Template C4

Programme Specification

Title of Course: *BSc (Hons) Forensic Science*

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Version number	7
Faculty	Faculty of Health, Science, Social Care & Education
School	School of Life Sciences, Pharmacy and Chemistry
Department	Department of Applied & Human Sciences
Delivery Institution	Kingston University

This Programme Specification is designed for prospective students, current students, academic staff and employers. It provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the intended learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if they take full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes and content of each modules can be found in the course VLE site and in individual Module Descriptors.

SECTION 1: GENERAL INFORMATION

Award(s) and Title(s): ***Up to 10 pathways***	BSc (Hons) Forensic Science
Intermediate Awards(s) and Title(s): ***There are 4 Intermediate awards for each pathway***	Cert HE Forensic Science BSc Forensic Science
Course Code ***For each pathway and mode of delivery***	UPFSC1FSC20 UFFSC1FSC01
UCAS code ***For each pathway***	n/a

Award(s) and Title(s): ***Up to 10 pathways***	BSc (Hons) Forensic Science (with Professional Placement)
Intermediate Awards(s) and Title(s): ***There are 4 Intermediate awards for each pathway***	Cert HE Forensic Science BSc Forensic Science
Course Code ***For each pathway and mode of delivery***	
UCAS code ***For each pathway***	

Award(s) and Title(s): ***Up to 10 pathways***	BSc (Hons) Forensic Science (with Foundation Year)
Intermediate Awards(s) and Title(s): ***There are 4 Intermediate awards for each pathway***	Cert HE Forensic Science BSc Forensic Science
Course Code ***For each pathway and mode of delivery***	
UCAS code ***For each pathway***	

RQF Level for the Final Award:	
Awarding Institution:	Kingston University
Teaching Institution:	Kingston University
Location:	Penrhyn Road
Language of Delivery:	English

Modes of Delivery:	Full-time Part-time With Professional Placement
Available as:	
Minimum period of registration:	Full-time - 3 Part-time - 6 With Professional Placement -
Maximum period of registration:	Full-time - 9 Part-time - 12 With Professional Placement -
Entry Requirements:	Kingston University typically uses a range of entry requirements to assess an applicant's suitability for our courses. Most course requirements are based on UCAS Tariff points, usually stipulated as a range, and are sometimes coupled with minimum grades in specific relevant subjects. We may also use interview, portfolio and performance pieces to assess an applicant's suitability for the course. We recognise that every person's journey to Higher Education is different and unique and in some cases we may take into account work experience and other non-standard pathways onto University level study. Additionally, all non-UK applicants must meet our English language requirements. Please see our course pages on the Kingston University website for the most up to date entry requirements.
Programme Accredited by:	Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences
QAA Subject Benchmark Statements:	Draft subject benchmark Forensic Science 2012
Approved Variants:	None
Is this Higher or Degree Apprenticeship course?	

For Higher or Degree Apprenticeship proposals only	
Higher or Degree Apprenticeship standard:	n/a
Recruitment, Selection and Admission process:	n/a

End Point Assessment Organisation(s):	n/a

SECTION 2: THE COURSE

A. Aims of the Course

The programme is offered as a full-time three-year degree course. Alternatively, students can choose to follow the Field part-time, and switch between full-time and part-time attendance with the permission of the Course Leader. The course in Forensic Science is designed to offer students the opportunity to study a broad based degree in Forensic Science. A range of modules are provided by the School of Life Sciences and the School of Pharmacy and Chemistry with additional option modules from the Criminology Field. Graduates of the Field are also equipped with practical and generic key skills relevant to employment in public service, industry and research.

Level four shares a number of modules with several other degree courses within the School of Life Sciences, providing essential theory and practical skills essential for later study. Level five of the offers three core modules and an option module in key areas of Forensic Science as well as in skills relevant to research. Level six builds upon earlier subject material and examines more advanced and specialised areas of Forensic Science. In the final year, students also undertake a research project or dissertation.

1. **Aims of the Programme**

- to provide all students who take the Forensic Science programme, with an in-depth knowledge and understanding of the core elements of Forensic Science;
- to develop extensive and varied subject related practical skills and professional competence in the collection, analysis, interpretation and representation of scientific data and information;
- to afford students opportunities to develop their written and oral communication skills;
- to prepare students for graduate employment, research, further study and lifelong learning by developing their intellectual, problem solving, practical and key (transferable) skills;
- to provide the students with an understanding of the relationship between different areas of expertise within Forensic Science and to understand the necessity to employ different approaches in different cases and circumstances;
- to produce undergraduates with a knowledge and skills base that allow pursuit of both scientific and non-scientific careers in a variety of work environments such as general analytical or forensic laboratories, the police or public services;
- to give students the experience of interacting with forensic scientists, police officers, lawyers and others during site visits to laboratories, courts of law etc. and the involvement of specialist guest speakers.

