UNIVERSITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON

Course Specification

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Core Information

Awarding Body / Institution:	University of Wolverhampton		
School / Institute:	School of Pharmacy and Life Sciences		
Course Code(s):	FS018H01UM FS018H31UM	Full-time Part-time	3 Years 6 Years
UCAS Code:	F410		
Course Title:	BSc (Hons) Forensic Science		
Hierarchy of Awards:	Bachelor of Science with Honours Forensic Science Bachelor of Science Forensic Science Diploma of Higher Education Forensic Science Certificate of Higher Education Forensic Science		
Language of Study:	English		
Date of first cohort:	14/Sep/2026		
Specification valid from:	2025/6		

Academic Staff

Course Leader:	David Walker
Head of Department:	Georgina Manning

Course Information

Location of Delivery:	University of Wolverhampton
Category of Partnership:	Standard Provision (Not delivered in partnership)
Teaching Institution:	University of Wolverhampton
Open / Closed Course:	This course is open to all suitably qualified candidates.

Entry Requirements:

Entry requirements are subject to regular review. The entry requirements applicable to a particular academic year will be published on the University website (and externally as appropriate e.g. UCAS

As this is a science degree, a level 3 science qualification in either forensic science, biology and/or chemistry is required. If you don’t have a science qualification, you can still study forensic science by choosing the BSc (Hons) Forensic Science with Foundation Year course.

Entry requirements for the BSc (Hons) Forensic Science:

- 96 UCAS points.
- A Levels - grades CCC / BCD, to include Biology or Chemistry.
- BTEC L3 Extended Diploma or OCR Cambridge L3 Technical Extended Diploma in Applied Science - grades MMM.

Access to HE Diploma (60 credits) of which a minimum of 45 must be at Level 3 (96 UCAS point equivalence, minimum 45 credits at merit, to include 36 credits in Science).

Distinctive Features of the Course:

The BSc (Hons) Forensic Science degree at the University of Wolverhampton provides a rigorous and supportive learning environment in which students explore the application of science to both criminal and civil investigations. The course is delivered within a collaborative academic setting that encourages discussion, critical thinking, and the exchange of ideas, allowing students to engage with a broad range of scientific perspectives relevant to forensic casework.

This programme is well suited to students with an interest in how scientific principles are applied within the legal system. Teaching is delivered by experienced forensic practitioners and active researchers with extensive backgrounds in forensic science and related disciplines. Strong links with local policing services and forensic practitioners help to ensure that teaching reflects current professional standards, procedures, and challenges within forensic practice.

In the final year of study, students undertake an independent research project, supported by academic staff with specialist expertise. Access to well-equipped forensic laboratories and specialist facilities enables students to gain practical, hands-on experience in the application of forensic methods and analytical techniques. Throughout the course, students develop key skills valued by employers, including scientific investigation, evidence evaluation, data interpretation, and clear scientific reporting.

Graduates of this degree are well prepared for a range of career pathways, including roles as trainee forensic scientists, crime scene investigators, or laboratory-based scientific staff, as well as positions in quality assurance and quality control. The transferable skills developed during the programme also support progression into careers such as science education or roles beyond the forensic sector.

Educational Aims of the Course:

Intakes:

September

Major Source of Funding:

Office for Students (OFS)

Tuition Fees:

Tuition fees are reviewed on an annual basis. The fees applicable to a particular academic year will be published on the University website.

Year	Status	Mode	Amount
2025/6	H	Full Time / Sandwich	£9535.00
2025/6	Overseas	Full Time / Sandwich	£17000.00
2025/6	H	Part Time	£4768.00
2026/7	H	Full Time / Sandwich	£9790.00
2026/7	Overseas	Full Time / Sandwich	£18700.00
2026/7	H	Part Time	£4895.00

PSRB:

FS018H01UM (Full-time)

Professional Accreditation Body:
Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences

Accrediting Body:
Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences

Accreditation Statement:
The Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences provides an accreditation system for both undergraduate and postgraduate courses in forensic science and related topics. Accreditation is given provided the course content meets with the Society's component standards which provide a quality endorsement of the course.

