

KEY PROGRAMME INFORMATION

Originating institution(s)	Faculty responsible for the programme
Bournemouth University	Faculty of Science and Technology

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

BSc (Hons) Forensic Investigation - 360 credits (180 ECTS)

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

Dip HE Forensic Investigation – Requires 120 (60 ECTS) Level 5 credits and 120 (60 ECTS) Level 4 credits

Cert HE Forensic Investigation - Requires 120 (60 ECTS) credits at Level 4

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

F401

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

101222

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	Language of delivery
Full-time	English
Full-time Sandwich	
Part-time	
Part-time Sandwich	

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

v2.4-0924

Approval, review or modification reference numbers

EC212218

EC 2223 02

FST 2223 09, approved 30/11/2022 - previously v2.0-0923

EC232407, approved 15/11/2023

FST2324 13, approved 02/01/2024, previously v2.1

FST2324 11, approved 22/11/2023, previously v2.2

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PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

Programme Award and Title: BSc (Hons) Forensic Investigation

Year 1/Level 4

Students are required to complete all 6 core units.

Unit Name	Core/ Option	No. of Credits	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)
Cell Biology	Core	20	30		70		40	2.0	100822
Chemistry	Core	20	50	50			40	2.0	100413
Exploring and Understanding Science	Core	20	30		70		20	1.0	100388
Human Anatomy and Physiology	Core	20			50	50	40	1.2	100264
Introduction to Forensic Investigation	Core	20	50		50		40	2.0	100388
Introduction to Forensic Psychology	Core	20	50	50			40	1.1	100497

Progression requirements: Requires 120 credits at Level 4

Exit qualification: Cert HE Forensic Investigation - Requires 120 credits at Level 4

Year 2/Level 5

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

Unit Name	Core/ Option	No. of Credits	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)
Advanced Crime Scene	Core	20	50		50		40	2.0	100486
Crime Scene	Core	20	50		50		40	2.0	101222
Forensic Identification	Core	20			50	50	40	1.0	100388
Forensic Law and Practice	Core	20	50		50		40	2.0	100485 / 101222
Forensic Science	Core	20	50		50		30	2.0	100388
Geospatial Science	Option	20			50	50	40	1.0	100369
Introduction to Toxicology	Option	20	50	50			40	2.0	100277
Forensic Biology	Option	20			50	50	40	1.1	100386

Progression requirements: Requires 120 credits at Level 5

Exit qualification: Dip HE Forensic Investigation – Requires 120 Level 5 credits and 120 Level 4 credits

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			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
International Investigations	Core	20		50	50	40	2.0	100823
Case Studies in Forensic Science	Option	20		50	50	40	1.0	100388
Environmental Forensics	Option	20		50	50	40	2.1	100388
Forensic Practice	Option	20	50	50		40	2.0	100486
Forensic Toxicology	Option	20	50	50		40	2.0	100277
Science of Human Remains	Option	20	50	50		40	1.0	101218

Exit qualification: BSc (Hons) Forensic Investigation

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 program provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge, understanding and skills that will enable them to work in areas where forensic thinking and practical skills are applied in settings such as crime scenes and natural / environmental disasters.

The primary aim of this programme is the development of graduates who:

- Have a critical understanding of the scientific, technical and legal basis of forensic and scene
 investigation
- Appreciate the importance of the role of scientists at the scene of a crime, disaster or environmental mishap
- Have the necessary scientific, regulatory and theoretical knowledge to develop careers in a forensic or investigative organisation
- Can evaluate the role of the forensic investigator within a legal context and within international law.
- Recognise the moral and ethical dimensions of their actions and the need for professional codes of conduct
- Have the skills and knowledge necessary for postgraduate study
- Can develop excellent communication skills

The degree also aims to provide students with a substantial range of transferable skills in scientific laboratory skills, data analysis report writing, project management and computing 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
- · Prioritising multi and inter-disciplinarity learning
- Enabling students to take an active role in degree design via a range of optional and shared units, allowing peer-learning
- 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).

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 provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:	The following learning and teaching and assessment strategies and methods enable students to achieve and to demonstrate the programme/level learning outcomes:
A1. Relevant theories, concepts and principles relevant to forensic, crime and environmental scene science	Learning and teaching strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes):
A2. Placing the scientific knowledge and understanding of forensic investigation techniques within UK and International regulatory frameworks	 lectures (A1 – A6); seminars (A1 – A6); directed reading (A1 – A6); use of the VLE (A1 – A6);
A3. The multidisciplinary nature of forensic investigation and the need to apply knowledge from a range of subject areas	 independent research (for research project) (A1 – A6).
A4. How to analyse critically published work in the areas of forensic science, scene investigation and the need to	Assessment strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes):
apply knowledge from a range of subject areas	 examinations (A1 – A3); coursework (A2 – A4); literature review (A1 – A6).

