



Module Definition Form (MDF)

Module code: MOD010854	Version: 1 Date Amended: 28/Jan/2025
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1. Module Title
Advanced Digital Investigations

2a. Module Leader
Paul Heselwood

2b. School
School of Life Sciences

2c. Faculty
Faculty of Science and Engineering

3a. Level
6

3b. Module Type
Standard (fine graded)

4a. Credits
15

4b. Study Hours
150

5. Restrictions			
Type	Module Code	Module Name	Condition
Pre-requisites:	None		
Co-requisites:	None		
Exclusions:	None		
Courses to which this module is restricted:	None		

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

6a. Module Description

The recently emerging field of digital online investigations, often referred to as OSINT (open-source intelligence) or i3 (Internet Intelligence & Investigations) is becoming increasingly prevalent in criminal intelligence gathering and investigations. The organisation 'Bellingcat' has shown how intricate investigations can be performed by citizens with a WiFi connection. With the proliferation of the internet and the dependency upon the digital world the use of OSINT in law enforcement is a growing area of interest and application. The OSINT market crossed \$5 (£4) billion in 2022 (GMinights.com) and is now expected to reach nearly \$12 (£9.5) billion by 2026 (GlobeNewsWire.com). Databases and other publicly available information (PAI) is available to those with an internet connection.

Students will be introduced to this method of research and investigation. They will examine the ethical issues and the legal basis of online investigations. They will be asked to critically consider the veracity, authenticity and credibility of information. This is an interactive module where the digital tools and investigative techniques will be explored and applied. The students will develop their problem solving, lateral and critical thinking skills as well as their ability to concisely present their findings and reports.

6b. Outline Content

- Operational Security in a Digital Environment
- The use of digital / OSINT tools and their application
- The guidelines, regulations and law when conducting online investigations
- Case Studies
- The presentation of findings and report writing

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	Critically review criminal investigation techniques, intelligence gathering, the impact of contemporary crimes, and likely future developments techniques in the digital environment.
2	Knowledge and Understanding	Justify the application of digital research frameworks, methods and tactics.
3	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Work collaboratively to conduct research using various investigative techniques in the digital environment

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		

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 hours lectures/active
Other teacher managed learning	14	1-3	Workshops/group discussions (11 x 1 hr); Oral presentation (1 x 3 hrs)
Student managed learning	114	1-3	Background reading, online activities, preparation for lectures and practical sessions, and completion of assessments
TOTAL:	150		

9. Assessment for the above Module Occurrence					
Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
010	Coursework	1	60 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)
Coursework 1500 words					
Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
011	Practical	2,3	40 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)
Group Presentation 1500 word 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]