In addition students on the full-field programme will be able to select option modules:

- to extend the students' knowledge into additional subjects closely related to Forensic Science.
- to enable students to identify, locate and critically appraise primary and secondary sources as a basis for independent study and to conduct a major science research project in the final year;

B. Intended Learning Outcomes

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, skills and other attributes in the following areas. The programme outcomes are referenced to the QAA subject benchmark for Forensic Science (QAA

benchmark document in draft form for consultation in 2012) and the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (2008), and relate to the typical student.

The programme learning outcomes are the high-level learning outcomes that will have been achieved by all students receiving this award. They must align to the levels set out in the 'Sector Recognised Standards in England' (OFS 2022).

Programme Learning Outcomes					
	Knowledge and Understanding On completion of the course students will be able to:		**Intellectual Skills** On completion of the course students will be able to		**Subject Practical Skills** On completion of the course students will be able to
A1	the role of forensic scientists, scene of crime officers, lawyers and others in the investigation of a crime;	B1	critically analyse and interpret information from both primary and secondary sources, including experimental data;	C1	carry out subject-related practical work safely and understand ethical and safety issues, including implications of copyright and data protection, preparing completed CoSHH forms and conducting risk assessments and the correct handling of a range of materials and samples;
A2	the comparison and assessment of a variety of analytical methodologies and instrumentation with regard to performance and applicability;	B2	plan, conduct and report on an individual research project	C2	select and use in an efficient manner the techniques used widely in the forensic field;
A3	the principles underpinning scientific research methodology;	B3	assemble and critically evaluate data from a variety of sources (including academic literature) and discern and establish connections;	C3	use a range of complex instruments and understand their technological basis;
A4	the procedures of evidence collection and preservation with respect to various crime scene scenarios;	B4	demonstrate the ability to be independent, autonomous learners;	C4	be conversant with the detailed and strict requirements of facilities and procedures used in forensic science including health and safety and quality assurance;
A5	the use of analytical chemistry principles and techniques utilised in forensic investigations;			C5	demonstrate skills in the evaluation and interpretation of laboratory, field and crime scene data;

A6	the use of biological principles and current techniques in the analysis of a broad range of biological evidence;			C6	develop an understanding of the analytical challenges particular to a crime scene and exhibit;
A7	how legal practice and policy impact on evidence collection and presentation				
A8	a broad range of career paths open to science graduates and an awareness of the professional and employability skills relevant to pursuing these careers				

In addition to the programme learning outcomes, the programme of study defined in this programme specification will allow students to develop the following range of Graduate Attributes:

1. Creative Problem Solving
2. Digital Competency
3. Enterprise
4. Questioning Mindset
5. Adaptability
6. Empathy
7. Collaboration
8. Resilience
9. Self-Awareness

C. Outline Programme Structure

This programme is offered in full-time or part-time learning mode and leads to the award of BSc Hons Forensic Science. Entry is normally at level 4 with A-level or equivalent qualifications (See section D). Transfer from a similar programme is possible at level 5 with passes in comparable level 4 modules – but is at the discretion of the course team. Intake is normally in September.
Each level is made up of four modules each worth 30 credit points. Typically a student must complete 120 credits at each level. All students will be provided with the University regulations. Full details of each module will be provided in module descriptors and student module guides.

BSc (Hons) Forensic Science

Level 4							
BSc (Hons) Forensic Science							
Core modules	**Module code**	**Credit Value**	**Level**	**Teaching Block**	**Pre-requisites**	**Full Time**	**Part Time**
Analytical Techniques in Forensic Science	LS4012	30	4	1 and 2		1	1
Genes, Cells and Tissues	LS4001	30	4	1 and 2		1	1
Introduction to Forensic Science	LS4005	30	4	1 and 2		1	1
Scientific and Laboratory Skills	LS4003	30	4	1 and 2		1	1
Optional Modules							

Progression to Level 5

- Students exiting the programme at this point who have successfully completed 120 credits are eligible for the award of Certificate of Higher Education.

