UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER

Programme Specification (Postgraduate)

For students entering in 2021/22
Date amended: Feb 2019

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		High distinction	75-100	Distinction
	90	Distinction	70-74	
A-		Credit	68-69	Merit
B+				
B	80		60-67	
B-			58-59	
C+				

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

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*	*Strand 1 - Physical Evidence*			
	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
	Strand 2 - Biological Evidence			
	CH7901	Biological evidence and serology	15	Florida
	CH7905	Forensic toxicology I	15	Florida
	CH7904	Forensic genetics	15	Florida
	Strand 3 – Human Remains			
	CH7232	Introduction to forensic archaeology	10	Leicester
	CH7233	Introduction to forensic anthropology	10	Leicester
	CH7903	Forensic entomology	15	Florida
	Strand 4 – Management			
	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