

KEY PROGRAMME INFORMATION

Faculty responsible for the programme Faculty of Science and Technology

Bournemouth University Facu

Final award(s), title(s) and credits

BSc (Hons) Forensic Biology

120 (60 ECTS) Level 4; 120 (60 ECTS) Level 5; 120 (60 ECTS) Level 6 credits

Intermediate award(s), title(s) and credits

Dip HE Forensic Biology - 120 (60 ECTS) Level 4 / 120 (60 ECTS) Level 5

Cert HE Forensic Biology - 120 (60 ECTS) Level 4

UCAS Programme Code(s) (where applicable and if known)

F3B7

HECoS (Higher Education Classification of Subjects) Code and balanced or major/minor load.

100386

External reference points

UK Quality Code for Higher Education;

Part A: Setting and maintaining academic standards;

Chapter A1: UK and European reference points for academic standards (October 2013);

Subject benchmark - Forensic Science

Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Body (PSRB) links

Places of delivery

Talbot Campus, Bournemouth University

Mode(s) of delivery

Full-time

Full-time Sandwich

Part-time

Part-time Sandwich

Language of delivery

English

Typical duration

Full-time – 3 years (1 year for each level)

Part-time – 6 years (2 years for each level)

Full-time with Sandwich Placement – 4 years (1 year for each level)

Part-time with Sandwich Placement – 8 years (2 years for each level)

Date of first intake September 2023	Expected start dates September
Maximum student numbers n/a	Placements Optional 30 week placement
Partner(s) n/a	Partnership model n/a

Date of this Programme Specification

February 2024

Version number

v2.3-0924

Approval, review or modification reference numbers

EC212218

EC 2223 02

EC 2223 11

EC 2223 32

EC232407, approved 15/11/2023

FST2324 13, approved 02/01/2024, previously v2.0

FST2324 11, approved 22/11/2023, previously v2.1

FST2324 16, approved 22/02/2024, previously v2.2

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PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

Programme Award and Title: BSc (Hons) Forensic Biology

Year 1/Level 4

Students are required to complete all 6 core units

Unit Name	Core/ Option	No. of Credits	Assessment Element Weightings			Expected Contact hours per unit	Unit Version No.	HECoS Code (plus balanced or major/ minor	
			Exam 1	Exam 2	Cwk 1	Cwk 2	umt		load)
Exploring and Understanding Science	Core	20	30		70		20	1.0	100388
Cell Biology	Core	20	30		70		40	2.0	100822
Chemistry	Core	20	50	50			40	2.0	100413
Human Anatomy and Physiology	Core	20			50	50	40	1.2	100264
Introduction to Forensic Psychology	Core	20	50	50			40	1.1	100497
Introduction to Forensic Investigation	Core	20	50		50		40	2.0	100388

Progression requirements: Requires 120 credits at Level 4.

Exit qualification: Cert HE Forensic Biology (requires 120 credits at Level 4).

Year 2/Level 5

Students are required to complete 5 core units and choose 1 optional unit

		No. of Credits	Assessment Element Weightings				Expected Contact hours per	Unit Version No.	HECoS Code (plus balanced or
			Exam 1	Exam 2	Cwk 1	Cwk 2	unit		major/ minor load)
Crime Scene	Core	20	50		50		40	2.0	101222
Advanced Cell Biology	Option	20			50	50	40	2.0	100822
Biochemistry	Core	20	50	50			40	2.0	100344
Forensic Law and Practice	Core	20	50		50		40	2.0	100485/ 101222
Forensic Science	Core	20	50		50		30	2.0	100388
Forensic Biology	Core	20			50	50	40	1.1	100386
Introduction to Toxicology (L4 Chemistry is a pre-requisite)	Option	20	50	50			40	2.0	100277
Geospatial Science	Option	20			50	50	40	1.0	100369

Progression requirements: Requires 120 credits at Level 5.

Exit qualification: Dip HE Forensic Biology (requires 120 credits at Level 5).

Compulsory/Optional placement year in industry/business:

Optional 30-week placement

Progression requirements: Satisfactory completion of a minimum of 30 weeks of work in industry/business.

