

# CORE MODULES: BSc (Hons) Crime and Investigative Studies

You must take modules worth 120 credits at each level of the course. Each module is worth a specified number of credits.

## Year one for full-time students (Level 4)

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### Introduction to Forensic Methodologies (30 credits)

- In this module you'll cover key forensic aspects ranging from the management of crime scenes and the appropriate recovery of items found within them, to the interpretation of results obtained from laboratory-based analyses. A range of the most common types of evidence will be introduced, along with the techniques used to examine them. Particular emphasis is placed on the various microscopy methods available, including polarised light and fluorescence microscopy, and the physical principles behind them.*

### Perceptions of Crime (15 credits)

- You'll be introduced to the subject of criminology. Basic theories of positivism and classicism is covered at length including recent work that has been published by the leading academics in each field. You'll study historical aspects of crime and punishment, gaining a greater understanding of the origins of these theories, and how they have been introduced to the criminal justice system throughout time. The supposition of 'nature versus nurture' is examined in depth, along with other related concepts, such as 'the anthropological factor' and 'the female offender'. These ideas will be related to contemporary models of managing crime and disorder, both within the UK and worldwide.*

### United Kingdom Legal Systems and Law for Forensic Scientist (15 credits)

- Explore the different legal systems within the United Kingdom and the different requirements of these systems. You'll look at the development of law in the English, Scottish and Northern Ireland legal systems and examine the jury system and the investigation of crime with each of these systems. You'll closely examine the powers relevant to the Scene of Crime Officer/Forensic Scientist and the laws of evidence as they relate to the S.O.C.O./Forensic Scientist and the codes of practice of the Crown Prosecution Service. You'll focus on seizure, rules of evidence and codes of practice as well as forensic scientist and expert witness.*

### Introduction to Police and Forensic Photography (15 credits)

- You'll be introduced to the use of photographic evidence and other image recording methods used in the documentation of police and forensic evidence. You'll conduct practical work on simulated cases in addition to attending conventional lectures and tutorials using photographic equipment available within our department. You'll be assessed through a written assignment/portfolio.*

### Identification Techniques (15 credits)

- The correct identification of a person, offender or victim, is extremely important in any police investigation. This module examines identification issues which are perceived to play such an important part in the identification of an offender. Different methods of identification is examined. Not only will the advantages of identification methods be examined, but also the disadvantages, which can lead to problems, if not understood correctly, at a later stage in court. The module is assessed by a written assessment and a poster presentation on a relevant topic.*

### Physical Criminalistics (30 credits)

- The correct identification of a person, offender or victim, is extremely important in any police investigation. This module examines identification issues which are perceived to play such an important part in the identification of an offender. Different methods of identification is examined. Not only will the advantages of identification methods be examined, but also the disadvantages, which can lead to problems, if not understood correctly, at a later stage in court. The module is assessed by a written assessment and a poster presentation on a relevant topic.*

## Year two for full-time students (Level 5)

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### Scene and Laboratory Investigation (15 credits)

- *Undertake practical work in the recovery of evidence at various scenes and highlight the problems that different types of scenes can bring. You'll build on knowledge you gained in previous modules in relation to contamination issues and also issues in the chain of continuity of evidence. You'll build your practical skills with various laboratory instrumentation, which you'll then use to undertake various analytical experiments on evidence recovered from the scene.*

### Evidence Based Policing (15 credits)

- *Understand the key principles of Evidence-Based Policing, a methodology being employed increasingly across the country to tackle crime in times of austerity and greater demand for transparency and accountability. You will review the twentieth-century policing style, how research is being increasingly employed to aid policy decisions in the twenty-first century, analyses of the police response to common problems in society, how current methodologies can be improved with the use of research, and the scope for evidence-based policing moving into the future.*

### Mass Disasters (30 credits)

- *You'll be introduced to the field of mass disaster planning and response, covering a range of aspects from what classifies as a mass disaster to planning, management and preparedness. You'll learn the complexity of different types of disaster operations from a variety of viewpoints, including expert practitioners dealing with the human remains to those dealing with the victim's families and role of the public services. You'll experience mock disaster scenarios and will be expected to take on various roles in order to overcome the challenges you're faced with during the practical sessions. Practical sessions will guide you through the processes of different aspects of disaster response including search and recovery, logging of personal effects, Interpol DVI forms for collection of ante mortem and post-mortem information, and other specialist roles (such as Odontologists, Pathologists, Coroners, APTs and Anthropologists).*

### Project Preparation (15 credits)

- *We'll prepare you to carry out a major project in your final year, including skills in selecting a suitable project, using relevant sources of published information, literature surveys, writing a literature review and creating a project plan. During this self-managed module you'll plan your project and regularly meet with your supervisor, who will give you advice and review your progress. You'll also gain experience of projects by having the opportunity to listen to the project presentations by final year students.*

