

Component Standard: Crime Scene Investigation BSc (Hons) Forensic Science

Component Standard	Core modules and year	Examples
<p>1. Understand and describe the roles, responsibilities and liabilities of all personnel involved in the processing of a crime scene with particular emphasis on police scientific support personnel such as Scenes of Crime Officers, the Senior Investigating Officer (SIO), Crime Scene Manager and other police personnel or their equivalents.</p>	<p>Fully Meets Component Standard Y/N (+++, ++, +, -) Please indicate what Year of course</p> <p>+++</p> <p>Crime scene investigation [NU1-8613], Yr 1.</p> <p>Case studies [NU3-8645], Yr 3.</p>	<p>Please give at least two examples where the modules meet the component standard¹ e.g. module X = Lecture & Practical module Y = Tutorial & Workshop</p> <p>Personal attending crime scenes and their roles and responsibilities are covered in lectures 1-3 in [NU1-8613].</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During Crime Scene Investigation 1, students take the role of e.g. CSM and Crime Scene Examiners (CSEs). Academic staff take the role of other persons attending the scene (e.g. SIO) to see how students interact with these personnel. Investigations are filmed and students are given (formative) feedback on their performance. • Ethics, safety and liability are covered in lecture 3. • In Coursework assignment 2 (summative) students are given a crime scene scenario. In their answer, they are expected to outline the personal attending and detail their roles and responsibilities. <p>Crime scene investigation and the importance of personnel processing a crime scene are revisited in the Case Studies module in Year 3 [NU3-8645].</p>

¹ For each example, please provide brief, but sufficient details to help the assessors e.g. Module X: lecture on (and give brief description of lecture content) and practical on (and brief overview of practical, particularly the aspects that cover the component standard). An example for Component Standard 1 might be: Module C84: students are expected to make notes in their laboratory notebooks which are signed off by the session leader every week. Module C86: students carry out a 10 week independent research project. Their laboratory notebooks are assessed, this mark contributing 15% of the module mark.

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	<p>Fire and explosion investigation [NU-8629], Yr 2.</p> <p>Evidence analysis from the crime scene to the laboratory [NU2-8630], Yr 2.</p>	<p>Lecture 2 in fire investigation [NU-8629] covers the importance of taking control samples at scenes for comparison purposes during laboratory analysis. Students are expected to take background/control materials during the fire scene investigation in NU-8629 for later analysis in the laboratory practicals.</p> <p>Lecture 4 covers QC and QA where the importance of control and reference materials in analysis, including taking control samples at the scene, where appropriate, is highlighted.</p>
<p>4. Understand and describe the roles of specialists who may attend crime scenes. For example: ambulance personnel, anthropologists, archaeologists, pathologists, forensic medical examiners, scientists, bomb disposal experts, engineers, entomologists, fire service, fire investigators, odontologists and surveyors and other forensic specialists.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">+++</p> <p>Crime scene investigation [NU1-8613], Yr 1.</p> <p>Fire and explosion investigation [NU-8625], Yr2.</p> <p>Case studies [NU3-8645], Yr 3.</p>	<p>Lecture 4 of NU1-8613 covers other specialists who may attend crime scenes. Video clips of a road traffic accident illustrate paramedics and the fire service attending a scene. In lecture 6, the CSM from Borcestershire Police Force also discusses the role of specialists attending scenes and how their presence at scenes is co-ordinated.</p> <p>The role of the fire service and bomb disposal experts is covered in lectures in NU2-8629 and through a video clip of a fire scene investigation.</p> <p>Some of the case studies in NU3-8645 cover experts such as anthropologists and archaeologists attending scenes.</p>
<p>5. Understand and describe the potential complexity of crime scene investigation and the many practical and legal constraints,</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">++</p> <p>Crime scene investigation [NU1-</p>	<p>For Crime Scene Investigation 1, students are given a set time in</p>

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<p>including the need for timeliness, within which the investigator must work.</p>	<p>8613], Yr 1.</p> <p>Case studies [NU3-8645], Yr 3.</p>	<p>which to gain an overview of the scene and then outline their documented plan of investigation to academic staff observing their performance. This documented plan is submitted and assessed as part of Coursework Assignment 2 and discussed as part of feedback to students.</p> <p>The CSM from Borcestershire Police covers complexity of investigations, practical constraints and time constraints in lecture 6 and the associated the ½ day workshop on evidence recovery.</p> <p>Case studies in NU3-8645 include complex cases and where legal constraints have impacted on investigations.</p>
<p>6. Demonstrate:</p> <p>a) an understanding of the information needs of all personnel involved in crime scene examination and the processing of items of physical evidence, and;</p> <p>b) an ability to convey information of this type in an appropriate form. Particular emphasis should be placed on the information that must be provided to and by SOCOs, or their equivalents.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">+++</p> <p>Crime scene investigation [NU1-8613], Yr 1.</p> <p>and</p> <p>Fire and explosion investigation [NU-8625], Yr2.</p> <p>Analysis of DNA and biological material [NU2-8623]</p>	<p>Lecture 4 of NU1-8613 covers the co-ordination of examination of crime scenes and this aspect is also discussed by the CSM from Borcestershire Police, including the role of CSEs and the information that they need at a scene and the information that they need to supply to others. The Murder Investigation Manual (Centrex, 2006) is a mandatory text for this module.</p> <p>Information learned in lectures is tested in practice through the two crime scene investigations in NU1-8613 and in the fire scene investigation in NU-8629. Students work in groups and their communication as a team and with their designated CSM and the SIO is observed and discussed in the feedback session. Logs and documentation are assessed as part of Coursework Assignment 2.</p> <p>As part of module NU2-8623, students work in groups to examine items of evidence from a mock crime scene scenario. They are</p>