Level 5							
BSc (Hons) Forensic Science							
Core modules	**Module code**	**Credit Value**	**Level**	**Teaching Block**	**Pre-requisites**	**Full Time**	**Part Time**
Analytical Science	CH5006	30	5	1 and 2		2	2
Crime Scene, Evidence, & Law	CH5008	30	5	1 and 2		2	2
Research and Employability Skills in Forensic Science	LS5025	30	5	TB1 & TB2	None	1	2
Optional Modules							
Counterfeits, Fakes and Forgeries	LS5011	30	5	1 and 2		2	2
Policing and Punishment	CM5006	30	5	1 and 2		2	2

Progression to Level 6

N/A

Level 6							
BSc (Hons) Forensic Science							
Core modules	**Module code**	**Credit Value**	**Level**	**Teaching Block**	**Pre-requisites**	**Full Time**	**Part Time**
Biological Evidence - Advanced Techniques	LS6013	30	6	1 and 2		3	3
Forensic Chemistry and Trace Analysis	CH6010	30	6	1 and 2		3	3
Forensic Science Project	LS6028	30	6	1 and 2		3	3
Optional Modules							
Advanced Analytical Science	CH6007	30	6	1 and 2		3	3
Forensic Archaeology	LS6012	30	6	1 and 2		3	3
Global Terrorism and Transnational Crime	CM6017	30	6	1 and 2		3	3

Level 6 requires the completion of

Four modules with an overall pass grade in each module

Level 7 information

N/A

BSc (Hons) Forensic Science (with Professional Placement)

BSc (Hons) Forensic Science (with Foundation Year)

D. Principles of Teaching, Learning and Assessment

This field has been designed to take account of the KU Curriculum Design Principles. The course utilises a wide range of teaching and learning methods that will enable all students be actively engaged throughout the course. Teaching and learning methods are designed to suit the content and learning outcomes of the module – typically using lectures to ensure that students have the key knowledge relating to the module. Through a variety of group work, tutorials and workshops, practical and laboratory sessions students are then given the opportunity to take a proactive role in learning and develop personal and key skills.

A range of assessment methods will be used that enable students to demonstrate the acquisition of knowledge and skills. Methods include coursework, oral presentations, in-class tests, MCQs, examinations, laboratory reports and group activities. The assessment regime for each module has been designed to provide formative opportunities that allow students to practice and to receive feed forward on their performance in preparation for the summative assessment. Care has been taken to avoid assessment bunching. There are opportunities for synoptic assessment at levels five and six which allows students to demonstrate achievement of a range of learning outcomes from across a number of modules, particularly in core level five and six modules and the independent research project for students. Students are supported in this by their allocated personal tutor who also advises on their academic progress, decision-making and module choices. All level six students are required to complete an independent project which allows them to demonstrate and apply the knowledge and skills that they have acquired throughout the course. The project also allows students to further develop their research skills and provide them with the foundations for postgraduate study if they wish to pursue it.

The development of academic skills is embedded throughout the course and assessed both formatively and summatively. Diagnostic testing in the early weeks of the course and at intervals throughout the course will be utilised to test progress in the development of these skills but also to identify where students may need additional support which may come via the Academic Skills Centre or other tailored support.

The role of the personal tutor is to complement the teaching and learning strategies used by the teaching team, from levels 4-6, by fostering an academic relationship with their students that involves advising students on how best to approach their studies. This begins at level 4 by helping students to develop good academic habits - for example how best to take notes during lectures and using appropriate teaching resources to supplement lecture material. At level 5 the personal tutor works with students to help them to understand the importance of planning and managing their studies so that they are able to cope with the academic demands at this level – for example encouraging students to read up on a topic (on their own and/or as part of a study group) prior to the lecture or tutorial. In addition to facilitating the planning and management of their studies, this approach will help students develop subject specific and generic communication skills, interpersonal skills (as it encourages discussion between student and academic) and research and information literacy skills as students will begin to access peer reviewed articles. By level 6 the relationship between students and their personal tutor will have developed enough for the tutor to be able to advise students on how to plan

their studies so as to best maximise success by helping the student to identify and address their strengths and weakness when it comes to studying.

