



Component Standard

Interpretation, Evaluation, and Presentation of Evidence (Postgraduate Courses)

Purpose

To ensure that students have sufficient knowledge and skills to record evidence and all aspects of hypothesis testing, manage data, evaluate and interpret evidence, and effectively present their findings in various legal contexts.

General Outcomes

The course should be designed to enable the student to:

1. demonstrate an understanding of relevant legislation, regulation, standards and codes of practice for all aspects of an investigation, including issues relating to conflict of interest, data protection, confidentiality and legal privilege;
MSc – Comprehensive understanding of the underpinning requirements for a forensic practitioner.¹
2. record observations in the form of notes in a logical, comprehensive and contemporaneous manner;
MSc – show a self-critical awareness to the recording of notes and communicate the outcome effectively.
3. demonstrate an understanding of the investigative process and the requirements of continuity of evidence;
MSc – comprehensive understanding of the ‘whole system’ approach to the investigative process²
4. demonstrate an understanding of safe working practices and the function and practice of quality assurance;
MSc – Deep understanding of issues governing good practice in connection with H&S and Quality.
5. evaluate and interpret data from appropriate equipment applied to a range of forensic examinations. Include the use of statistical tests to aid interpretation;
MSc – be confident in the ability to interpret complex technical information in a wide variety of investigative systems.
6. demonstrate an understanding of how to set up a series of suitable tests for hypothesis testing to aid in the interpretation of analytical results;
MSc – have an open and innovative attitude to plan and execute various hypothesis with minimum supervision OR be self-directing and original in applying and adapting problem-solving skills to unfamiliar, complex and open-ended hypothesis.

¹ All the MSc references are in line with QAA Benchmark Level 7

² Here ‘whole system’ is a term used in the HQ Strategy for forensic science and here means the relevant legislation, regulation, standards and codes of practice for all aspects of an investigation, including issues relating to conflict of interest, data protection, confidentiality and legal privilege.

7. demonstrate the ability to effectively identify and search relevant proprietary and open databases, including, where appropriate, frequency of occurrence of evidential materials to support interpretation;
MSc – able to use a full range of learning sources to provide data and show a conceptual understanding that will enable critical evaluation.
8. write robust, balanced, logical and transparent reports which are understandable to the intended recipients;
MSc – show a balanced and unbiased approach to writing while at the same time communicating effectively to a range of readers.
9. demonstrate good oral and presentational skills which are understandable to the intended recipients;
MSc – can engage confidentiality in professional communications with others, reporting clearly autonomously and competently.
10. demonstrate effective working as part of an investigative team, how the scope of an investigation, the roles of others and how the methods they employ, may affect the forensic strategy.
Work effectively as leader or member, can clarify tasks and make appropriate use of capabilities of group members to deliver an overall strategic way forward and can negotiate and handle conflict with confidence.