A5. The moral and ethical dimensions of their actions and the need for professional codes of conduct	
A6. Management techniques relevant to a range of forensic and disaster investigation	
B: Intellectual skills This programme/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 outcomes:
B1.Critically evaluate and apply scientific and investigative knowledge and skills in the development and implementation of practical solutions for forensic investigation B2. Analyse and synthesise information relevant to the programme B3. Define problems and devise and evaluate possible solutions, and solve both routine and unfamiliar problems B4. Plan, execute and report on a project involving original research B5. Integrate evidence collected from a range of sources to support findings and hypotheses	Learning and teaching strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes): • lectures (B1 – B5); • practical laboratory training (B1, B4, B5); • seminars (B1 – B5); • directed reading (B1 – B5); • use of the VLE (B1 – B5); • independent research (for research project) (B1 - B5). Assessment strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes): • examinations (B1 – B5); • coursework (B1 – B5); • independent research (for research project) (B1 - B5). • practical laboratory assessments
C: Practical skills	(B1 – B5). The following learning and teaching and
This programme and level provides opportunities for students to:	assessment strategies and methods enable students to achieve and to demonstrate the programme/level learning outcomes:
C1. Identify and apply appropriate scene and laboratory methods	Learning and teaching strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes):
C2. Observe, record accurately and report laboratory and scene / fieldwork activity	 lectures (C1 – C8); coursework essays (C1 – C8);
C3. Use spatial technologies in addressing problems efficiently	• independent research for research project (C1, C2, C6 – C8);
C4. Prepare technical reports and presentations	 group exercises (C2, C4 – C8). practical laboratory and scene training (C1, C2, C6, C7)
C5. Make effective use of the relevant academic and scientific literature and other sources of information	Assessment strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes):

C6. Present research	findings	in a	a range	of	effective	and
appropriate forma	ats					

- C7. Make effective use of IT and software packages relevant to the programme
- C8. Critically analyse and synthesise research data from a wide range of sources and to draw appropriate conclusions
- examinations (C1, C4);
- coursework (C1, C2, C3, C5, C8);
 - literature review for research project (C5, C6, C8).

D: Transferable skills

This programme/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 to experimental and fieldwork data
- D4. Work in collaboration with others, including staff and students
- D5. Demonstrate problem solving skills and the application of knowledge across discipline areas
- D6. Be independent and reflective learners

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

- lectures (D1, D3);
- seminars (D1- D5);
- use of the VLE (D1 D5, D6);
- laboratory and scene exercises (D1, D3 – D5);
- directed reading (D1- D5).

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

- coursework (D1 D3, D5, D6);
- examinations (D1, D3, D5, D6);
- literature review for research project (D1- D6).

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 science
- A2. Knowledge of the criminal legal system and human rights law, and how these regulate forensic practice and the expert witness

outcomes:

Learning and teaching strategies and methods (referring to numbered

- lectures (A1 A6);
- seminars (A1 A6);
- directed reading (A1 A6);
- use of the VLE (A1 A6).

Intended Learning Outcomes):

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A3. Knowledge of advanced crime scene and investigation skills	Assessment strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes):				
A4. Knowledge of the range of analytical techniques employed in forensic science and more specialist areas of scientific application (e.g. forensic computing, chromatography, spectrophotometry)	 examinations (A1 – A6); coursework (A1 – A6). 				
A5. An appreciation of the moral and ethical issues that surround data analysis in forensic science					
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	Learning and teaching strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes):				
B3. Produce logical and structured arguments supported by relevant evidence	 lectures (B1 – B5); practical laboratory training (B2,B4) seminars (B1 – B5); directed reading (B1 – B5); 				
B4. Exercise judgement in using appropriate methods of data analysis and statistical enquiry	use of the VLE (B1 – B5). Accessory to the transition and mostly also also are transitional and transition and transition and transition are transitional and transition and transition are transitional and transition and transition are transitional are t				
B5. Evaluate the current regulatory framework	Assessment strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes):				
B6. Evaluate the applications / limitations of the various investigative methods applied to a forensic context	examinations (B1- B4);coursework (B1-B5).				
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. Appropriately and safely use laboratory equipment with a view to the presentation of results within the court of law	Learning and teaching strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes):				
C2. Observe and accurately record activity within the laboratory	 lectures (C1 – C4); seminars (C1 – C5); practical laboratory and scene training (C1,C2,C3). 				
C3. Discover and recognise the various types and value of forensic evidence	Assessment strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes):				

C4. Select and apply appropriate statistical techniques with a view to data presentation within a court of law C5. Prepare scientific reports and presentations	examinations (C3);coursework (C1 – C5).
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 level learning outcomes:
 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 	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	Learning and teaching strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes):
A2. An appreciation of the nature and sources of UK and EU law and the regulation of forensic practiceA3. Understanding of the basic principles underlying forensic	 lectures (A1 – A6); seminars (A1 – A6); directed reading (A1 – A6);
investigation, forensic computing, chemistry and biology	use of the VLE (A1 – A6). Assessment strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended)
A4. Awareness of the nature of forensic evidence and its collection from a scene under investigation	Learning Outcomes): • examinations (A1 – A3);
A5. An appreciation of the moral and ethical dimensions of forensic practice	• coursework (A1 – A4).