Approved	Start	Expected End	Renewal
05/Mar/2026	05/Mar/2026	31/Mar/2029	31/Mar/2029

FS018H31UM (Part-time)

Professional Accreditation Body:
Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences

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Accreditation Statement:
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Approved	Start	Expected End	Renewal
05/Mar/2026	05/Mar/2026	31/Mar/2029	31/Mar/2029

Course Structure:

September (Full-time)

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
4FS010	Succeeding at University in Applied Sciences	30	YEAR	Core
4FS011	Introduction to Forensic Science	30	YEAR	Core
4FS012	Forensic Biology	30	SEM1	Core
4FS013	Forensic Chemistry	30	SEM2	Core

September (Part-time)

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
4FS010	Succeeding at University in Applied Sciences	30	YEAR	Core
4FS012	Forensic Biology	30	SEM1	Core

September (Full-time)

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
5FS014	Professional Development and Quality Assurance in Forensic Science	30	YEAR	Core
5FS015	Forensic Biology and Identification	30	YEAR	Core
5FS016	Crime Scene Investigation	30	SEM1	Core
5FS017	Drugs, Toxicology and Noxious Materials	30	SEM2	Core

September (Part-time)

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
4FS013	Forensic Chemistry	30	SEM2	Core
4FS011	Introduction to Forensic Science	30	YEAR	Core

September (Full-time)

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
6FS011	Forensic Science Honours Project	30	YEAR	Core
6FS012	Advanced topics and the Expert Witness	30	YEAR	Core
6FS013	Marks, traces, and physical evidence	30	SEM1	Core
6FS014	Forensic Anthropology	30	SEM2	Core

September (Part-time)

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
5FS015	Forensic Biology and Identification	30	YEAR	Core
5FS016	Crime Scene Investigation	30	SEM1	Core

September (Part-time)

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
5FS014	Professional Development and Quality Assurance in Forensic Science	30	YEAR	Core
5FS017	Drugs, Toxicology and Noxious Materials	30	SEM2	Core

September (Part-time)

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
6FS012	Advanced topics and the Expert Witness	30	YEAR	Core
6FS013	Marks, traces, and physical evidence	30	SEM1	Core

September (Part-time)

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
6FS011	Forensic Science Honours Project	30	YEAR	Core
6FS014	Forensic Anthropology	30	SEM2	Core

Please note: Optional modules might not run every year, the course team will decide on an annual basis which options will be running, based on student demand and academic factors, to create the best learning experience.

Learning, Teaching and Assessment

Regulations Exemption:

None.

Reference Points:

UK Quality Code for Higher Education

Qualifications and Credit Frameworks

QAA Forensic Science Subject Benchmark Statement

University Policies and Regulations

The Forensic Science Regulator Forensic science activities: statutory code of practice - version 2

Equality Act 2010: guidance - GOV.UK

Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences (CSFS) Component Standards

Overview of Assessment:

As part of the course approval process, the course learning outcomes were mapped to each of the modules forming the diet of the programme of study. This process confirmed that all course learning outcomes can be met through successful completion of the modules. This mapping applies to the final award as well as to all of the intermediate awards.

Learning Outcomes	Modules
CERTHE01 Demonstrate knowledge of the underlying concepts, theories and principles associated with your area(s) of study (Knowing).	
CERTHE02 Evaluate, interpret and apply data, to develop ideas and discussion in your subject(s) of study (Knowing).	
CERTHE03 Use different approaches to solving problems related to your area(s) of study (Doing).	
CERTHE04 Communicate the results of your study/work accurately and reliably, and with structured and coherent arguments (Doing).	
CERTHE05 Identify and undertake further training and develop new skills to support your learning (Being).	
CERTHE06 Identify personal qualities and transferable skills necessary for further study and/or employment (Being).	
DIPHE01 Demonstrate knowledge and application of the concepts and principles of your area(s) of study (Knowing).	
DIPHE02 Demonstrate the application of those principles in an employability and/or professional practice context (Knowing).	
DIPHE03 Identify and use methods of enquiry in the subject(s) and evaluate the appropriateness of different approaches to solving problems in study (Doing).	
DIPHE04 Use a range of new and established techniques to explore and critique data and sources of information, to solve problems within your subject (Doing).	
DIPHE05 Effectively communicate information, arguments and analysis in a variety of forms to specialist and non-specialist audiences (Being).	
DIPHE06 Show personal responsibility and decision-making to developing existing skills and acquire new competences that will enable you to reach your employability goals (Being).	
BHONSN01 Core Scientific and Technical Knowledge (Knowing) - Demonstrate a thorough and integrated understanding of the scientific principles underpinning forensic science, including biology, chemistry, mathematics, and statistics (with emphasis on Bayesian reasoning), and apply this knowledge confidently in forensic contexts using appropriate digital skills together with advanced laboratory and analytical techniques.	