Year 3/Level 6

Students are required to complete 4 core units and choose 2 optional units. Option choice may be constrained by the semester in which units are delivered

Unit Name	Core/ Option	No. of Credits	Assessment Element Weightings			Expected Contact hours per	Unit Version No.	HECoS Code (plus
			Exam 1	Cwk 1	Cwk 2	unit		balanced or major/ minor load)
Advanced Forensic Science	Core	20	30	70		40	2.1	100388
Professional Laboratory Practice	Core	20		50	50	40	1.2	100346/ 100410
Forensic Research Project	Core	20		40	60	12	1.1	100388
Advanced Topics in Genetics	Option	20	50	50		40	2.0	100898
Environmental Forensics	Option	20		50	50	40	2.1	100388
Forensic Toxicology	Option	20	50	50		40	2.0	100277
Advanced Forensic Biology	Core	20	50	50		40	1.1	100386
Science of Human Remains	Option	20	50	50		40	1.0	101218

Exit qualification: BSc (Hons) Forensic Biology (requires 120 credits at Level 6).

Sandwich UG award: Requires 120 Level 6 credits, 120 Level 5 credits and 120 Level 4 credits and successful completion of a placement year

Full-time UG award: Requires 120 Level 6 credits, 120 Level 5 credits and 120 Level 4 credits

AIMS OF THE DOCUMENT

The aims of this document are to:

- define the structure of the programme;
- specify the programme award titles;
- identify programme and level learning outcomes;
- articulate the regulations governing the awards defined within the document.

AIMS OF THE PROGRAMME

This programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, and skills that will allow them to work in areas related to forensic and crime scene science and organisations concerned with any aspect of the medico-legal arena.

This primary aim of this programme is the development of graduates whom:

- Have a critical understanding of the scientific, technical and legal basis of forensic and biological science
- Have the necessary scientific, regulatory and theoretical knowledge to develop careers in areas of forensic and crime scene science, and related organisations
- Can evaluate the role of biologically based forensic science within the legal systems of England and Wales, and within International Humanitarian Law
- Recognise the moral and ethical dimensions of their actions and the need for professional codes
 of conduct
- Have the capacity to give a clear and concise account of related issues and be able to engage in debate and dialogue both with specialists and non-specialists
- Have the skills and knowledge necessary for postgraduate study

The degree also aims to provide students with a substantial range of transferable skills in science laboratory practice, computing, data analysis, report writing and project management as a basis for professional activity and development which may be applicable in other career areas.

ALIGNMENT WITH THE UNIVERSITY'S STRATEGIC PLAN

BU identified a number of strategic investment areas as part of its 2025 strategic plan, with Medical Sciences forming one of these key areas, in recognition of the growth of the subject area. The forensic sciences are included as part of that SIA.

This programme incorporates the Fusion learning principles by:

- Embedding Fusion by ensuring that teaching is informed by the latest research and linked to practice/industry
- Personalising learning by use of optional units and choice in assessment
- Using problem-based/enquiry-based/action learning wherever possible
- Multi and inter-disciplinarity learning is a priority
- · · Including shared modules for a more open architecture
- · Meeting Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Body (PSRB) accreditation requirements

LEARNING HOURS AND ASSESSMENT

Bournemouth University taught programmes are composed of units of study, which are assigned a credit value indicating the amount of learning undertaken. The minimum credit value of a unit is normally 20 credits, above which credit values normally increase at 20-point intervals. 20 credits is the equivalent of 200 study hours required of the student, including lectures, seminars, assessment and independent study. 20 University credits are equivalent to 10 European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) credits.

The assessment workload for a unit should consider the total time devoted to study, including the assessment workload (i.e. formative and summative assessment) and the taught elements and independent study workload (i.e. lectures, seminars, preparatory work, practical activities, reading, critical reflection, practice (if relevant)).

Assessment per 20 credit unit should normally consist of 3,000 words or equivalent. Dissertations and Level 6 and 7 Final Projects are distinct from other assessment types. The word count for these assignments is 5,000 words per 20 credits, recognising that undertaking an in-depth piece of original research as the capstone to a degree is pedagogically sound.

STAFF DELIVERING THE PROGRAMME

Students will usually be taught by a combination of senior academic staff with others who have relevant expertise including – where appropriate according to the content of the unit – academic staff, qualified professional practitioners, demonstrators/technicians and research students.

