Programme Specification for BSc (Hons) Forensic and Applied Biology

This document applies to Academic Year 2022/23 onwards

Table 1 programme specification for BSc (Hons) Forensic and Applied Biology

1.	**Awarding institution/body**	University of Worcester
2.	**Teaching institution**	University of Worcester
3.	**Programme accredited by**	The Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences
4.	**Final award or awards**	BSc. Hons
5.	**Programme title**	Forensic and Applied Biology
6.	**Pathways available**	Single honours only
7.	**Mode and/or site of delivery**	On campus delivery of theoretical and practical work with some blended learning via Blackboard. All modules delivered on the sites of the University of Worcester.
8.	**Mode of attendance and duration**	FT & PT
9.	**UCAS Code**	FC 41
10.	**Subject Benchmark statement and/or professional body statement**	QAA Subject Benchmark Statement Biosciences October 2019. The Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences QAA benchmark skills for Crime Scene Investigation and Interpretation, Evaluation and Presentation of Evidence component standards are adhered also to QAA Subject Benchmark Statement Forensic Science October 2012
11.	**Date of Programme Specification preparation/ revision**	June 2021 August 2021 – AQU amendments October 2021 -minor corrections (correcting title of BIOL2003 and removing duplication of BIOL2007 August 2022 – AQU amendments

12. Educational aims of the programme

Forensic and Applied Biology at the University of Worcester is a specialist course that is accredited by The Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences. It offers several specialist modules along with a number of modules shared with the biological sciences programmes. The course is very practical offering students the opportunity to gather practical skills and knowledge in both Biology and aspects of mainstream Forensic Science. Students also have the opportunity to gather some skills in Forensic Archaeology and Forensic Anthropology. There is also an opportunity to undertake an independent research project in their third year. This enables students to work on a topic of interest further and independently (with support) develop, conduct, and contextualise their research project. The emphasis on the development of 'hands on' practical skills provides students with useful skills for their future careers covering laboratory skills, forensic laboratory exhibit examinations and analyses and crime scene investigation. The unique Worcester science personal development planning (PDP) scheme is designed to support student personal and career development.

In particular the course aims to:-

a) provide a broad practical laboratory and field based Forensic and Applied Biology curriculum.

b) give a supportive learning environment which acknowledges and responds to the diversity of student backgrounds and experiences, and which allow students the opportunity to realise their academic potential;

c) provide students with the opportunity to study Forensic and Applied Biology at a depth and level appropriate to honours degree standard;

d) develop to the appropriate level with regards to the knowledge, skills and aptitudes of Forensic and Applied Biology, within an interdisciplinary, undergraduate degree scheme;

e) enable students to work independently, analytically and critically;

f) encourage students to develop a range of subject-specific and transferable skills appropriate to graduate employment and/or postgraduate study in Forensic and Applied Biology.

13. Intended learning outcomes and learning, teaching and assessment methods

By completing level 6 of the programme, as set out on the award map, students will have attained all the intended learning outcomes as set out below.

Table 2 knowledge and understanding outcomes for module code/s

Knowledge and Understanding		
LO no.	On successful completion of the named award, students will be able to:	**Module Code/s**
1.	demonstrate knowledge of material and a critical understanding of a range of biological and forensic concepts and principles at a variety of levels (e.g., from sub-cellular to whole organisms)	BIOL3008 BIOL3002
2.	communicate biological information and principles in an appropriate manner, employing skills of written, oral and visual communication, numerical analysis and information technology;	BIOL3007 BIOL3006 BIOL3008
3.	Evaluate and apply understanding of ethical issues related to forensic and applied biology;	BIOL3002 BIOL3007 BIOL3008

Table 3 cognitive and intellectual skills outcomes for module code/s

Cognitive and Intellectual skills		
LO no.	On successful completion of the named award, students will be able to:	**Module Code/s**
4.	access information from a variety of sources and show proficiency in assessing, evaluating, analysing, and synthesising the scientific information and data;	BIOL3002 BIOL3008 BIOL3007
5.	design, execute and critically evaluate the outcomes of investigations carried out individually and in groups;	BIOL3007 BIOL3008
6.	plan, carry out and present a piece of hypothesis-driven work for a research project.	BIOL3002 BIOL3007

