

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Title	BSc (Hons) Forensic Investigation
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 4: 120 Credits Level 5: 120 Credits Level 6: 120 Credits
Mode of Attendance	Full-time and part-time
Standard Length of Course ³	3 years full-time 6 years part-time
Intended Award	BSc (Hons) Forensic Investigation
Named Exit Awards	DipHE Forensic Investigation CertHE Forensic Investigation
Entry Requirements ⁴	112 UCAS tariff points (or above) GCSE At grade 4(C) Including subjects: English, Maths and Science A Levels At grade BBC Including subjects: Biology and/or Chemistry BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma At grade DMM Including diploma titles: Applied Science and/or Forensic and Criminal Investigation Access to HE Diploma With a credit combination of 30 Credits at Merit and 15 Credits at Distinction Including diploma titles: Science
Delivering Institution	University of Suffolk at Suffolk New College
UCAS Code	F410

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. 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.

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

Course Summary

In the ever-changing world in which the criminal justice system operates, the need for reliable collection and evaluation of evidence is vital. The integrity of the process from the crime scene to the courtroom can determine the outcome of criminal investigations.

Through the course, students cover units in four key themes: Investigation, Evidence Recording & Recovery, Legal and Scientific Principles. Starting with key concepts and foundations in a range of disciplines at the start of the course, to equip you for the more advanced analytical units as the course progresses.

Students have the opportunity to gain hands-on experience in a range of analytical techniques. In addition to benefiting from the knowledge and skills of our specialist staff, students receive guest lectures from practitioners in a variety of forensic science specialism to gain an understanding of the industry through attending conferences, and visits to places of work.

Course Aims

- To provide a coherent learning experience for students to acquire a broad knowledge and understanding of the scientific principles and techniques underpinning forensic investigation;
- To train students to become proficient in the documentation, collection and analysis of evidence from simulated crime scene scenarios;
- To develop students' ability to gather intelligence during an investigation, from both physical and witness evidence;
- To develop students' transferable skills, especially in team working and, in the communication, and reporting of evidence in a fashion understandable to the general public;
- To develop research skills that students can utilise effectively to pursue independent work in a specified area within the forensic investigation discipline;
- To gain the skills necessary for independent learning and for attaining responsibility for students' own career planning and development;
- To develop a scientific and investigative approach to the study programme;
- To develop students' knowledge and understanding of the value and importance of all types of evidence.

Course Learning Outcomes

The following statements define what students graduating from the BSc (Hons) Forensic Investigation 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

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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the generic qualification descriptor for level 6 awards as set out by the UK Quality Assurance Agency (QAA)⁶.

1. A systematic knowledge and critical understanding of key aspects, at least some of which lie at the forefront of forensic investigation and its applications. (Subject Specific Skills).
2. A well-developed ability to reflect on knowledge and skills learned to review, consolidate and extend further an advanced understanding of forensic investigation legal constructs and other related sciences to construct, articulate and defend advanced intellectual arguments and positions. (Subject Specific Skills).
3. An enhanced ability to select, deploy and adapt techniques or methodologies to carry out a team project in forensic investigation and in the independent analysis of collected evidence. (Cognitive Skills).
4. Devise, refine, apply and comment on current research, topics, questions or other equivalent advanced scholarship. With an ability to make critical judgements as to its value in forensic investigations and the understanding of analysis of evidence. (Knowledge and Understanding Skills).
5. A well-developed capacity to apply learnt methods and techniques. To drive and sustain independent learning to review, extended, apply and evaluate contributions to own work and contributions to team working. (Knowledge and Understanding Skills, Cognitive Skills).
6. An in depth understanding of continuity, preservation and non-contamination of evidence during collection and analysis. Critically appraise results allowing communicate effectively through the production of expert witness reports and presentation in the courtroom. (Subject Specific Skills, Cognitive Skills, and Generic Skills).
7. An advanced standard of competence in a range of communication, generic and translatable skills necessary to exercise initiative, personal responsibility, decision-making in complex and unpredictable contexts. Especially in presenting scientific information and evidence in a fashion understandable to the general public. (Generic Skills).
8. Knowledge of managing learning, exercise initiative and personal responsibility. How learning abilities, qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment or further academic or professional training should be presented to graduate opportunity providers.

Course Design

The design of this course has been guided by the following QAA Benchmark:

- Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) Benchmark for Forensic Science (2012)

⁶ As set out in the QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies (2014)

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Course Structure

The BSc (Hons) Forensic Investigation comprises modules at levels 4, 5 and 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.

	Module	Credits	Module Type ⁷
Level 4			
	English Legal System	20	R
	Introduction to Crime Scene and Forensic Applications	20	M
	Introduction to Laboratory Practice	20	M
	Introduction to Forensic DNA	20	M
	Introduction to Forensic Chemistry	20	M
	Investigative Photography	20	R
Level 5			
	Forensic Biology	20	M
	Crime Scene Investigation	20	M
	Forensic Laboratory Investigation	20	M
	Investigation Management	20	M
	Research Methods	20	M
	Analytical Chemistry and Laboratory Quality	20	M
Level 6			
	Human Identification Techniques	20	M
	Forensic Anthropology	20	M
	Advanced Crime Scene and Forensic Applications	40	M
	Dissertation	40	M

Awards

On successful completion of the course, students will be awarded a BSc (Hons) Forensic Investigation. Students who leave the course early may be eligible for a DipHE Forensic Investigation on successful completion of 240 credits including all mandatory modules at levels 4 and 5, or a CertHE Forensic Investigation on successful completion of 120 credits including all mandatory modules at level 4.

Course Delivery

The course is delivered at Suffolk New College. Students studying full-time on BSc (Hons) Forensic Investigation are likely to have approximately 14 contact hours for level 4, 12 contact hours for level 5 and 10 contact hours for level 6. The contact hours will be a mix of lectures, seminars, laboratory and crime scene practical activities. Students will normally be expected to undertake 28 hours of independent study in an average week but should be prepared for this to vary based on assignment deadlines and class exercises.

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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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 43% coursework including essays, witness statements and presentations, 27% examinations and 30% 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 Investigation will be charged tuition fees as detailed below.

Student Group	Tuition Fees
Full-time UK	£9,250 per year
Part-time UK	£1,454 per 20 credit module
Full-time EU/International	£13,725 per year
Part-time EU/International	£2,287 per 20 credit module

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 other costs for equipment, materials, optional field trips, exhibitions, amounting to approximately £100 per year.

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](#).