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES - AND HOW THE PROGRAMME ENABLES STUDENTS TO ACHIEVE AND DEMONSTRATE THE INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

PROGRAMME AND LEVEL 6 INTENDED PROGRAMME OUTCOMES

A: Subject knowledge and understanding This programme/level/stage provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate:	The following learning and teaching and assessment strategies and methods enable students to achieve and to demonstrate the programme/level learning outcomes:		
A1. Understanding of relevant theories, concepts and principles relevant to forensic and human biological science	Learning and teaching strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes):		
A2. Ability to place the scientific knowledge and understanding of forensic & biological science within the UK and International regulatory framework	 lectures (A1 – A6); seminars (A1 – A6); directed reading (A1 – A6); use of the VLE (A1 – A6); 		
A3. Understanding of the multidisciplinary nature of the forensic & biological sciences and the need to apply	 independent research (for research project) (A1 – A6). 		
A4. Ability to critically analyse published work in the field of biological science in a forensic context	Assessment strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes):		
A5. Recognition of the moral and ethical dimensions of their actions and the need for professional codes of conduct	 examinations (A1 – A3); coursework (A2 – A4); literature review (A1-6). 		
A6. Knowledge and understanding of the management techniques relevant to crime scene investigations	• presentations (A1, A2)		

B: Intellectual skills	The following learning and teaching and assessment strategies and methods
This level provides opportunities for students to:	enable students to achieve and to demonstrate the programme/level outcomes:
B1. Critically evaluate and apply scientific knowledge and skills in the development and implementation of practical solutions to biological, crime scene and forensic problems;	Learning and teaching strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes): • lectures (B1 – B5);
B2. Analyse and synthesise information relevant to the programme	 Practical laboratory training (B1,B4,B5) seminars (B1 – B5); directed reading (B1 – B5);
B3. Define problems and devise and evaluate possible solutions, and to solve both routine and unfamiliar problems	 use of the VLE (B1 – B5); independent research (for forensic research project) (B1 - B5).
B4. Integrate evidence from a range of sources to support findings and hypotheses	Assessment strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes):
B5. Plan, execute and report on a project involving literature review	 examinations (B1- B5); coursework (B1,B2, B4); Practical laboratory assessments (B1 – B4).
C: Practical skills This level provides opportunities for students to:	The following learning and teaching and assessment strategies and methods enable students to achieve and to demonstrate the programme/level learning outcomes:
C1. Identify and safely use appropriate laboratory and crime scene methods	Learning and teaching strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes):
C2. Observe, record accurately and report laboratory and crime scene activity	 lectures (C1 – C8); seminars (C1 – C8); Practical laboratory and scene
C3. Use spatial technologies in addressing problems efficiently	training (C1,C2,C7)
C4. Prepare technical reports and presentations	Assessment strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended
C5. Present research findings in a range of effective and appropriate formats	Learning Outcomes):examinations (C1, C4);
C6. Make effective use of the relevant academic literature and other sources of information	 coursework (C1, C2, C3, C5); literature review (C5, C6, C8). Practical laboratory assessments
C7. Make effective use of IT and software packages relevant to the programme	(C1,C2,C4,C7,C8)
C8. Critically analyse and synthesise research data from a wide range of sources and to draw appropriate conclusions	

D: Transferable skills This level provides opportunities for students to:	The following learning and teaching and assessment strategies and methods enable students to achieve and to demonstrate the programme/level learning outcomes:
 D1. Communicate effectively by oral, written and visual means D2. Use IT including the Web, spread sheets and word processing D3. Apply a range of basic statistical tests on experimental and fieldwork data D4. Work in collaboration with others, including staff and students 	Learning and teaching strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes): • lectures (D1,D3,); • seminars (D1,D2,D3,D4,D5, D7); • use of the VLE (D1 – D7); • directed reading (D1- D7). • Laboratory and scene exercises (D1, D3,D4,D5)
D5. Demonstrate problem-solving skills and the application of knowledge across discipline areas	Assessment strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes):
D6. Be independent and reflective learners D7. Identify and work towards targets for personal career and academic development	 coursework essays (D1,D2,D3,D5,D6); examinations (D1,D3,D5,D6); Literature review (D1- D7).

LEVEL 5/DipHE INTENDED LEVEL OUTCOMES

A: Knowledge and understanding This level provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate:	The following learning and teaching and assessment strategies and methods enable students to achieve and to demonstrate the level learning outcomes:		
A1. An appreciation of the interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary nature of forensic biology	Learning and teaching strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes):		
A2. Knowledge of the criminal legal system, and human rights law, and how these regulate forensic practice and the expert witness	 lectures (A1 – A6); seminars (A1 – A6); directed reading (A1 – A6); use of the VLE (A1 – A6); 		
A3. Knowledge and understanding of human diversity and intellectual issues relating to the study of human skeletal remains	Assessment strategies and methods		
A4. Knowledge of the range of analytical techniques employed in forensic science and more specialist areas of scientific application i.e. genetics, toxicology and biochemistry	 (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes): examinations (A1 – A6); coursework (A1 – A6); 		
A5. An appreciation of the moral and ethical issues that surround data analysis in human biological and forensic sciences			

