



Module Definition Form (MDF)

Module code: MOD002923	Version: 7 Date Amended: 20/Apr/2022
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1. Module Title
Management of Major Investigations

2a. Module Leader
Rebecca Jones

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
Co-requisites:	None		
Exclusions:	None		
Courses to which this module is restricted:	FdSc Crime and Investigative studies BSc (Hons) Crime and Investigative Studies BSc (Hons) Crime and Investigative Studies (Extended degree) BSc (Hons) Crime and Investigative Studies (Sandwich)		

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

6a. Module Description

Building on your knowledge of volume (everyday) crime, you will apply your learning to major incidents and how to manage these under scrutiny. With any major crime you need to apply standard processes and procedures but must also manage a wider range of resources and justify any decisions made that could later impact the case.

You will expand your knowledge of evidence and crimes types, and the pertinent evidence to recover in support of your case. You will ensure your evidence is ready to present at court, as you will be giving evidence on the case and providing your witness testimony. You will further develop your skills in contemporaneous note taking, and gain practise in writing submission forms as well as witness statements.

You will implement your theoretical and practical skills, working in groups in a specific capacity to examine crime scenes, recover evidence and analyse findings; for example as an investigator, specialist or a crime scene manager. You will review the most up-to-date methodologies in examining, recording and recovering evidence from mock crime scenes, including the packing of evidence, ensuring continuity and integrity.

A key aspect of your learning throughout will be adhering to best practice, both in terms of evidence recovery, and scene approach and recording. You will demonstrate your acquired knowledge of the vulnerability and value of forensic evidence at crime scenes. This advanced knowledge will also be explored in the context of how crime series are linked, both forensically and through intelligence which is contextualised through consideration of linking crimes in both volume and serious crime scenes. You will be expected to utilise your knowledge of scene preservation and issues regarding the contamination of evidence.

An experience of the court procedures will help to prepare you for your future, as most roles with crime and investigation will include an aspect of this stage of an investigation.

6b. Outline Content

The following topics will be covered:

- * Evidence Recovery Techniques: fingerprint development and lifting; DNA recovery, including swabbing; fibre taping; and glass and paint recovery. Correct packaging and labelling methodologies, ensuring continuity and integrity
- * Ensuring Best Practice: processes of review and modification to ensure best practice; changes in previously learnt approaches; and methodologies reflecting real practitioner approaches currently utilised in scene examination.
- * Crime Scene note taking: witness statements and real-time note taking. Recording observations and actions made at the scene. Ensuring accuracy in detail and evidence recording. The remit of the CSI witness statement and how to transpose notes made at the scene into an appropriate witness statement for the criminal justice system. Presentation of statements of evidence in a moot court room scenario.
- * Advanced crime scene practices: Effective methods in scene approach and evidence recovery. The process of methodical and logical crime scene examination by considering the order of recovery in the context of the vulnerability of evidence. The responsibility of the CSI in terms of scene preservation, maximising forensic recovery and the reduction of contamination.
- * The examination of specialist crime scenes: Specialist scene types and examinations that crime scene investigators undertake. Health and safety at all crime scenes, but particularly how specialist scenes may have their own particular safety concerns. Undertaking risk assessments.
- * The examination of death scenes: The particular methodologies of examination and evidence recovery at the scene of a death. The need for careful planning and body recovery plans. Methodical approaches to ensure that all possible evidence is recovered and to assist with interpretation of the scene and identification of victim and offender.
- * Volume, serious and major crime scene linking: The crime scene investigator playing an investigative role. Types of evidence and intelligence that can assist with identifying links between crimes. When considering major crimes, the various associated scenes often encountered and how these may be examined and forensically linked. Advanced considerations regarding cross contamination and strategies to avoid this

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

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	Display a detailed knowledge of the specialist types of examination for, and select appropriate examination techniques for various scenes
2	Knowledge and Understanding	Take responsibility for a crime scene
3	Knowledge and Understanding	Prepare a Witness Statement as required under English Legal System
4	Knowledge and Understanding	Exercise the necessary level of care to avoid contamination of forensic evidence
5	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Utilise problem solving techniques dealing with differences of opinion
6	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
2025/6	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	11	1-6	11 x 1 hr Lectures/active learning
Other teacher managed learning	56	1-6	Practicals (11 x 3 hrs); Tutorials (11 x 2 hrs); Court exams (1 hr)
Student managed learning	233	1-6	Background reading, online activities, preparation for lectures and practicals, and completion of assessments
TOTAL:	300		

9. Assessment for the above Module Occurrence					
Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
010	Practical	1-6	50 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)
Practical scene assessment – 3 hours					
Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
011	Coursework	1-6	0 (%)	Pass/Fail	100 (%)
Court report – 1500 words					
Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
012	Practical	1-6	50 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)
Moot court presentation – 15 mins					

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]