning	110	1-4	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	Practical	1-4	100 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)

Crime scene examination (equivalent to 1500 words)

Assessment components for Element 010

Component No.	Assessment Title	Submission Method	Weighting (%)	Components needed for Mark Calculation?
010/1	Crime Scene Observation	Scheduled Activity: Timetabled assessment task	30 (%)	All
010/2	Contemporaneous notes and justification	Scheduled Activity: Timetabled assessment task	70 (%)	

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]