Learning Outcomes	Modules
BHONSN02 Scene and Laboratory Competence (Doing) - Critically apply appropriate techniques for the identification, documentation, collection, preservation, and analysis of evidence at both crime scenes and in laboratory settings, demonstrating safe working practices, procedural accuracy, and effective use of relevant equipment and technologies.	
BHONSN03 Investigative and Strategic Thinking (Knowing) - Design and implement strategies appropriate to complex investigative scenarios using frameworks such as Case Assessment and Interpretation (CAI), while consistently applying quality assurance, contamination avoidance procedures, and legal standards across all stages of forensic work.	
BHONSN04 Critical Interpretation and Expert Opinion (Being) - Interpret and evaluate evidence with critical insight, clearly articulating conclusions and expert opinions, including the expression of uncertainty and statistical likelihoods, while demonstrating impartiality and transparency in all professional judgments.	
BHONSN05 Communication and Reporting (Doing) - Communicate findings clearly, accurately, and comprehensively in both written and oral formats, making use of digital technology, tailored to legal, law enforcement, and public contexts, including the preparation and delivery of high-quality reports and expert testimony suitable for court presentation.	
BHONSN06 Professional, Ethical and Legal Awareness (Being) - Demonstrate a strong commitment to ethical practice, legal responsibility, quality and professional standards in forensic science, including respect for the handling of human tissues, digital data, and sensitive materials, while maintaining reflective awareness of the evolving nature of the discipline.	
BHONS01 Core Scientific and Technical Knowledge (Knowing) - Demonstrate a thorough and integrated understanding of the scientific principles underpinning forensic science, including biology, chemistry, mathematics, and statistics (with emphasis on Bayesian reasoning), and apply this knowledge confidently in forensic contexts using appropriate digital skills together with advanced laboratory and analytical techniques.	
BHONS02 Scene and Laboratory Competence (Doing) - Critically apply appropriate techniques for the identification, documentation, collection, preservation, and analysis of evidence at both crime scenes and in laboratory settings, demonstrating safe working practices, procedural accuracy, and effective use of relevant equipment and technologies.	
BHONS03 Investigative and Strategic Thinking (Knowing) - Design and implement strategies appropriate to complex investigative scenarios using frameworks such as Case Assessment and Interpretation (CAI), while consistently applying quality assurance, contamination avoidance procedures, and legal standards across all stages of forensic work.	

Learning Outcomes	Modules
BHONS04 Critical Interpretation and Expert Opinion (Being) - Interpret and evaluate evidence with critical insight, clearly articulating conclusions and expert opinions, including the expression of uncertainty and statistical likelihoods, while demonstrating impartiality and transparency in all professional judgments.	
BHONS05 Communication and Reporting (Doing) - Communicate findings clearly, accurately, and comprehensively in both written and oral formats, making use of digital technology, tailored to legal, law enforcement, and public contexts, including the preparation and delivery of high-quality reports and expert testimony suitable for court presentation.	
BHONS06 Professional, Ethical and Legal Awareness (Being) - Demonstrate a strong commitment to ethical practice, legal responsibility, quality and professional standards in forensic science, including respect for the handling of human tissues, digital data, and sensitive materials, while maintaining reflective awareness of the evolving nature of the discipline.	

Teaching, Learning & Assessment Strategy/(Learning and Teaching):

On the Forensic Science course at the University of Wolverhampton, the way you're taught is designed to help you build confidence and skills step by step from the very start. In your early stages, learning is highly structured, with lectures, demonstrations, and guided laboratory sessions introducing key scientific ideas in clear, manageable ways. You'll also take part in tutorials, both in small groups and one-to-one, where you can ask questions, check your understanding, and get personalised support from your tutors. Alongside this, you'll be guided in developing independent study skills, such as reading scientific literature and evaluating sources.

As you move through the course, teaching becomes more applied and interactive. You'll be encouraged to use what you've learned to solve problems, analyse forensic case studies, and take part in individual and group projects. These activities help you develop critical thinking, teamwork, and confidence in applying forensic science to real-world situations. You'll also work with data, build portfolios, and complete project-based tasks that bring together knowledge from different areas of the course.

Teaching is delivered through a mix of face-to-face and online learning. You'll attend seminars, workshops, laboratory sessions, and simulated crime scene exercises that give you hands-on experience and the chance to learn alongside your peers. Online learning through Canvas supports this with recorded materials, interactive activities, discussion boards, and additional resources that you can access at any time. This blended approach is designed to suit different learning styles and gives you flexibility in how you study.

Throughout the degree, teaching focuses on helping you develop both academic and professional skills. Group discussions and seminars support your communication and teamwork, while structured assignments and reflective tasks help you strengthen your academic writing and analytical skills. You'll also build digital skills through online learning activities, data handling, and the use of specialist software, with workshops and tutorials available to support you whenever you need extra help.