Table 4 skills and capabilities related to employment outcomes for module code/s

Skills and capabilities related to employability		
LO no.	On successful completion of the named award, students will be able to:	**Module Code/s**
7.	record data accurately, analyse and interpret those data and test hypotheses;	BIOL3002 BIOL3008
8.	Demonstrate practical skills in laboratory and/or field work and be able to work safely and appropriately in these environments.	BIOL2009 BIOL3002
9.	apply specific skills in forensic work such as crime scene analysis, problem solving, attention to detail, evidence recording, evaluation and assessment, and laboratory and field analysis techniques;	BIOL2009 BIOL2012 BIOL3002 BIOL3006

Table 5 transferable/key skills outcomes for module code/s

Transferable/key skills		
LO no.	On successful completion of the named award, students will be able to:	**Module Code/s**
10.	Work co-operatively with others, while demonstrating an increasing understanding of how to be an independent learner;	BIOL2009 BIOL3007
11.	Communicate complex scientific concepts to lay audiences such as a court.	BIOL3006 BIOL3008

Learning, teaching and assessment

For 2021/22, the majority of teaching sessions are face to face on campus. Lectures or lecture workshops for some modules will be delivered online either 'live' or pre-recorded. Individual and small group tutorials will be arranged online as this has proven to be convenient and popular with students.

The University places emphasis on enabling students to develop the independent learning capabilities that will equip them for lifelong learning and future employment, as well as academic achievement. A mixture of Research Project, teaching and academic support through the personal academic tutoring system enables students to reflect on progress and build up a profile of skills, achievements and experiences that will enable them to flourish and be successful.

Teaching

Students are taught through a combination of activities including: on campus and online lectures and seminars (tutor and student-led), practical laboratory and or forensic investigations and/or field trips, tutorials, directed reading, self-directed study, group work and team projects, reflective practice, class discussions, case studies, independent research, and interactive workshops. Interactive workshops take a variety of formats and are intended to enable the application of learning through discussion and small group activities. Seminars enable the discussion and development of understanding of topics covered in lectures, and laboratory practical/field work sessions are focused on

developing confidence in relevant practical skills and the ability to relate theory to practice.

To maximise flexibility for the wide range of students typically studying at the University of Worcester, some sessions may be delivered as blended learning via platforms such as the Blackboard VLE.

In addition, meetings with Personal Academic Tutors are scheduled on at least four occasions in the first year and three occasions in each of the subsequent years of a course. These meetings are designed to support reflection on feedback, identify learning needs and to help students with their more general personal academic development.

There is an opportunity to undertake a work experience module at Level 5, and to engage with an exchange scheme, and spend a semester abroad.

The BSc (Hons) Forensic and Applied Biology course handbook shows how the Science Personal Development Planning skills, (based on the QAA Subject Benchmark Statement Biosciences October 2019), are linked to the individual modules in the course. Key and Transferable skills are mainly expressed through the Science PDP scheme. Practical skills for employment are also addressed through the Biosciences Skills Passport where students on all levels of the course will have the practical skills they have gained recorded.

Contact time

In a typical week there will be at least 12 hours of contact teaching, the majority of which will be campus based. The precise contact hours will depend on the optional modules selected and in the final year there will normally be slightly less contact time in order to do more Research Project.

Typically, class contact time will be structured around:

- 4 hours of lectures
- 11 hours of supervised laboratory practicals
- 1 hour of group workshops
- 1 hour of Study Skills (first year only)

Independent self-study

Students are normally required to be engaged in learning activities (campus based and online contact teaching with independent learning) for around 38 hours a week throughout the designated teaching and assessment weeks of each semester. So, in addition to the above contact time students are expected to undertake at least 24 hours of personal self-study per week. Typically, this will involve going over lecture notes and reading around the topic to reinforce the content, completing online activities, reading journal articles and books, working on individual and group projects, undertaking research in the library and online, preparing coursework assignments and presentations, and preparing for examinations.

Independent learning is supported by a range of excellent learning facilities, including the Hive and library resources, the virtual learning environment, and extensive electronic learning resources. These often include links, videos, lecture notes, quizzes etc.

Teaching staff

Students will be taught by a teaching team whose expertise and knowledge are matched to the content of the modules on the course, this will mainly involve senior academics, but visiting speakers with specialised expertise may deliver some sessions. Technicians support practical sessions.