### Digital Forensics (15 credits)

- *This module will introduce you to the field of digital forensics, a critical component in the majority of modern policing incidents and/or investigations. You will be introduced to the key aspects of the digital investigative strategy, including identification, the powers necessary for lawful seizure, safe handling, policy and legislation, and methods of interrogation. You will also explore how digital evidence is reported within the criminal justice system.*

### Police and Forensic Investigations (30 credits)

- *You'll explore the many different roles found within the modern Police Service, such as Dog Handlers, CID, Scenes of Crime, Firearms Officers, and how these may be used within a Police investigation. You'll gain the skills necessary to organise and manage a criminal investigation. You'll be provided with the basic outline of a criminal case from which you'll have to carry out your own investigation of it. The investigation will not only involve decisions being made over which forensic samples should be analysed, but also regarding witnesses to be interviewed and statements to be taken.*

## Final year for full-time students (Level 6)

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### Undergraduate Major Project (30 credits)

- *The individual Final Project module allows students to engage in a substantial piece of individual research and / or product development work, focused on a topic relevant to their specific discipline. The topic may be drawn from a variety of sources including: Anglia Ruskin research groups, previous / current work experience, the company in which they are currently employed, a University Centre Peterborough lecturer suggested topic or a professional subject of their specific interest (if suitable supervision is available). The project topic will be assessed for suitability to ensure sufficient academic challenge and satisfactory supervision by an academic member of staff. The chosen topic will require the student to identify / formulate problems and issues, conduct literature reviews, evaluate information, investigate and adopt suitable development methodologies, determine solutions, develop hardware, software and/or media artefacts as appropriate, process data, critically appraise and present their finding using a variety of media. Regular meetings with the project supervisor should take place, so that the project is closely monitored and steered in the right direction. The assessment will normally include a substantial written report.*

### Forensic Pathology (15 credits)

- *Forensic Pathology is a discipline of pathology concerned with the investigation of deaths where there are medico-legal implications, for example, suspected homicide and other complex medico-legal cases. Forensic pathologists are medically qualified doctors who perform autopsies on sudden, unexpected and suspicious deaths. The forensic investigation of death is a multi-disciplinary approach that involves collaboration between pathologists, crime scene investigators, forensic scientists and other experts in the forensic field. This module develops the knowledge of the students in relation to the subject of forensic pathology, which contributes to the investigation of suspicious death and identification of the deceased. The module covers the role of forensic pathology in fulfilling the key functions of the medico-legal autopsy determination of cause of death, post-mortem changes after death, estimate of time since death, traumatic causes of death and asphyxias. Various case studies and peer-reviewed articles relating to the subject area will also be discussed in the lecture/seminar sessions.*

### Forensic Anthropology (15 credits)

- *This module develops the student's knowledge with regard to the role of the forensic anthropologist and the application of forensic anthropology to criminal investigations. The module covers search, recovery and identification of human remains, considering the role of the anthropologist both at the crime scene and the mortuary. The module teaches how the anthropologist works with other experts within the investigative framework and covers both domestic and international applications - from single fatality investigations through to the use of anthropology during mass fatality incidents. Methods of archaeology and osteology and their application to forensic contexts will be taught with the emphasis on basic principles and the critical application of techniques and their selection. A variety of resources will be available, including ARU's collection of human remains and anthropological teaching aids. Case studies and peer reviewed articles will be discussed and a variety of additional resources are available through the digital library.*

### Crime Scene Analysis (30 credits)

- *You'll gain the theoretical and practical skills necessary for examining crime scenes and analysing the evidence collected. Evidence recovery is covered in depth in addition to other analytical techniques. You'll take practical crime scene exams where you'll be expected to put into practice what you've been taught. This module will also include a witness statement and a moot court, during which you'll be expected to give evidence in chief and be cross-examined. Assessment is by a practical scene investigation, written statement of evidence and a moot court presentation.*

### Specialised Topics in Investigative Science (15 credits)

- *This module explores and covers specialised and contemporary areas of crime investigation which you may not have experienced or be aware of when compared to the more commonly reported media crimes. You will cover specific areas of current and emerging crimes within the large and complex range of criminalities, including UK based and international crimes. Each specialist area will cover the history, investigative techniques used, forensic science techniques, investigative agencies involved, legislation, impact of and response to the crime.*

## **Major Investigations (15 credits)**

- *Major Investigations within the Police service are probably the most complicated, involving not only police personnel but also staff from many other agencies involved in investigation of crime. You will look at the national standards involved in major investigations, as well as looking at the different disciplines including investigative theory, intelligence, planning of an investigation including investigative strategies and other investigative considerations. You will also look in depth at various roles within the major investigation team and how those roles interact with the strategic plan of the investigation management team.*