

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Title	BSc (Hons) Forensic Sciences [progression route]
Awarding Bodies	University of Suffolk
Level of Award ¹	FHEQ Level 6
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies Recognition	None
Credit Structure ²	360 Credits Level 6: 120 Credits (plus advanced standing of 240 credits at levels 4 and 5)
Mode of Attendance	Full-time
Standard Length of Course ³	1 year full-time
Intended Award	BSc (Hons) Forensic Sciences
Named Exit Awards	None
Entry Requirements ⁴	240 credits (level 4 and level 5) from a suitable FdSc/FdA equivalent This course is not open to visa sponsored students (those students sponsored by the University under the student route).
Delivering Institution(s)	University of Suffolk at East Coast College (Lowestoft)
UCAS Code	F413

This definitive record sets out the essential features and characteristics of the BSc (Hons) Forensic Sciences [progression route] course. The information provided is accurate for students entering level 6 in the 2026-27 academic year⁵.

Course Summary

The BSc (Hons) Forensic Sciences [progression route] is a programme that will support learners to develop a deeper understanding of the essential practical and theoretical elements, within many specialist areas of forensics, which are needed within industry. The course offers opportunities to study a range of practical and theoretical topics. This qualification provides an essential broad base to the theoretical knowledge and practical experience needed for the industry. It offers an opportunity for learners to follow a career into a wider range of areas where key practical skills development and understanding are necessary.

¹ For an explanation of the levels of higher education study, see the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2024\)](#)

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. Further information about mode of study and maximum registration periods can be found in the [Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards](#).

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 the knowledge and skills necessary for employment in a range of roles within the forensic science sector
- To provide a level 6 programme demonstrating linkage to sector benchmark standards and the relevant professional bodies
- To provide a sound foundation for progression to higher level qualifications in forensic science and related disciplines
- To provide full understanding of the structure, context and relevance of the forensic science sector, and the roles and responsibilities within it
- To raise student aspiration and reflect on their personal learning journey
- To develop students as autonomous, analytical and evaluative learners through the ability to devise, plan and manage research projects appropriate to the level of study
- To develop students' employability/transferable skills throughout the programme

Course Learning Outcomes

The following statements define what students graduating from the BSc (Hons) Forensic Sciences [progression route] 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 6 awards as set out by the UK Quality Assurance Agency (QAA)⁶.

- I1 Demonstrate the systematic and detailed understanding and application of the core scientific methods involved in forensic investigations and techniques associated with the discipline, including an understanding of how cognitive biases affect the forensic processes.
- J1 Communicate coherently, accurately, and reliably, ideas, arguments, problems with their solutions, and knowledge to specialist and non-specialist audiences both orally and in writing.
- K1 Deploy appropriate laboratory skills, including selecting appropriate experimental techniques and using appropriate laboratory equipment, to carry out a range of tasks and technical processes with a degree of autonomy, with due regard to quality assurance processes.
- L1 Autonomous learning (including time management) that shows the exercise of initiative and personal responsibility and enables decision-making in complex and unpredictable contexts.
- I2 Demonstrate a comprehensive conceptual understanding of the theory, techniques and skills required for the laboratory analysis of forensic evidence, with due regard to quality assurance processes
- J2 Effectively discuss the validity, accuracy and reliability of techniques used, with due regard to quality assurance.
- K2 Conduct and interpret the results of digital evidence evaluation and cyber crime intelligence.
- L2 Team working skills necessary to flourish in the global workplace with an ability both to work in and lead teams effectively.

⁶ As set out in the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2024\)](#)
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- I3 Demonstrate a comprehensive practical knowledge and understanding of a variety of different crime scenes.
- J3 Demonstrate the ability to use and critically review knowledge of essential facts, concepts, principles and theories obtained from primary sources relating to the subject and to apply such knowledge and understanding to the solution of novel qualitative and quantitative research problems.
- K3 Critically analyse data to make deductions and clearly present the results of investigations in a manner that can be readily assimilated in a court environment.
- L3 Communication skills that ensure information, ideas, problems and solutions are communicated effectively and clearly to both specialist and non-specialist audiences.
- I4 Demonstrate knowledge of the ethical, legal, statutory obligations, and practical issues (including health and safety and quality assurance) and progression within the discipline with a commitment to uphold these in a professional setting.
- J4 Creatively and enterprisingly recognise and critically analyse novel contemporary problems and provide adaptable solutions by the evaluation, interpretation and synthesis of scientific information and data by a variety of computational methods.
- K4 Formulate and justify expert opinion using impartial, transparent, and comprehensive arguments, including the ability to quantify and clearly communicate the levels of uncertainty in expert evidence or data.
- L4 IT skills and digital literacy that demonstrate core competences and are commensurate with an ability to work at the interface of creativity and new technologies.

Course Design

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

- Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) (QAA 2024)
- QAA Foundation Degree Characteristics (2020)
- QAA Subject Benchmark Statement Biosciences (2023)
- QAA Subject Benchmark Statement Forensic Sciences (2022)
- QAA Subject Benchmark Statement Criminology (2022)
- QAA Subject Benchmark Statement Chemistry (2022)
- Level 4 NVQ in Laboratory and Associated Technical Activities (LATA)
- RSciTech/RSci competencies

Course Structure

The BSc (Hons) Forensic Sciences [progression route] comprises modules at level 6.

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.

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	Module	Credits	Module Type ⁷
Level 6			
	Project (Sciences)	40	M
	Forensic Investigation of Mass Fatalities	20	M
	Environmental and Wildlife Forensics	20	R
	Digital Forensics and Cyber Crime	20	R
	Fire, Explosives and Firearms	20	R

Awards

On successful completion of the course, students will be awarded a BSc (Hons) Forensic Sciences [progression route].

Course Delivery

The course is delivered at University of Suffolk partner institute East Coast College in Lowestoft. Students studying full-time on the BSc (Hons) Forensic Sciences [progression route] are likely to have approximately 9 contact hours per week. The contact hours will be a mix of lectures, seminars and practical activities. Students will normally be expected to undertake a minimum of 18-20 hours of independent study in an average week for full time 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 majority coursework (including reports, presentations, group work and research projects), with some examinations and practical assessments.

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 BSc (Hons) Forensic Sciences (progression route) will be charged tuition fees as detailed below.

Student Group	Tuition Fees
Full-time UK	£9,790 per year
Full-time EU/International	£15,900 per year

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

Students would need to pay additional costs to go on extra-curricular trips and visits designed to complement course delivery, amounting to a maximum of £500 payable at a later date.

⁷ Modules are designated as either mandatory (M), requisite (R) or optional (O). For definitions, see the [Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards](#)

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Students are likely to incur other costs for personal protective equipment (such as a laboratory coat) amounting to approximately £100 per year.

If a DBS is required for placement, students will be required to pay for their DBS check and a small ID check and processing fee. The cost of DBS checks can be found on the [DBS page of the University of Suffolk website](#).

Academic Framework and Regulations

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