Postgraduate research students who have undertaken teacher training may also contribute to the teaching of seminars under the supervision of the module leader. Teaching is informed by the research and consultancy, and 93 per cent of course lecturers in the Biological Sciences have a higher education teaching qualification or are Fellows of the Higher Education Academy. Information about the staff is available via staff profiles https://www.worcester.ac.uk/discover/science-staff-profiles.html.

Assessment

The course provides opportunities to test understanding and learning informally through the completion of practice or 'formative' assignments which allow you to complete a task, gain feedback as a practice without the grade being used in your final module grade. Each module has one or more formal or 'summative' assessments which are graded and count towards the overall module grade.

Assessment methods include practical reports, presentations, posters, on-line activities, essays and examinations (which may be practical, written, data analysis, seen exams or open book exams).

The precise assessment requirements for an individual student in an academic year will vary according to the mandatory and optional modules taken, but a typical formal summative assessment pattern for each year of the course is:

Year 1
Forensic interpretation exercise
4 x Practical file
In class theory test
In class practical test
Group presentation
3 x Exam
Individual and group based VLE tests

Year 2
Portfolio
Skills test
Research proposal
Employability portfolio
3 x Practical handbook
Part seen examination
Unseen examination

Year 3
Interim review
Poster presentation
Research project
Group presentation and peer evaluation
Forensic interpretation exercise
Forensic expert testimony exercise
Forensic DNA portfolio
Exam
In class test
Poster presentation

14. Assessment strategy

The Forensic and Applied Biology course aims to develop autonomous and independent learners who possess a broad range of intellectual and transferable skills. In order to achieve these aims, a range of methods is used to assess students. Assessment

methods include examinations, practical tests, practical and field reports, in-class tests, presentations, and poster presentations. These assessments will allow you to develop skills highly sought after by employers. For example, oral presentations and report writing are key skills that you will use in all graduate level employment. Exams and in class tests allow you to demonstrate the knowledge that you require in many careers after graduation.

Students have opportunities to develop the appropriate skills necessary for the particular assessment type used before summative assessment takes place. Extensive feedback is given on assessments usually through the VLE including written feedback and / or a rubric. Students are supported, through the Personal Academic Tutoring for the course, in reflecting and acting on this feedback to support their academic development.

The emphasis on formative assessment gives more opportunities to provide feedback and this takes a variety of forms, for example the level 4 30-credit modules provide regular and rapid feedback by using personal response systems.

As far as possible, the assessments have been spread throughout the modules. However, the skills and depth of understanding to be assessed take time to develop and consequently assessment deadlines do not generally occur in the first half the module. The range of assessment tasks used and their weightings, together with a calendar of submission dates, is shown in the students' handbook.

The Biological Sciences follow the University of Worcester Assessment Policy
http://www.worc.ac.uk/aqu/documments/AssessmentPolicy.pdf
All module outlines contain detailed assignment briefs and grading criteria which are, in most cases, specific for that particular assignment. Study Skills, which form part of the extended induction for level 4 students, as well as some modules, include sessions on how to make good use of this information.

15. Programme structures and requirements

Table 7 heading for course title

Course Title: BSc Forensic and Applied Biology

Level 4

Table 8 award map for level 4 BSc (Hons) Forensic and Applied Biology

Module Code	**Module Title**	**Credits** (Number)	**Status** (Mandatory (M) or Optional (O)) **Single Hons**	**Pre-requisites** (Code of Module required)	**Co-requisites/ exclusions and other notes***
BIOL1004	Introduction to Human Anatomy and Physiology	15	M	None	Excl: BIOS1010
BIOL1008	Introduction to Forensic Sciences	30	M	None	Excl: BIOS1220
BIOL1001	Cell Biology	30	M	None	Excl: BIOS1201
BIOL1005	Chemistry for the Life Sciences	15	M	None	Excl: BIOS1206
BIOL1003	Health and Disease	30	O	None	Excl: BIOS1203
CODE xxxx	Optional modules offered by the Language Centre/School of Education	15/30	O	N/A	N/A

Single Honours Requirements at Level 4

Single Honours students must take 120 credits in total to include all mandatory modules, BIOL1004, BIOL1008, BIOL1001 and BIOL1005, and optional modules - which can include up to 15/30 credits drawn from a range of Language Centre modules in: Academic English for native and non-native speakers of English; Modern Foreign Languages; and Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) and modules in Tutoring. Details of the available modules can be found here: https://www.worcester.ac.uk/life/help-and-support/language-centre/optional-modules.aspx

