

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Title	HNC Applied Sciences (Forensic Science)
Awarding Bodies	Pearson
Level of Award ¹	FHEQ Level 4
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies Recognition	None
Credit Structure ²	120 Credits Level 4: 120 Credits
Mode of Attendance	Full-time
Standard Length of Course ³	1 year full-time
Intended Award	HNC Applied Sciences (Forensic Science)
Named Exit Awards	None
Entry Requirements ⁴	60 UCAS tariff points or above (or the equivalent)
Delivering Institution(s)	East Coast College
UCAS Code	TBC

This definitive record sets out the essential features and characteristics of the HNC Applied Sciences (Forensic Science) course. The information provided is accurate for students entering level 4 in the 2021-22 academic year⁵.

Course Summary

The HNC Applied Sciences (Forensic Science) is intended to help students develop not just as reflective professionals, but also as individuals, able to meet the demands of employment in this demanding sector, and within a constantly changing world.

As well as supporting you on your career path in the forensic science sector, the HNC programme aims to widen access to higher education and enhance your prospects in regard to not just your career, but also any further study you intend to undertake.

This course offers a broad introduction to forensic science and professional laboratory science via a number of mandatory units, while allowing for the acquisition of specialist skills and experience through specialist forensic science modules. You will gain a wide range of sector knowledge tied to practical skills gained in evidence-based practice, personal research, self-study, directed study and workplace learning and experience.

¹ For an explanation of the levels of higher education study, see the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2014\)](#)

² All academic credit awarded as a result of study at the University adheres to the [Higher education credit framework for England](#).

³ Where the course is delivered both full-time and part-time, the standard length of course is provided for the full-time mode of attendance only. The length of the part-time course is variable and dependent upon the intensity of study.

⁴ Details of standard entry requirements can be found in the [Admissions Policy](#) and further details about Disclosure and Barring Checks (DBS) can be found on the [University's DBS webpage](#).

⁵ The University reserves the right to make changes to course content, structure, teaching and assessment as outlined in the [Admissions Policy](#).

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Course Aims

- To provide students with a broad introduction to Forensic Science via a mandatory core of learning
- To facilitate acquisition of skills and experience through specialist areas of study
- To provide occupationally-relevant programme of study
- To prepare students for progression to higher levels of learning and qualification
- To provide a wide range of sector knowledge tied to practical skills, gained in evidence-based practice, personal research, self-study, directed study and workplace learning and experience

Course Learning Outcomes

The following statements define what students graduating from the HNC Applied Sciences (Forensic Science) course will have been judged to have demonstrated in order to achieve the award. These statements, known as learning outcomes, have been formally approved as aligned with the generic qualification descriptor for level 4 awards as set out by the UK Quality Assurance Agency (QAA)⁶.

1. Demonstrate a sound knowledge of the basic concepts, values and principles of Applied Sciences (Forensic Science)
2. Demonstrate the skills necessary to perform effectively as a support worker in the Forensic Science sector
3. Communicate accurately and appropriately in sector-relevant language and terminology
4. Demonstrate the behaviours and qualities for employment requiring some degree of personal responsibility
5. Have developed and demonstrated a range of transferable skills to ensure effective team working, independent initiative, organisational competence and problem-solving strategies
6. Demonstrate flexibility and adaptability in approaches to Forensic Science
7. Show resilience under pressure in order to meet challenging targets within a given set of resources and parameters.

Course Design

The design of this course has been guided by the following QAA Benchmarks / Professional Standards / [name of PSRB] Competency Frameworks:

- QAA Subject Benchmark Statement for Forensic Science (2012)
- QAA Framework for UK Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) (2014)
- Science Council

Course Structure

The HNC Applied Sciences (Forensic Science) comprises modules at levels 4.

Module Specifications for each of these modules is included within the course handbook, available to students on-line at the beginning of each academic year.

⁶ As set out in the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2014\)](#)
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	Module	Credits	Unit Type ⁷
Level 4			
	Fundamentals of Laboratory Techniques	15	Mandatory Core
	Scientific Data Handling Approaches and Techniques	15	Mandatory Core
	Regulation and Quality in the Applied Sciences (Pearson-set)	15	Mandatory Core
	Cell Biology	15	Mandatory Core
	Fundamentals of Biochemistry	15	Mandatory Core
	Criminal Investigation	15	Mandatory Core
	Theories and Causes of Crime	15	Optional
	Psychology in the Forensic Setting	15	Optional

Awards

On successful completion of the course, students will be awarded a HNC Applied Sciences (Forensic Science).

Course Delivery

The course is delivered at Lowestoft Sixth Form. Students studying full-time on Higher National Certificate in Applied Science (Forensics) are likely to have approximately 12 contact hours per week. The year is divided into two 15 week semesters, of which 12 are teaching weeks, with 3 per semester devoted to assessment activities and preparation for Assessment Boards. The contact hours will be a mix of class sessions (lecture, seminar), practical activities, laboratory sessions, developmental workshop sessions and tutorials. Students will normally be expected to undertake a minimum of a further 20 hours of independent study in an average week, but should be prepared for this to vary based on assignment deadlines and class exercises.

Course Assessment

A variety of assessments will be used on the course to enable students to experience and adapt to different assessment styles. The assessment methods used will be appropriate to assess each module's intended learning outcomes. Assessment on the course overall will be approximately 70% coursework (including essays, reports and a time-constrained essay), and 30% laboratory and practical reports.

Course Team

The academic staff delivering this course are drawn from a team that includes teaching specialists and current practitioners. All staff are qualified in their subjects with their own specialist knowledge to contribute.

Course Costs

Students undertaking HNC Applied Sciences (Forensic Science) will be charged tuition fees as detailed below.

⁷ Units designated as mandatory core (MC) must be taken and passed in order to achieve the award. For further information, see the [Framework and Regulations for Higher National Awards](#)
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Student Group	Tuition Fees
Full-time UK	£6,168 per year
Part-time UK	n/a
Full-time EU/International	£6,570 per year
Part-time EU/International	n/a

Payment of tuition fees is due at the time of enrolment and is managed in accordance with the Tuition Fee Policy.

Students are likely to incur some other costs associated with visits to professional environments and will be informed of plans for the year and any associated costs prior to the commencement of the relevant academic year.

Academic Framework and Regulations

This course is delivered according to the Framework and Regulations for Higher National Awards and other academic policies and procedures of the University and published on the [website](#).