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		<p>given details of the case and a list of items of evidence. This gives them an understanding of the sort of information which accompanies evidence submitted for examination. They can submit questions to the SIO. At the end of the examination process, each student must prepare an expert witness report which forms part of Coursework assignment 2 for NU2-8623.</p>
<p>7. Understand and explain both evidential and intelligence values of information obtained by crime scene investigation.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">+++</p> <p>Crime scene investigation [NU1-8613], Yr 1.</p> <p>Evidence analysis from the crime scene to the laboratory [NU2-8630], Yr 2.</p>	<p>In Coursework Assignment 2 [NU1-8613], where students outline an examination strategy for a crime scene scenario, students are expected to document what evidence they would collect and why, including the potential intelligence that could be provided.</p> <p>Lectures 4, 5 & 6 of NU2-8630 discuss the Case Assessment and Interpretation (CAI) model, the hierarchy of propositions and Bayes Theorem . Associated tutorials on evidence evaluation discuss the examination of an alleged sexual assault, focussing on evidence available, evidence collected and planning a forensic analysis strategy. Students put this knowledge into practice in the mock crime scene scenario when they have to decide what analyses to apply to evidence collected.</p> <p>The aspect of evidential and intelligence values is revisited in Year 3 in NU3-8645, Case studies.</p>

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Component Standard	Classes	Relevant Component
<p>8. Demonstrate a full understanding of the critical importance of crime scene investigation in the crime scene to court chain.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">+++</p> <p>Crime scene investigation [NU1-8613], Yr 1.</p> <p>Evidence analysis from the crime scene to the laboratory [NU2-8630], Yr 2.</p> <p>Fire and explosion investigation [NU-8625], Yr2.</p> <p>Case studies [NU3-8645], Yr 3.</p> <p>The expert witness [NU2-8631], Yr 2.</p>	<p>Students are introduced to the critical importance of crime scene investigation in NU1-8613 and demonstrate an understanding of this critical importance through Coursework assignments and crime scene examinations in NU1-8613 and NU2-8626.</p> <p>This understanding is further developed through discussion of case studies in NU3-8645 and through appearing as an expert witness in a mock court in NU2-8631, where they are examined on reports produced as part of a coursework assignment for NU2-8623 (Analysis of DNA and biological material).</p>

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<p>9. Demonstrate the skills of crime scene evidence interpretation.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">+++</p> <p>Crime scene investigation [NU1-8613], Yr 1.</p> <p>Analysis of DNA and biological material [NU2-8623]</p>	<p>Students demonstrate the skills of crime scene evidence interpretation through Coursework assignments and crime scene examinations in NU1-8613 and NU2-8626. This understanding is further developed through discussion of case studies in NU3-8645 and through appearing as an expert witness in a mock court in NU2-8631, where they are examined on reports produced as part of a coursework assignment for NU2-8623 (Analysis of DNA and biological material).</p> <p>As part of a coursework assignment for NU2-8563, students produce an Expert Witness report and submit their case notes. As part of the assignment, they are expected to present a CAI model for the crime scene scenario associated with the evidence that they have analysed.</p>
<p>10. Critically evaluate case studies.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">+++</p> <p>Case studies [NU3-8645], Yr 3.</p>	<p>In year 3, in a series of seminars, students explore real and fictitious case studies. Each week a group of students is given a case study and then leads the class in a critical evaluation of the case the following week.</p> <p>For the unseen written examination of the course, students are given a case study and asked to write a critical evaluation of the case.</p>

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<p>11. Describe and demonstrate adherence to safe working procedures.</p>	<p>+++</p> <p>Scientific Skills [NU1-8616], Yr 1.</p> <p>Crime scene investigation [NU1-8613], Yr 1.</p> <p>Fire and explosion investigation [NU-8625], Yr2.</p> <p>All lab classes associated with analysis of items of evidence [NU2-8623], [NU2-8625], [NU2-8630], [NU3-8647], [NU3-8649]</p>	<p>Risk and COSHH assessments are covered in Lecture 2. Students do a COSHH assessment as part of Practical 1.</p> <p>Safe working procedures associated with crime scene investigation are covered in Lecture 3 of [NU1-8613] and in Lecture 2 of NU-8625 with reference to fire investigation. As part of the crime scene examinations associated with these two modules students must demonstrate adherence to safe working procedures during examination of scenes and for the scene examination in NU-8625, students are not allowed to enter the scene until they have outlined their safety procedures to the academic observing their scene examination.</p> <p>All practicals have an associated COSHH assessment. Students are expected to read the assessment and to comply with it. Their adherence to safe working practices is observed during all practicals and any student not adhering to protocol is reprimanded.</p>
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<p>12. Apply the skills and knowledge embodied in items 1 to 11 above to the investigation of a range of simulated crime scenes</p>	<p>+++</p> <p>Crime scene investigation [NU1-8613], Yr 1.</p> <p>Fire and explosion investigation [NU-8625], Yr2.</p>	<p>Information learned in lectures is tested in practice through the two crime scene investigations in NU1-8613 and in the fire scene investigation in NU-8629. Students work in groups and their communication as a team and with their designated CSM and the SIO is observed and discussed in the feedback session. Logs and documentation are assessed as part of Coursework Assignment 2.</p> <p>In NU2-8623 students apply knowledge gained in lectures in this and other modules to the examination of evidence from a mock sexual assault. This requires that they evaluate information on the assault, assess the evidence available and carry out a CAI before carrying out their proposed analytical strategies.</p> <p>They use the ? report that they produce in an assessed court room exercise where they take the role of an Expert Witness, with a practising defence barrister and with a very experienced ex FSS Senior Scientist with extensive court going experience taking the role of the prosecuting barrister.</p>
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