Template C4

Programme Specification

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

Date first produced	29/10/2023
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Version number	11
Faculty	Faculty of Health, Science, Social Care & Education
Cross-disciplinary	
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):	BSc (Hons) Forensic Science
Exit Award(s) and Title(s):	Cert HE Forensic Science BSc Forensic Science Dip HE Forensic Science
Course Code *For each pathway and mode of delivery*	UFFSC1FSC01
UCAS code *For each pathway*	n/a

Award(s) and Title(s):	BSc (Hons) Forensic Science (with Professional Placement)
Exit Award(s) and Title(s):	Cert HE Forensic Science BSc Forensic Science Dip HE Forensic Science
Course Code *For each pathway and mode of delivery*	USFSC1FSC45
UCAS code *For each pathway*	

Award(s) and Title(s):	BSc (Hons) Forensic Science (with Foundation Year)
Exit Award(s) and Title(s):	Cert HE Forensic Science BSc Forensic Science Dip HE Forensic Science
Course Code *For each pathway and mode of delivery*	UFFSC1FSC55
UCAS code *For each pathway*	

Awarding Institution:	Kingston University
Teaching Institution:	Kingston University
Location:	Penrhyn Road
Language of Delivery:	English
Delivery mode:	Primarily campus based (up to 20% of scheduled L&T hours delivered online)

Learning mode(s):	Full-time With Professional Placement
Minimum period of registration:	Full-time - 3 With Professional Placement - 4
Maximum period of registration:	Full-time - 6 With Professional Placement - 7
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
Regulated by	The University and its courses are regulated by the Office for Students
Programme Accredited by:	Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences
Approved Variants:	None
Is this Higher or Degree Apprenticeship course?	No

SECTION 2: THE COURSE

A. Aims of the Course

The programme offers students a comprehensive platform to develop and demonstrate knowledge, understanding, and skills in both subject-specific and generic areas in Forensic Science. Designed to provide a broad spectrum of topics, the course equips students with practical and theoretical key skills relevant to careers in public service, industry, and research.
The overall aims of the course are to:

- Provide comprehensive knowledge and understanding of core forensic science elements.
- Develop extensive practical skills and professional competence in scientific data collection, analysis, interpretation, and representation.
- Enhance written and oral communication skills.
- Support students' transition into university through Future Skills.
- Facilitate active reflection on personal and professional development.
- Cultivate graduate attributes and prepare students for diverse career paths by developing intellectual, problem-solving, practical, and transferable skills.
- Foster understanding of inter-disciplinary approaches in forensic science.
- Provide interaction opportunities with forensic professionals.
- Expand knowledge into subjects closely related to forensic science.
- Develop critical appraisal skills for independent study and research projects.
- Offer additional professional qualifications in specific forensic science areas.

For BSc (Hons) Forensic Science (with professional placement):

- Enable work experience within the forensic industry.
- Provide insight into professional forensic science roles and career opportunities within the forensic industry.

B. Programme Learning Outcomes

The programme learning outcomes are the high-level learning outcomes that will have been achieved by all students receiving this award. They have been aligned to the levels set out in ‘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	Describe the role of forensic scientists, scene of crime officers, lawyers, and others involved 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	Compare and assess a variety of analytical methodologies and instrumentation regarding performance and applicability in forensic science;	B2	Plan, conduct and report on an individual research project, using form, structure, and style to suit purpose	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 relevant software and demonstrate knowledge on their technological basis;
A4	Evaluate and apply various procedures of evidence collection and preservation with respect to various crime scene scenarios;	B4	Demonstrate the ability to be independent, autonomous learners, and exhibit resilience and adaptability in overcoming challenges encountered;	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	Evaluate and use common analytical chemistry principles and techniques employed in forensic investigations;	B5	Recognise the role of forensic science and expert evidence in the contribution to the criminal justice system and the wider society;	C5	Demonstrate skills in the evaluation and interpretation of laboratory, field, and crime scene data;
A6	Explain biological principles and use current techniques in the analysis of a broad range of biological evidence;			C6	Analyse and evaluate analytical challenges particular to a crime scene and exhibit;
A7	Evaluate how legal practice, policy and quality management systems impact on evidence collection, analysis, and presentation;			C7	Demonstrate effective collaboration and teamwork skills in simulated crime scene investigations, group projects, and laboratory work;
A8	Identify a broad range of career paths open to science graduates and develop an awareness of the professional and employability skills relevant to pursuing these careers;				
A9	Recognise and evaluate the impact of personal biases and professional conduct on forensic evidence analysis, interpretation, and presentation within legal and ethical frameworks;				

C. Future Skills Graduate Attributes

In addition to the programme learning outcomes, the programme of study defined in this programme specification will engage students in developing their Future Skills 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

D. Outline Programme Structure

Full details of each module will be provided in module descriptors and in the module canvas pages.
This programme is offered in full-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.
Levels 4 and 5 are made up of four modules each worth 30 credit points. Level 6 is made up of three modules worth 30 credits and two modules worth 15 credits. Typically, a student must complete 120 credits at each level. All students will be provided with the University regulations.