A6. An understanding of crime scene management and investigative techniques	
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 B2. Identify key areas of the law as they affect forensic issues B3. Identify and utilise appropriate information sources B4. Demonstrate an awareness of the scientific method	Learning and teaching strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes): • lectures (B1 – B5); • practical laboratory training (B1,B4,B5); • seminars (B1 – B5); • directed reading (B1 – B5); • 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 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. Observe, record accurately and report laboratory and crime scene activity C2. Use laboratory and crime scene equipment to generate data and gather forensic evidence C3. Recognise the importance and value of certain materials which constitute forensic evidence 	Learning and teaching strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes): • lectures (C1 – C4); • seminars (C1 – C4); • practical laboratory and scene training (C2,C3).
C4. Write appropriately structured reports	Assessment strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes): • examinations (C3); • coursework (C1 - C4).
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 level learning outcomes:

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- 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 to experimental and crime scene data
- D4. Work in collaboration with others, including staff and students
- D5. Demonstrate problem-solving skills and the application of knowledge across discipline areas
- D6. Be independent and reflective learners

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

- lectures (D1,D3);
- seminars (D1 D6);
- use of the VLE (D1 D6);
- directed reading (D1 D6);
- Laboratory and scene exercises (D1,D3,D4,D5).

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

- coursework (D1 D3,D5,D6);
- examinations (D1,D3,D5,D6).

Programme Skills Matrix

Uni	ts										Pro	gram	me In	tended	d Lear	ning (Outcor	nes									
		A 1	A 2	A 3	A 4	A 5	A 6	B 1	B 2	B 3	B 4	B 5	B 6	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
LEVEL 6	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
	Professional Laboratory Practice	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
	International Investigations	Х	Х	Х	Х		х	Х	х	Х				Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	х	х	Х		х	х	х
	Case Studies in Forensic Science	х	Х	Х	Х	Х	х	Х	х	х							х	Х	Х	Х	х	х	х		х	х	х
	Environmental Forensics	Х	Х	Х	Х			Х	Х	х		Х				Х		Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	х		Х	Х	х
	Forensic Practice	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
	The Science of Human Remains	Х	Х	Х	Х			Х	х	Х		Х		Х	Х			Х	Х	Х	х	х	Х			х	х
	Advanced Crime Scene	Х		Х	Х						Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х				х	Х	Х	Х		
	Crime Scene	Х		х	Х		х				х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х						х	х	х	Х		
L E	Forensic Identification	х		Х	Х	Х				х	х	Х	Х			Х	х	Х							х		
٧	Forensic Law and Practice	Х	Х			Х		Х		Х		Х										х	Х				
E L	Forensic Science	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х		Х	Х	х	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х	Х				Х	Х	Х	Х		
5	Geospatial Science				х		х				х											х	х		х		
	Introduction to Toxicology			Х	Х		х	Х					Х									х	х				
	Forensic Biology	Х			Х	Х	Х		Х		х			Х	Х	Х						Х	Х	Х	Х		
L E V E L	Cell Biology			Х						Х	Х	Х			Х		Х					Х	Х		Х	Х	Х
	Chemistry			х				Х		х	х	Х		Х	Х		х					х	х	х	Х	х	х
	Exploring and Understanding Science	Х						Х		Х	х	Х					Х					Х	Х	Х	Х	х	х
	Human Anatomy and Physiology			Х						Х												Х	Х		Х	х	х
	Introduction to Forensic Investigation	Х	Х		Х	Х	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

ADMISSION REGULATIONS

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

PROGRESSION ROUTES

Recognition arrangements provide formally approved entry or progression routes through which students are eligible to apply for a place on a programme leading to a BU award. Recognition does not guarantee entry onto the BU receiving programme only eligibility to apply. In some cases, additional entry criteria such as a Merit classification from the feeder programme may also apply. Please see the Recognition Register for a full list of approved Recognition arrangements and agreed entry criteria.

In order to take advantage of exciting new approaches to learning and teaching, as well as developments in industry, the current, approved Articulation/Recognition/Progression route(s) for this programme may be subject to change. Where this happens, students will be informed and supported by the Faculty as early as possible.

ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS

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

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.