E. Support for Students and their Learning

Students are supported by:

- A Module Leader for each module
- A Course Leader to help students understand the programme structure
- Personal Tutors to provide academic and personal support
- A placement tutor to give general advice on placements
- Technical support to advise students on IT and the sue of software
- A designated programme administrator
- An induction week at the beginning of each new intake
- The Union of Students
- Board of Study with Student representation
- Canvas – a versatile on-line interactive intranet and learning environment
- A substantial Study Skills Centre that provides academic skills support
- Student support facilities that provide advice on issues such as finance, regulations, legal matters, accommodation, international student support, etc. and designated SEC student support staff to assist with mitigation and pastoral care
- Support Services for Student with disabilities or learning difficulties
- Careers and Employability Service
- Students are encouraged to reflect on their personal development and academic progress
- Periodic review undertaken at the subject level

F. Ensuring and Enhancing the Quality of the Course

The University has several methods for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of its provision. These include:

- External examiners
- Annual review and development
- Periodic review undertaken at the subject level
- Student evaluation
- Moderation policies

G. Employability and work-based learning

Students' generic employability skills are developed throughout their course, both through activities that are embedded within the syllabus and from services offered by the University's Careers and Employability Service. From the first year, students are encouraged to reflect on and identify what they have learned, whether academically or in terms of transferable skills, and how these may be relevant to employment. They are also encouraged to explore the job market and possible career paths, and to consider attributes that employers look for in graduates above and beyond essential academic skills, such as initiative, the ability to work in teams, manage time and to prioritise, the desire to learn and the motivation to improve performance, and appropriate communication and presentation skills in all their forms. In this context, students are also encouraged to take advantage of opportunities within and outside

of the university to develop such skills through volunteering, work placements and study abroad. These skills are developed and enhanced during levels 5 and 6; in particular, the importance of creative thinking and problem-solving, networking, negotiating, inquisitiveness and giving and receiving feedback. Students are also encouraged to develop clearer ideas about career options, and are offered assistance and guidance in the preparation of CVs and for job applications and interviews. The final year also develops an understanding of leadership skills as well as an appreciation of commercial and business awareness, among other essential employment skills.
Graduates are equipped with the knowledge and skills to prepare them for further training as forensic scientists or research and laboratory scientists. In addition, the degree provides a curriculum that is relevant to employment in industries such as the pharmaceutical and molecular biology sectors that seek graduates with a sound knowledge of biology and chemistry together with practical and analytical skills. The practical, research and key skills content of the Field also prepares graduates for postgraduate training leading to research careers in a variety of scientific disciplines. Some graduates may seek to continue their interest in biology and chemistry generally through careers in science teaching.
It is also recognised that a number of graduates choose careers and postgraduate study in areas other than science but relating to the understanding they have gained of crime and criminal investigations, such as policing, probation, community and social work, security, insurance investigation, psychology and law. The degree equips graduates with transferable intellectual and key skills that are recognised as important for employment in a range of industries, such as finance, management, publishing and scientific sales.

Work-based learning, including sandwich courses and higher or degree apprenticeships

n/a

H. Other sources of information that you may wish to consult

A draft QAA Benchmark for Forensic Science was developed for consultation in 2012 and can be found here:
Subject Benchmark Statement - Forensic Science (including Master's) (qaa.ac.uk)

I. Development of Course Learning Outcomes in Modules

This table maps where course learning outcomes are **summatively** assessed across the modules for this course. It provides an aid to academic staff in understanding how individual modules contribute to the course aims, a means to help students monitor their own learning, personal and professional development as the course progresses and a checklist for quality assurance purposes.

Module Code	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6

		LS4001	LS4003	LS4005	LS4012	CH5008	LS5011	CH5006	CM5006	LS5025	LS6012	LS6013	CH6010	CH6007	LS6028	CM6017
Knowledge & Understanding	A1			S			S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S		S
	A2	S	S		S			S	S	S	S	S	S	S		
	A3	S	S		S					S						
	A4			S		S	S			S	S	S	S			
	A5				S	S		S					S	S		
	A6	S	S									S				
	A7			S			S		S	S	S	S	S			S
	A8									S						
Intellectual Skills	B1	S			S		S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S		S
	B2								S							
	B3	S			S		S			S	S	S				
	B4			S			S	S		S	S	S		S		S
Practical Skills	C1	S			S	S				S		S	S	S		S
	C2					S				S		S	S	S		S
	C3	S			S	S					S	S	S	S		S
	C4	S			S							S	S	S		S
	C5					S				S	S	S	S	S		S
	C6					S	S			S	S	S	S	S		S

Students will be provided with formative assessment opportunities throughout the course to practise and develop their proficiency in the range of assessment methods utilised.