Module Definition Form (MDF)

Module code: MOD007188	**Version:** 6 **Date Amended:** 30/Nov/2022

1. Module Title
Introduction to Forensic Photography and Methodologies

2a. Module Leader
Georgina Belsham

2b. School
School of Life Sciences

2c. Faculty
Faculty of Science and Engineering

3a. Level
4

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:			

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

6a. Module Description

Here you will be introduced to the theoretical and practical aspect of the methodologies used for forensic application including photography, crime scene examination and evidence analysis. This will be achieved via a series of lectures and practicals carried out during the first academic year.

You will focus on learning the basics of photography such as how to use a camera and the different functions i.e. flash, focus and depth of field. You will also cover the legislation surrounding recorded evidence and the procedure for handling, recording, storing and submission of photographic evidence. The skills adopted will underpin your ability to develop further understanding regarding the practical approaches to crime scene photography which are use both by crime scene officers and forensic scientists. It also provide a platform on which to build knowledge from other modules.

The topic of crime scene examination will be included, where you will learn about the procedures used for processing of a crime scene, the different types of evidence that can be encountered, their value and interpretation at the scene, how to recover, package appropriately to ensure integrity and continuity. This will be followed by examination of evidence. The basic concepts of microscopy and the different types of instruments will be discussed. Other evidence types which will be discussed include body fluid identification, DNA analysis, drugs of abuse and toxicology. The importance of ISO accreditation, taking of contemporaneous notes and prevention of contamination will be highlighted throughout the module content. All these will help your knowledge and skills if you would like to pursue a career as an investigative or forensic scientist.

6b. Outline Content

The course content will include the following topics:

- **The role of crime scene investigator (CSI) and forensic scientist** within a criminal investigation and the application of various methodologies including photography, crime scene analysis, evidence packaging and analysis to (a) preserve the integrity and continuity of evidence, (b) properly evaluate the evidence with respect to the case and (c) presentation of result to court.
- **The principles of photography and its use within the criminal justice system:** including the use of cameras and other technologies for general scene photography, photography of evidence at the crime scene (e.g. fingermark and footwear marks), specialised photography such as when using fluorescent examination during crime scene analysis or examination of evidence and for medico-legal work in photography of the deceased and injured. The legislations surrounding captured images, use of computer software for image manipulation, their continuity and integrity and their presentation as evidence in court will also be covered.
- **Basic procedures in the examination of crime scenes and handling of evidence:** including the evaluation of the crime scene with respect to the case at hand, recovery of the evidence using the appropriate packaging and submission of the evidence to forensic laboratory. Legal considerations and discussions of pertinent regulations to all aspects of a forensic investigation.
- **Forensic laboratory principles and skills:** including the scientific principles of the evidence (i.e. biological material, drugs of abuse, hair and fire), methodologies used for their analysis (e.g. presumptive testing and microscopy), proper evaluation, and interpretation. Introduction to statistical applications regarding the probability of evidence results, numeracy of mark prevalence and how these can be applied to basic standard tests.
- **Importance of standards and procedures:** including the understanding and implementation of ISO standards and accreditation for crime scene examination practices, evidence preservation and analysis in forensic laboratories. The establishment and validation of Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) will be highlighted and their application to case work in maintaining evidence integrity and reliability. Students will also be introduced to professional databases and through practical activities, be tasked to understand the importance of correctly recovered and recorded information.
- **Importance of documentation to maintain the continuity of the evidence** will be highlighted at every stage by (a) evaluating the main points that need to be taken into consideration, (b) adopting the appropriate procedure and (c) documenting on contemporaneous notes and laboratory notes the relevant information.

6c. Key Texts/Literature
The reading list to support this module is available at: https://readinglists.aru.ac.uk/

6d. Specialist Learning Resources
Cameras, Flash units, Tripods, Digital processing facilities Specialist laboratories and practical equipment

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	Explain and demonstrate an understanding of the principles, legislation, regulations and theories that underline forensic photography and investigative practices.
2	Knowledge and Understanding	Recognise the need for standardise techniques and procedures to produce images and collect and analyse evidence to ensure integrity and continuity of the evidence.
3	Knowledge and Understanding	Recognise the role of photography, evidence recovery and analysis towards the investigation of a case in criminal settings.
4	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Recognise the role of photography and writing of contemporaneous notes in the recording of a variety of police and forensic evidence types.
5	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Apply search techniques for crime scenes and evidence examination and procedures for the preservation of evidence.
6	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Develop self-confidence, and a sense of personal commitment and responsibility for study.

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	44	1-5	22 x 2 hrs lectures/active learning
Other teacher managed learning	28	1-5	Practicals (2 x 1 hr & 10 x 2 hrs); Tests (2 x 2 hrs); Feedback Session (2 x 1 hour)
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	Coursework	1-4	50 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)
In-class test – 3000 words equivalent					

Assessment components for Element 010				
Component No.	**Assessment Title**	**Submission Method**	**Weighting (%)**	**Components needed for Mark Calculation?**
010/1	In-class test	Scheduled Activity: Timetabled assessment task	17 (%)	All
010/2	In-class test	Scheduled Activity: Timetabled assessment task	33 (%)	
010/3	In-class test	Scheduled Activity: Timetabled assessment task	17 (%)	
010/4	In-class test	Scheduled Activity: Timetabled assessment task	33 (%)	

Assessment No.	**Assessment Method**	**Learning Outcomes**	**Weighting (%)**	**Fine Grade or Pass/Fail**	**Qualifying Mark (%)**
011	Coursework	1-6	50 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)
Portfolio – 2 x 1500 words equivalent					

Assessment components for Element 011				
Component No.	**Assessment Title**	**Submission Method**	**Weighting (%)**	**Components needed for Mark Calculation?**
011/1	Coursework	Scheduled Activity: Timetabled assessment task	50 (%)	All
011/2	Coursework	Scheduled Activity: Timetabled assessment task	50 (%)	

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]