

Module Details	
Module Title	Independent Research Papers for CSI
Module Code	ARC7040-C
Academic Year	2022/3
Credits	30
School	School of Archaeological and Forensic Sciences
FHEQ Level	FHEQ Level 7

Contact Hours	
Type	Hours
Online Tutorials (Synchronous)	10
Directed Study	290

Availability	
Occurrence	Location / Period
BDA	University of Bradford / Semester 3

Module Aims
To research and write two detailed, critical, state of the art reviews targeted at your chosen specialism. The topic and scope of review will be agreed in advance with tutors. Students will identify a current issue of forensic science and conduct a paper based research exercise. This will critically discuss the scientific and evidential basis of the techniques and issues relating to peer review and acceptance by courts. Particular account will be taken of both scene and subsequent laboratory based protocols to minimize cross-contamination.

Outline Syllabus
Introduction to module. Tutorials to support learning. Present a substantial piece of independent work. Critically review a subject e.g. Utilisation of low copy number DNA, non-ballistic forensic evidence recovered from firearms, absence of scavenger activity from a body dump site. Critically discuss search and recovery protocols for e.g. buried weapons, buried money, bodies concealed in buildings during construction/alteration, use of imagery and other data to assess landscape change as part of a search strategy, taphonomic effects of body disposal in water

Learning Outcomes	
Outcome Number	Description
01	Critically discuss the strengths and weaknesses of a contemporary issue in forensic science
02	Appraise a major aspect of search and recovery of evidence
03	Critically review forensic and police approaches to criminal investigation
04	Explain how the criminal justice system has reviewed techniques and evidence types
05	Locate, access, analyse and critically review material in a topic at the forefront of the discipline
06	Construct well-reasoned arguments and evaluate diverse source material
07	Research and write a succinct report to a professional standard

Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy
During small group tutorials and in discussion with module tutors students will identify and plan suitable topics for the assessment. During Directed Study hours students are expected to undertake reading to consolidate and expand on the content of formal taught sessions, research and prepare for assessments, revise material from formal taught sessions and undertake specific elements of reading as directed.

Mode of Assessment			
Type	Method	Description	Weighting
Summative	Coursework	A detailed research report on a contemporary issue in forensic science written to a professional standard	40%
Summative	Coursework	A comprehensive research report appraising a major aspect impacting on search and recovery of evidence written to a prof	60%

Reading List
To access the reading list for this module, please visit https://bradford.rl.talis.com/index.html

Please note:

This module descriptor has been published in advance of the academic year to which it applies. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information is accurate at the time of publication, but minor changes may occur given the interval between publishing and commencement of teaching. Upon commencement of the module, students will receive a handbook with further detail about the module and any changes will be discussed and/or communicated at this point.