You'll be supported to reflect on your progress by creating personal development plans and building a learning portfolio, helping you track your achievements and identify areas for growth. Teaching is closely linked to real-world forensic practice through live briefs and case studies, allowing you to apply your knowledge in realistic scenarios. You'll also learn how to use digital tools responsibly, including ethical data handling and appropriate use of AI, preparing you to work confidently and professionally in a modern forensic science environment.

Assessment Methods/Assessments:

Assessment on the Forensic Science course at the University of Wolverhampton is designed to help you learn effectively, show what you can do, and prepare you for both academic study and professional forensic work. You'll be assessed in a variety of ways, including examinations, coursework, and practical tasks, so you're not judged on just one type of assessment. This approach allows you to demonstrate different strengths, whether that's scientific writing, laboratory skills, presentations, or digital work, and helps spread your workload across the semester.

Throughout the course, you'll complete assessments such as quizzes, laboratory reports, portfolios, case studies, and presentations. Early in each module, you'll have access to formative assessments, such as draft submissions, practice quizzes, or peer-reviewed activities. These don't count toward your final grade but are there to help you understand what's expected, improve your work, and gain confidence before submitting assessed work. Tutors also use seminars and tutorials to talk through assessment briefs and give you guidance on how to improve.

As you progress through the degree, assessments become more challenging and more closely linked to real-world forensic practice. You'll be asked to apply your knowledge to realistic scenarios, analyse evidence, interpret laboratory results, and present structured, well-reasoned arguments. Case studies and project work will encourage you to think critically about forensic evidence and how it is used in professional contexts. In your final year, you'll complete an extended research project or dissertation, allowing you to investigate a topic in depth and demonstrate independent scientific enquiry.

Assessment on the course is designed to be inclusive and supportive. You'll experience a mix of written, oral, practical, and digital assessments, with clear marking criteria and guidance provided through Canvas and in teaching sessions. If you need extra support, this is available through one-to-one tutorials and academic skills workshops.

You'll also have opportunities to personalise your assessments, choosing topics that match your interests or career ambitions. Some assessments reflect professional formats, such as CV writing, poster presentations, and video submissions, helping you develop skills valued by employers. Practical and research-based assessments prepare you for work in forensic and laboratory environments, helping you link your studies directly to your future career and build confidence as a developing forensic scientist.

Further Information for Student:

Starting university can feel like a big step, but the Forensic Science degree at the University of Wolverhampton is designed to help you settle in and build confidence from day one. In your first year (Level 4), you'll study core topics in biology and chemistry, taught within a forensic context. These modules give you a strong scientific foundation while showing you how science is used in forensic investigations, helping you develop the skills you'll use throughout your degree.

Learning on the course is interactive and hands-on. You'll take part in quizzes, case studies, and group activities that make forensic science engaging and help you get to know your course mates. These sessions are designed to support your understanding, encourage discussion, and help you apply what you learn to real-world forensic scenarios.

Assessment is designed to support your progress, not catch you out. You'll complete a mix of formative and summative assessments, with early pieces of work giving you helpful feedback that doesn't count toward your final grade. This gives you the chance to learn from feedback, improve your skills, and build confidence before larger assessments. Your tutors will clearly explain what's expected in each assignment, and feedback is constructive and timely, so you know how to improve.

Your voice matters on this course. The University regularly asks for student feedback through surveys and module evaluations, and this feedback is used to make meaningful improvements. Staff work closely with student representatives to improve communication, clarify assessments, and make sure students feel supported throughout their studies. This means the course continues to develop in response to student needs, helping you get the best possible learning experience.

The University provides a wide range of academic and pastoral support to help students succeed in their studies and personal development. This includes access to the Library and Skills for Learning service, student success coaching in early transitional stages for students, and tailored advice from the Careers

and Enterprise teams. Students also benefit from 24/7 wellbeing support through WLV Student Life Connect, pastoral care via the Multi-faith Chaplaincy, and assistance from the Mental Health and Wellbeing team. Those living in university accommodation have additional access to Residential Life support, and all students can engage with the Students' Union for advocacy, societies, and further peer-led services.

Currency:

The Forensic Science course at the University of Wolverhampton is designed to stay current, relevant, and closely connected to developments in forensic science and related applied sciences. You'll be taught by research-active staff who regularly update lectures, practicals, and learning materials to reflect new scientific discoveries, emerging techniques, and changes in professional practice. This means what you learn is informed by the latest research and real-world forensic challenges.

