

# CORE MODULES: FdSc 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.*

## Final year 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.*