Programme Specification (Postgraduate)

FOR ENTRY YEAR: 2024/25

Date created: n / a **Last amended:** 10/07/25 **Version no.** 3

1. Programme title(s) and code(s)

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

Notes

* An award marked with an asterisk is only available as an exit award and is not available for students to register onto.

HECOS Code

HECOS Code	%
100388	75%
100483	25%

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 for the MSc is 28 months

The maximum period of registration for the MSc 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 University of 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 Benchmarking Statement
- Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)
- UK Quality Code for Higher Education
- University Education Strategy
- University Assessment Strategy [log in required]
- University of Leicester Periodic Developmental Review Report
- External Examiners' reports (annual)
- United Nations Education for Sustainable Development Goals
- Student Destinations Data

9. Programme Outcomes

Unless otherwise stated, programme outcomes apply to all awards specified in 1. Programme title(s).

a) Discipline specific knowledge and competencies

i) Knowledge

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
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

ii) Concepts

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
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

iii) Techniques

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
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

iv) Critical analysis

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
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

v) Presentation

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
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

vi) Appraisal of evidence

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
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

i) Research skills

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
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

ii) Communication skills

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
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

iii) Data presentation

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
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

iv) Working relationships

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

v) Managing learning

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
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

vi) Career management

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
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. 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 in their second year. Students registered at Florida will be able to study University of Leicester modules as associate students.

11. Indicators of programme quality

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

12. Criteria for award and classification

This programme follows the standard scheme of taught postgraduate award and classification set out in Senate Regulations – see the version of *Senate Regulation 6 governing taught postgraduate programmes of study* relevant to year of entry.

The following additional award requirements for this programme have been approved:

- Modules undertaken at the University of Florida will be assessed in accordance with the marking schemes of that university 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 Grade	Leicester %	Leicester Grade
A+		High distinction	75	Distinction
A	93	Distinction	75	Distinction
A–		Credit	72	Distinction
B+		Credit	68	Merit
B	70	Credit	65	Merit
B–		Pass	62	Merit
C+		Pass	58	Pass
C	47	Pass	55	Pass
C–		Fail	52	Pass
D+		Fail	< 50	Fail
D	60	Fail	< 50	Fail
E	Fail	Fail	< 50	Fail
F	Fail	Fail	< 50	Fail

13. Progression points

As defined in Senate Regulations - refer to the version of *Senate Regulation 6 governing taught postgraduate programmes of study* relevant to year of entry.

The following additional progression requirements for this programme have been approved:

- 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. https://le.ac.uk/policies/regulations

In cases where a student has failed to meet a requirement to progress he or she will be required to withdraw from the course and a recommendation will be made to the Board of Examiners for an intermediate/exit award where appropriate.

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

As defined in Senate Regulations - refer to the version of *Senate Regulation 6 governing taught postgraduate programmes of study* relevant to year of entry.

15. External Examiners reports

The details of the External Examiner(s) for this programme and the most recent External Examiners' reports for this programme can be found at exampapers@Leicester [log-in required]

16. Additional features (e.g. timetable for admissions)

There will be one intake per annum in October.

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER

Programme Specification (Postgraduate) FOR ENTRY YEAR: 2024/25

Date created: n/a **Last amended: 18**/08/2025 **Version no.** 1

Appendix 1: Programme structure (programme regulations)

The University regularly reviews its programmes and modules to ensure that they reflect the current status of the discipline and offer the best learning experience to students. On occasion, it may be necessary to alter particular aspects of a course or module.

Forensic Science and Criminal Justice MSc

Credit breakdown

Status	Year long	Semester 1	Semester 2	Other delivery period
Core taught	n/a	n/a	n/a	60 credits
Optional	n/a	n/a	n/a	60 credits
Dissertation/project	n/a	n/a	n/a	60 credits

180 credits in total

Level 7/Year 1 2024/25

Core modules

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
October	CH7201	Crime Scene Examination	15 credits
October	CH7202	Trace Evidence Analysis	15 credits
February	CH7203	Evidential Value and Interpretation	15 credits
February	CH7204	Research Methods	15 credits

Notes
n/a

Level 7/Year 2 2025/26

Core modules

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
June	CH7260	Dissertation	60 credits

Notes
n/a

Option modules

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
October	CH7211	Latent Fingerprint Analysis [Leicester]	15 credits
February	CH7212	Arson Investigation [Leicester]	15 credits
February	CH7213	Forensic Engineering [Leicester]	15 credits
August	CH7906	Toxicology of Chemical Weapons [Florida]	15 credits
January	CH7900	Blood Distribution and Spatter [Florida]	15 credits
August and January	CH7901	Biological Evidence and Serology [Florida]	15 credits
January	CH7905	Forensic Toxicology I [Florida]	15 credits
August and January	CH7904	Forensic Genetics [Florida]	15 credits
February	CH7232	Introduction to Forensic Archaeology [Leicester]	15 credits
February	CH7233	Introduction to Forensic Anthropology [Leicester]	15 credits
October	CH7241	Crime Scene Management [Leicester]	15 credits
October	CH7243	Intelligence Gathering and Data Mining of Police Data [Leicester]	15 credits

Notes
This is an indicative list of option modules and not definitive of what will be available. Option module choice is also subject to availability, timetabling, student number restrictions and, where appropriate, students having taken appropriate pre-requisite modules.

The delivering institution is indicated in [square brackets]

Appendix 2: Module specifications

See taught postgraduate module specification database [login required] (Note - modules are organized by year of delivery).