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	Year long		1	
Genes to Tissues	LS4014	30	4	Year long		1	

Introduction to Forensic Science	LS4005	30	4	Year long		1	
Scientific and Laboratory Skills	LS4003	30	4	Year long		1	

Exit Awards at Level 4

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 Techniques for Molecular Science	CH5014	30	5	Year long		2	
Counterfeits, Fakes and Forgeries	LS5011	30	5	Year long		2	2
Crime Scene, Evidence, & Law	CH5008	30	5	Year long		2	2
Research and Employability Skills in Forensic Science	LS5025	30	5	Year long	None	2	2
Optional Modules							
Sandwich Year Placement	LS5000	120	5	Year long		3	

Exit Awards at Level 5

This course permits progression from level 5 to level 6 with 90 credits at level 5 or above. The outstanding 30 credits from level 5 can be trailed into level 6 and must be passed before consideration for an award or progression to level 7 (if appropriate).

Students who are registered on the professional placement route must successfully complete Levels 4 and 5, before undertaking a period of at least 36 weeks of supervised work experience.

Exit Awards at Level 5

Students exiting the programme at this point who have successfully completed 120 credits at level 5 or above are eligible for the award of Diploma of Higher Education.

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	Year long		3	3
Forensic Archaeology	LS6012	30	6	Year long		3	3
Forensic Chemistry and Trace Analysis	CH6010	30	6	Year long		3	3
Forensic Science Project	LS6045	15	6	TB1		3	
Future Skills Apply	AX6001	15	6	Year long		3	

Exit Awards at Level 6

Students exiting the programme without completing the full 120 credits but have successfully completed 60 credits at level 6 or above are eligible for the award of an Ordinary Degree.

BSc (Hons) Forensic Science (with Professional Placement)

BSc (Hons) Forensic Science (with Foundation Year)

E. Teaching, Learning and Assessment

This course uses a range of teaching and assessment methods which have been designed to support students' learning and achievement of the learning outcomes. The course has been developed with reference to the Kingston University Academic Framework which sets-out core principles relating to Course and Credit Structure (including Module delivery Structure and Pattern and Learning Hours and Learning Formats); Curriculum Design (inclusion Learning Design Principles and Inclusive Curriculum); and Future Skills.
Teaching and Learning on the course consist of Scheduled Learning and Teaching and Guided Independent Study (self-managed time). Scheduled Learning and

Teaching includes the following, and the format for each module is set out in the module specification:

- Laboratory Sessions
- Lectures
- Seminars
- Tutorials
- Workshops
- Placements

Guidance for students on the use of independent study time is communicated through the 'Succeed in your module' section on the Canvas Virtual Learning Environment and through other communications during the course.

In addition to the core Scheduled Learning and Teaching activities for the course, the University may offer students additional optional opportunities for learning. Examples of these include Study abroad and Work-based learning.

The course will provide students with the opportunity to develop their knowledge and skills relating to at least two United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs). We are committed to empowering students with the knowledge, skills and opportunities to understand and address the UN SDGs: each course is thus also required to prepare students for at least two of the SDGs (not including Quality Education, which all courses must deliver).

F. Support for Students and their Learning

Students are supported through a range of services that provide academic and wider support. These include:

- A Module Leader for each module
- A Course Leader to help students understand the course structure
- Personal Tutors to provide academic and personal support
- Technical support to advise students on IT and the use of software
- Student Voice Committee – to ensure the views of students are heard
- Canvas – Kingston University's Virtual Learning Environment
- Student support facilities that can provide advice on issues such as finance, regulations, legal matters, accommodation, international student support
- Disabled student support
- The Kingston Students' Union
- Student Development and Graduate Success

G. Ensuring and Enhancing the Quality of the Course

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

- Continuous Monitoring of courses through the Kingston Course Enhancement Programme (KCEP)
- Student evaluation including Module Evaluation Questionnaires (MEQs), the National Student Survey (NSS)

- Internal and external moderation of graded assignments
- External accreditation audit by Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences

H. External Reference Points

A benchmark for Forensic Science (QAA benchmark document in draft form for consultation in 2022) can be found at:
https://www.qaa.ac.uk/the-quality-code/subject-benchmark-statements/forensic-science
The programme follows the Chartered Society of Forensic Science's educational standards for accredited courses.

I. Development of Course Learning Outcomes in Modules

This table maps where programme learning outcomes are **summatively** assessed across the **core** 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				
		LS4005	LS4012	LS4014	LS4003	LS5000	CH5014	CH5008	LS5011	LS5025	LS6012	CH6010	LS6013	AX6001	LS6045
Knowledge & Understanding	A1		S	S					S		S	S	S		
	A2	S								S	S	S	S		
	A3	S		S						S					
	A4			S	S			S	S		S	S	S		
	A5	S					S	S				S			
	A6	S	S	S									S		
	A7		S	S					S		S	S	S	S	S

	A8			S	S					S	S				
	A9									S		S		S	
Intellectual Skills	B1	S					S	S	S		S	S	S		
	B2	S		S	S					S					S
	B3		S	S	S		S		S		S	S	S	S	S
	B4	S					S		S		S		S		S
	B5		S				S	S							
Practical Skills	C1	S		S				S	S	S		S	S	S	
	C2		S				S	S	S	S		S	S		
	C3		S	S	S			S		S	S	S	S	S	S
	C4	S							S			S	S	S	
	C5		S	S			S	S			S	S	S		S
	C6		S		S			S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
	C7		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.

Additional Information