Module Definition Form (MDF)

Module code: MOD002915	**Version:** 12 **Date Amended:** 20/Apr/2022

1. Module Title
Advanced Forensic Methodologies

2a. Module Leader
Peace Nwafor

2b. School
School of Life Sciences

2c. Faculty
Faculty of Science and Engineering

3a. Level
6

3b. Module Type
Standard (fine graded)

4a. Credits
30

4b. Study Hours
300

5. Restrictions

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

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

6a. Module Description

the final year of your course, you will have learnt a wide variety of techniques. This module is designed to provide you with hands-on practical experience in analysing a crime scene with limited supervision, allowing you to appreciate the diversity of evidence available and understand the context in which you must operate as expert witnesses for your role in the analysis of the evidence. You will be presented with a simulated case and crime scene, and will be asked to work as part of an independent team conducting an investigation into the nature and interpretation of the evidence, and present the results in a moot court. The importance of impartiality will be stressed and tested during the moot court.

You are expected to work within your team, fostering independent working and engaging with the specific roles and tasks that will have been set. You will be expected to critically evaluate the case and evidence at hand, plan and analyse relevant forensic evidence taking into consideration the various scientific techniques available, and prepare to present and defend your work and results in a simulated court setting. To prepare for this final stage, you will be encouraged to attend a court room session to get a feel for the settings and procedures.

You will develop skills such as self- management, project management, team work, problem solving and critical thinking. You will gain first-hand experience of what it means to be a crime scene investigator or a forensic scientist, and act as an expert witness, essential for those who would like to continue their career progressions in these fields

6b. Outline Content

- Analysis of the case's scenario and critical evaluation of the case and the evidence recovered from the scene. Checking of evidence packaging and completion of lab submission forms as an integral part of the process that ensures integrity and continuity.
- Independent examination and in-depth scientific analysis of evidence using techniques that have been studied in previous modules.
- Interpretation of evidence analysed and generation of witness statement report.
- Witness examination in a court room setting to check competence as examination-in-chief and in cross-examination.

6c. Key Texts/Literature

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

6d. Specialist Learning Resources

Different laboratory equipment will be used as required.

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	Understand the importance of maintaining sample integrity and how this can be achieved.
2	Knowledge and Understanding	Critically evaluate the various types of evidence available from a crime scene, and assess the relative merits of each using appropriate quantifiable measures.
3	Knowledge and Understanding	Recognise the role of the forensic scientist as an expert witness, and the nature and conduct of examination-in-chief and cross-examination.
4	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Exercise the necessary level of care to avoid contamination of forensic evidence.
5	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Organise and effectively present evidence in the context of a court of law

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	2	1-6	1 x 2 hrs Lectures/active learning
Other teacher managed learning	70	1-6	Practicals (9 x 6 hrs & 1 x 7 hrs & 1 x 3 hrs). Feedback sessions (3 x 2 hrs)
Student managed learning	228	1-6	Background reading, online activities, preparation for lectures and practicals, and completion of assessments
TOTAL:	300		

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	1-6	30 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)

Court Report (1500 words) & Moot Court Presentation (500 words equivalent).

Assessment components for Element 010

Component No.	Assessment Title	Submission Method	Weighting (%)	Components needed for Mark Calculation?
010/1	Court Report	Canvas	50 (%)	All
010/2	Moot Court Presentation	Scheduled Activity: Timetabled assessment task	50 (%)	

Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
011	Practical	1 2 4 5	70 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)

Laboratory Work: 4000 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]