A6. A knowledge of research methods relevant to forensic and crime scene science	
B: Intellectual skills This level provides opportunities for students to:	The following learning and teaching and assessment strategies and methods enable students to achieve and to demonstrate the level learning outcomes:
 B1. Marshal and critically appraise other people's arguments B2. Generate and test hypotheses based on scientific data B3. Produce logical and structured arguments supported by relevant evidence B4. Exercise judgement in using appropriate methods of data analysis and statistical enquiry B5. Evaluate the current regulatory framework 	Learning and teaching strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes): • lectures (B1 – B5); • Practical laboratory training (B2,B4) • seminars (B1 – B5); • directed reading (B1 – B5); • use of the VLE (B1 – B5); Assessment strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes): • examinations (B1-B4); • coursework (B1-B5);
C: Practical skills This level provides opportunities for students to:	The following learning and teaching and assessment strategies and methods enable students to achieve and to demonstrate the level learning outcomes:
 C1. Appropriately and safely use laboratory equipment with a view to the presentation of results within the court of law C2. Observe and accurately record activity within the laboratory C3. Discover and recognise the various types and value of science based evidence C4. Select and apply appropriate statistical techniques with a view to data presentation within a court of law 	Learning and teaching strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes): • lectures (C1 – C4); • seminars (C1 – C5); • Practical laboratory and scene training (C1,C2,C3) Assessment strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes):
view to data presentation within a court of law	,
C5. Prepare scientific reports and presentations	examinations (C3);coursework (C1 – C5);

D1. Be reflective learners by analysing their strengths and weaknesses

D2. Communicate effectively both in written and oral form

D3. Work effectively in teams

D4. Demonstrate problem-solving skills and the use of appropriate mathematical and statistical skills

Learning and teaching strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes):

• *lectures (D1,D2,D4,)*

seminars (D1 – D4);

use of the VLE (D1 – D4);

• directed reading (D1- D4).

 Laboratory and scene exercises (D1- D4)

Assessment strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes):

examinations (D2,D4);

coursework (D1-D4);

LEVEL 4/Cert HE INTENDED LEVEL OUTCOMES

A: Knowledge and understanding This level provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate:	The following learning and teaching and assessment strategies and methods enable students to achieve and to demonstrate the level learning outcomes:		
 A1. Awareness of some fundamental themes in the development and practice of forensic science A2. An appreciation of the nature and sources of UK and EU law and the regulation of forensic practice A3. Understanding of the basic principles underlying chemistry, human anatomy and physiology and of molecular biology 	Learning and teaching strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes): • lectures (A1 – A6); • seminars (A1 – A6); • directed reading (A1 – A6); • use of the VLE (A1 – A6);		
 A4. Awareness of the nature of forensic evidence and its collection at a crime scene A5. An appreciation of the moral and ethical dimensions of forensic and biological science practices A6. An understanding of crime scene management and investigative techniques 	Assessment strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes): • examinations (A1 – A3); • coursework (A1 – A4);		
B: Intellectual skills This level provides opportunities for students to:	The following learning and teaching and assessment strategies and methods enable students to achieve and to demonstrate the level learning outcomes:		

B1. Analyse numerical data and identify appropriate statistical tests	Learning and teaching strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes):
B2. Identify key areas of the law as they affect issues associated with forensic and human biology	 lectures (B1 – B5); Practical laboratory training
B3. Identify and utilise appropriate information sources	(B1,B4,B5) • seminars (B1 – B5); • directed reading (B1 – B5);
B4. Demonstrate an awareness of the scientific method	• use of the VLE (B1 – B5);
B5. Recognise situations in which science can be applied to forensic situations	Assessment strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes):
	examinations (B1- B5);coursework (B1,B2, B4);
C: Practical skills	The following learning and teaching and assessment strategies and methods
This level provides opportunities for students to:	enable students to achieve and to demonstrate the level learning outcomes:
C1. Observe, record accurately and report laboratory and crime scene activity	Learning and teaching strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes):
C2. Use laboratory and crime scene equipment to generate scientific data and gather forensic evidence	 lectures (C1 – C4); seminars (C1 – C4); Practical laboratory and scene training (C2,C3)
C3. Recognise the importance and value of certain materials which constitute forensic evidence	Assessment strategies and methods
C4. Write appropriately cited structured reports	(referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes):
	examinations (C3);coursework (C1 - C4);
D: Transferable skills	The following learning and teaching and assessment strategies and methods
This level provides opportunities for students to:	enable students to achieve and to demonstrate the level learning outcomes:
D1. Communicate effectively by oral, written and visual means;	Learning and teaching strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes):
D2. Use IT including the Web, spread sheets, word-processing and e-learning materials	 lectures (D1,D3,) seminars (D1 – D6); use of the VLE (D1 – D6); directed reading (D1- D6).

