



1. Programme Title(s):

MSc./PGDip*/PGCert* in Forensic Science and Criminal Justice

* Exit awards only

2. Awarding body or institution:

University of Leicester

3. a) Mode of study

Part-time

b) Type of study

Distance Learning

4. Registration periods:

The normal period of registration is 27 months

The maximum period of registration is 48 months

5. Typical entry requirements:

Honours degree at 2:1 level or equivalent. In accordance with regulations applicants who do not meet the standard criteria may be considered on the basis of other qualifications and extensive and relevant work experience.

Students whose first language is not English must satisfy the University's English Language requirements, IELTS 6.5 or equivalent.

6. Accreditation of Prior Learning:

A maximum of 30 credits obtained from approved optional modules undertaken at the Universities of Canberra or Florida will be recognised by the University.

7. Programme aims:

The programme aims to:

- raise students' knowledge and understanding of the evaluation, interpretation and use of forensic science evidence as a means of solving crime.
- enable students to critically analyse the evidential value of multiple types of forensic science evidence.
- equip students to engage in forensic science research and to conduct independent evaluations of forensic science evidence.

8. Reference points used to inform the programme specification:

- QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications in England Wales and Northern Ireland
- QAA [Master's Degree Characteristics](#)
- QAA Benchmarking Statement [Chemistry \(2007\)](#)
- PDR report (May 2011)
- [University Learning Strategy](#)

- University Employability Strategy
- Graduate Survey (2014)
- First Destination Survey
- External Examiner's Reports

9. Programme Outcomes:

| Intended Learning Outcomes | Teaching and Learning Methods | How Demonstrated? |
|---|--|--|
| (a) Subject and Professional skills | | |
| Knowledge | | |
| Advanced knowledge of the use of forensic science as a means of solving crime | DL materials (voice over presentations, podcasts, video footage) on Blackboard, directed reading (e-library) and activities, dissertation supervision and independent research | MCQ's, assessed written assignments and a dissertation |
| Concepts | | |
| Enhanced appreciation of concepts of evidence evaluation and evidential value in the context of forensic science evidence | DL materials (voice over presentations, podcasts, video footage) on Blackboard, directed reading (e-library) and activities, dissertation supervision and independent research | MCQ's, assessed written assignments and a dissertation |
| Techniques | | |
| Ability to apply an understanding of these concepts | DL materials (voice over presentations, podcasts, video footage) on Blackboard, directed reading (e-library) and activities, dissertation supervision and independent research | Blackboard discussion groups, MCQ's, assessed written assignments and a dissertation |
| Critical analysis | | |
| Ability to apply an understanding and critical assessment of the evaluation and evidential value of forensic science evidence to multiple evidence types | DL materials (voice over presentations, podcasts, video footage) on Blackboard, directed reading (e-library) and activities, dissertation supervision and independent research | Blackboard discussion groups, MCQ's, assessed written assignments and a dissertation |
| Presentation | | |
| Ability to argue the evidential value and interpretation of multiple forensic science evidence types | DL materials (voice over presentations, podcasts, video footage) on Blackboard, directed reading (e-library) and activities, dissertation supervision and independent research | Blackboard discussion groups, assessed written assignments and a dissertation |
| Appraisal of evidence | | |
| Ability to analyze critically and assess the evidential value of multiple forensic science evidence types | DL materials (voice over presentations, podcasts, video footage) on Blackboard, directed reading (e-library) and activities, dissertation supervision and independent research | Blackboard discussion groups, MCQ's, assessed written assignments and a dissertation |
| (b) Transferable skills | | |
| Research skills | | |
| Ability to undertake a critical evaluation of new technologies and their relevance to the use of an unseen problem, exemplified via the example of forensic science as a means of solving crime | DL materials (voice over presentations, podcasts, video footage) on Blackboard, directed reading (e-library) and activities, dissertation supervision and independent research | Blackboard discussion groups, assessed written assignments and a dissertation |
| Communication skills | | |
| Ability to produce written material in a competent fashion that demonstrates arguments effectively, clearly and concisely | Directed reading (e-library) and activities, dissertation supervision and independent research | Blackboard discussion groups, assessed written assignments and a dissertation |
| Data presentation | | |
| Ability to present findings in a logical and concise manner | DL materials (voice over presentations, podcasts, video footage) on Blackboard, directed reading (e-library) and activities related specifically to research methods | Blackboard discussion groups, MCQ's, assessed written assignments |
| Working relationships | | |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Ability to contribute to, and comment on, group discussions | Directed reading (e-library) and activities | Participation in Blackboard discussion groups |
|---|---|---|

| Intended Learning Outcomes | Teaching and Learning Methods | How Demonstrated? |
|---|--|---|
| Ability to contribute to, and comment on, group discussions | Directed reading (e-library) and activities | Participation in Blackboard discussion groups |
| Managing learning | | |
| Ability to work independently and organise learning | DL materials (voice over presentations, podcasts, video footage) on Blackboard, directed reading (e-library) and activities, dissertation supervision and independent research. Advice on study skills | Participation in Blackboard discussion groups and regular contact with course administration, module tutors and dissertation supervisor |
| Career management | | |
| Ability to apply the skills and knowledge learned in a professional context | Communication with colleagues from diverse geographical and professional backgrounds | Participation in Blackboard discussion groups |

10. Special features:

All modules (both compulsory and optional) relate to the use of forensic science evidence as a means of solving crime and will equip the student to critically assess the evidential value of multiple evidence types and their relevance, in a professional context.