Staff bring current research and casework experience directly into teaching. Lectures, seminars, and tutorials often draw on recent publications, ongoing studies, and contemporary case examples, helping you understand how forensic science is developing in practice. Learning materials on Canvas are updated throughout the year, allowing tutors to share new journal articles, videos, guidance, and discussion activities as soon as they become relevant.

You'll engage with research from the start of the course. Tutors introduce you to current debates and methodologies, and you'll learn how to critically evaluate scientific evidence through literature reviews, practical work, and project-based assessments. As you progress, you'll explore areas that link closely to staff research interests, and in your final year you'll complete a research project that reflects current forensic science priorities and challenges.

The course is also shaped by real-world relevance and professional expectations. Teaching regularly incorporates case studies, problem-based learning, and ethical discussions that reflect contemporary forensic issues, including ethics, quality in forensic science, miscarriages of justice, etc. Staff maintain strong links with external partners and professional networks, helping ensure the curriculum reflects current standards and practices.

Throughout the course, you'll develop key graduate attributes that are valued in modern forensic and scientific careers, and you will become a global citizen. You'll engage with international research, work collaboratively in groups, develop professional communication skills, and build digital confidence through data analysis, online learning tools, and discussion of AI and data privacy. Reflective tasks and portfolio building help you track your progress and prepare for a career in a fast-changing forensic science landscape.

Personalisation Opportunities:

Throughout your forensic science degree at the University of Wolverhampton, you'll have plenty of opportunities to shape your learning around your own interests and goals. Many modules are designed to be flexible, giving you choices in how you engage with topics. You may be able to select which case study you analyse or decide how to present your work, whether that's through a written report or a presentation. This flexibility allows you to play to your strengths while developing new skills.

You'll also take part in interactive sessions and use online learning resources through Canvas, giving you the freedom to learn at your own pace and revisit materials whenever you need to. This blend of taught sessions and digital resources helps you take ownership of your learning and build confidence as you progress.

In your final year, you'll complete an Honours Research Project, where you choose a topic that genuinely interests you. Whether you're drawn to DNA analysis, crime scene investigation, decomposition, drugs analysis, or another area of forensic science, this project allows you to explore a subject in depth with one-to-one support from an experienced academic supervisor.

Support for your future career is built into the course. You'll have access to the University's Careers and Workplace team, who can help with CV writing, interview preparation, and exploring job opportunities, ensuring you're ready for life after graduation.

You'll be encouraged to reflect on your progress throughout the degree, with feedback, tutorials, and your research project helping you recognise your strengths and identify areas for development. You'll

also have access to tools such as the Individual Learner Profile and Skills for Learning workshops, supporting both your academic success and personal growth.

This is a course designed to grow with you—giving you the freedom to personalise your experience, explore what excites you, and prepare confidently for a future in forensic science or a wide range of other careers.

Employability in the Curriculum/Employability and Professional Development:

The Forensic Science course at the University of Wolverhampton is designed to support your professional development from the start of your degree through to graduation. You'll be encouraged to explore different career pathways while developing the skills and behaviours that employers in forensic science and related fields value. Teaching includes live briefs, case studies, and realistic scenarios that reflect professional challenges, helping you learn how to apply your knowledge to situations you may encounter in the workplace.

Throughout the course, you'll build a professional portfolio that brings together your academic work, practical experience, and digital skills. You'll take part in activities such as CV writing, poster presentations, research projects, and professional-style reports, all of which reflect the expectations of forensic and scientific employers. These experiences help you make informed decisions about your future and give you evidence of your skills and achievements.

Developing your professional identity is a key part of your learning. You'll be supported to reflect on your progress through personal development planning and portfolio tasks, helping you recognise your strengths and identify areas for growth. Group work, presentations, and seminars will develop your communication, teamwork, and confidence, while engagement with current research and professional standards ensures your learning remains aligned with industry expectations.

Professional conduct is embedded throughout the course. You'll be expected to work responsibly and ethically in both your academic work and your behaviour in laboratories, classrooms, and group activities. Practical assessments and laboratory sessions mirror forensic and research protocols, while case studies explore real-world ethical and professional challenges. Assessment formats are designed to reflect those used in professional settings, helping you become familiar with workplace expectations.

You'll be supported at every stage of your development. Regular feedback through formative assessments and tutorials helps you improve and build confidence. One-to-one tutorials and academic advising give you the opportunity to discuss career goals and future plans. Project work and your final-year dissertation can be tailored to your interests and career ambitions, and Canvas resources clearly show how each module supports your professional and career development.