D3. Apply a range of basic statistical tests to experimental and	
crime scene data	

- Laboratory and scene exercises (D1, D3,D4,D5)
- D4. Work in collaboration with others, including staff and students

Assessment strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes):

- D5. Demonstrate problem-solving skills and the application of knowledge across discipline areas
- coursework (D1,D2,D3,D5,D6);

D6. Be independent and reflective learners

• examinations (D1,D3,D5,D6);

Programme Skills Matrix

Un	Units		Programme Intended Learning Outcomes																								
		A 1	A 2	A 3	A 4	A 5	A 6	B 1	B 2	B 3	B 4	B 5	C 1	C 2	C 3	C 4	C 5	C 6	C 7	C 8	D 1	D 2	D 3	D 4	D 5	D 6	D 7
L E V E L	Environmental Forensics	Х	Х	Х				Х	Х	Х	Х				Х		Х	х	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х	Х	х	Х
	Forensic Toxicology	х	х	х	Х			Х	х	х	Х		Х	х			Х	х	Х	х	х	Х	х	х	Х	х	х
	Advanced Topics in Genetics	х		х	Х			Х	х	х	Х		х	х		Х	х	х	Х	х	х	Х	х	х	х	х	х
	Forensic Research Project	х	х	х	х				х	х	Х	х				Х	х	х	Х	х	х	х	х		х	х	х
	Advanced Forensic Science	х	х	х	Х	х	х	х	х	х	Х		х	х		Х	х	х	Х	х	х	х	х	х	х	х	х
6	Advanced Forensic Biology	Х	х	х	Х			Х	Х	Х	Х		Х	Х		Х	Х	х	Х	Х	х	Х	Х		х	х	х
ľ	Science of Human Remains	х	х	х	Х			Х	х	х	Х		х	х			Х	х	Х	х	х	Х			х	х	х
	Professional Laboratory Practice	х	х	х	х		х	х	х	х	Х		х	х		Х	х	х	Х	х	х	х		х	х	х	х
	Biochemistry				Х								Х	Х							х						
	Crime Scene	х					х					Х	х	х	х						х	х	х				
L	Forensic Law and Practice		х			х		Х		х		х									х						
٧	Forensic Science	х			Х		х		Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х	Х				Х	х	х	х			
E L	Introduction to Toxicology			х	х		Х	Х													Х						
5	Forensic Biology	х			Х	Х	х		х		Х		Х	х	х						х	Х	х	х			
ľ	Advanced Cell Biology				Х									Х							Х						
	Geospatial Science						Х	Х			Х										х						
	Chemistry			Х				Х		Х	Х	Х	Х	х	Х	Х					х	Х	х	х	Х	Х	
L	Introduction to Forensic Investigation	Х	Х		Х	Х	Х		Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х						х	х		Х	Х	х	
V E L	Forensic Research Skills	х						Х		х	Х	Х				Х					х	Х	х	х	Х	х	
	Human Anatomy and Physiology			Х						Х											х	Х		х	Х	х	
	Cell Biology			Х					х	Х	Х	Х		х		Х					х	Х		х	Х	х	
	Introduction to Forensic Psychology	Х	х			х		х		х	Х	х		х							х	х		х	х	х	

ADMISSION REGULATIONS

Please refer to the BU website for further information regarding admission regulations for this programme. https://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/

PROGRESSION ROUTES

Partnership arrangements provide formally approved progression routes through which students are eligible to apply for a place on a programme leading to a BU award. Please find information on Global Partnerships here: Global partnerships | Bournemouth University

ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS

The regulations for this programme are the University's Standard Undergraduate <u>Assessment Regulations</u>

WORK BASED LEARNING (WBL) AND PLACEMENT ELEMENTS

The programme will include an optional 30-week placement year in the third year of study. Those students who successfully complete the one-year placement will be eligible for the award of full-time sandwich degree.