This course is offered in conjunction with the University of Florida and University of Canberra. Students registered on this course will be given the opportunity to select up to 30 credits in total of optional modules from those offered by Florida or Canberra in their second year. Students registered at Florida or Canberra will be able to study University of Leicester modules as associate students.

11. Indications of programme quality:

This programme represents a new taught postgraduate discipline for the university and comprises module contributions from all colleges. Its multidisciplinary nature makes it appropriate to consider accreditation from the UK Forensic Science Society and the US Academy of Forensic Sciences.

12. Scheme of Assessment

This programme follows the University's regulations governing taught postgraduate programmes (Senate Regulations 6):

<http://www2.le.ac.uk/offices/sas2/regulations/general-regulations-for-taught-programmes>

Modules undertaken at the Universities of Canberra and Florida will be assessed in accordance with the marking schemes of those universities with the marks being converted to a University grade in line with an approved conversion scheme as follows:

| Conversion of grading systems | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|------------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| Florida / grade | Florida / % | Canberra | Leicester / % | Leicester / MSc grade |
| A | 90 | High distinction | 75-100 | Distinction |
| | | Distinction | 70-74 | |
| A- | 80 | Credit | 68-69 | Merit |
| B+ | | | 60-67 | |
| B | | | | |
| B- | | | 58-59 | |
| C+ | | | | |

| | | | | |
|----|------|------|-------|------|
| C | 70 | Pass | 50-57 | Pass |
| C- | | Fail | | Fail |
| D+ | | | | |
| D | 60 | | | |
| E | Fail | | | |
| F | Fail | | | |
| | | | < 50 | |

13. Progression points

Students' progress will be reviewed on the completion of the first 60 credits of taught modules and again on completion of 120 credits of taught modules. At this stage progression decisions will be taken in accordance with those specified in the Senate Regulation 6 for taught postgraduate programmes. Boards of Examiners may recommend interim awards as appropriate in accordance with the Senate Regulation 6 for Taught Programmes. <http://www2.le.ac.uk/offices/sas2/regulations/general-regulations-for-taught-programmes>

14. Rules relating to re-sits or re-submission

This programme complies with Senate Regulation 6 governing taught postgraduate programmes: <http://www2.le.ac.uk/offices/sas2/regulations/general-regulations-for-taught-programmes>

15. Additional information [e.g. timetable for admissions]

There will be one intake per annum in October.

16. External Examiners

The details of the External Examiner(s) for this programme and the most recent External Examiners' reports can be found [here](#).

Appendix 1: Programme structure (programme regulations)

Students take the initial four compulsory modules (CH7201-CH7204) in year one, 60 credits of optional modules in year two (with at least 30 credits from Leicester-hosted modules), and the 60 credit dissertation at the end of year two.

| | Module code | Module title | Credits | Institution delivered by |
|------------|---------------------------------------|--|----------------|---------------------------------|
| Compulsory | CH7201 | Crime Scene Examination | 15 | Leicester |
| | CH7202 | Trace Evidence Analysis | 15 | Leicester |
| | CH7203 | Evidential Value and Interpretation | 15 | Leicester |
| | CH7204 | Research Methods | 15 | Leicester |
| | CH7260 | Dissertation | 60 | Leicester |
| Optional* | <i>Strand 1 - Physical Evidence</i> | | | |
| | CH7211 | Fingerprint corrosion | 10 | Leicester |
| | CH7212 | Arson investigation | 10 | Leicester |
| | CH7213 | Forensic engineering | 10 | Leicester |
| | CH7906 | Weapons of mass destruction | 15 | Florida |
| | CH7900 | Blood distribution and spatter | 15 | Florida |
| | CH7902 | Environmental forensics I | 15 | Canberra |
| | <i>Strand 2 - Biological Evidence</i> | | | |
| | CH7901 | Biological evidence and serology | 15 | Florida |
| | CH7905 | Forensic toxicology I | 15 | Florida |
| | CH7904 | Forensic genetics | 15 | Florida |
| | <i>Strand 3 – Human Remains</i> | | | |
| | CH7232 | Introduction to forensic archaeology | 10 | Leicester |
| | CH7233 | Introduction to forensic anthropology | 10 | Leicester |
| | CH7903 | Forensic entomology | 15 | Florida |
| | <i>Strand 4 – Management</i> | | | |
| | CH7241 | Crime scene management | 10 | Leicester |
| | CH7242 | Forensic science and law | 10 | Leicester |
| | CH7243 | Intelligence gathering and data mining | 10 | Leicester |

Appendix 2: Module Specifications

See module specification database <http://www.le.ac.uk/sas/courses/documentatio>