Level 5

Table 9 award map for level 5 BSc (Hons) Forensic and Applied Biology

Module Code	**Module Title**	**Credits** (Number)	**Status** (Mandatory (M) or Optional (O)) **SH**	**Pre-requisites** (Code of Module required)	**Co-requisites/ exclusions and other notes***
BIOL2001	Project and Career Development	30	M	None	Excl: BIOS2200, BIOS 3114 BIOS2200E BIOS2400
BIOL2003	Work Experience	15	O	None	Excl: BIOS2003, BIOS 3003
BIOL2004	Molecular and Cellular Biology	30	O	BIOL1001	Excl: BIOS2201 BIOS2100 BIOS 2202
BIOL2006	Molecular Genetics	15	M unless taking BIOL2004 as an Optional	BIOL1001	Excl: BIOS2100 BIOL2004 BIOS 2202
BIOL2007	Microbiology	15	O	BIOL1001	Excl: BIOS2023
BIOL2009	Crime Scene Investigation	15	M	BIOL1008	Excl: BIOS2054 BIOS3054
BIOL2012	Forensic archaeology and anthropology	30	M	BIOL 1008	Excl: BIOS2112

BIOL2013	Medical Forensic Science	15	M	BIOL 1003 or BIOL 1004	Excl: BIOS2105
CODE xxxx	Optional modules offered by the Language Centre/School of Education	15/30	O	N/A	N/A

Single Honours Requirements at Level 5

Single Honours students must take 120 credits in total to include all mandatory modules BIOL2001, BIOL2006, BIOL2009, BIOS2112 and BIOL2013.

Optional modules can include up to 15/30 credits drawn from a range of Language Centre modules in: Academic English for native and non-native speakers of English and Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) and modules in Tutoring. Details of the available modules can be found here: https://www.worcester.ac.uk/life/help-and-support/language-centre/optional-modules.aspx

Level 6

Table 10 award map for level 6 BSc (Hons) Forensic and Applied Biology

Module Code	**Module Title**	**Credits** (Number)	**Status** (Mandatory (M) or Optional (O))	**Pre-requisites** (Code of Module required)	**Co-requisites/ exclusions and other notes***
			SH		
BIOL3002	Research Project	30	M	BIOL2001	Excl: BIOS3002
BIOL3004	Pharmacology (Amy to update assessment pattern)	15	O	BIOL 2006 or BIOLS 2004	Excl: BIOS3106
BIOL3006	Interpretation, Evaluation and Reporting of Evidence	15	M	BIOL 2013, BIOL2009, BIOL3008	Excl: BIOS3050
BIOL3007	Law and Order	15	M	BIOL 1008 or BIOS1220	Excl: BIOS3053
BIOL3008	Forensic DNA Analysis	15	M	BIOL2004, 2006	Excl: BIOS3052
BIOL3009	Genomics & Bioinformatics	15	O	BIOL2004, 2202 or 2100	Excl: BIOS3109
BIOL3012	Parasitology (Kate to update assessment pattern)	15	O	BIOL2004 or 2202 or 2100	Excl: BIOS3112
BIOL3013	Biochemistry of cancer (Steve to update assessment pattern)	15	O	BIOL 2004	Excl: BIOS3113
BIOL3020	Extension Module (	15	O	Any Level 5 or Level 6 BIOS module in which the student has achieved a B- grade or above and has the support of the leader of that module	Excl: BIOS3111
BIOL3021	Sustainability in Public Health	15	O	None	None
CRMN 3106	Terrorism and Extremism	15	O	None	None

Single Honours Requirements at Level 6
Single Honours students must take 120 credits from the table above to include all mandatory modules BIOL3002, BIOL3006, BIOL3008, BIOL3007, plus three 15 credit modules from BIOS 3003, BIOS3106, BIOL3009, BIOL3020, BIOL3012, BIOL3013,or BIOS3012.

16. QAA and professional academic standards and quality

The course has been developed to follow, where possible, the component standards set out by the Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences and the which is detailed and mapped through the accreditation process and paperwork. Biological elements of the course has been developed with reference to the QAA Subject Benchmark Statement Biosciences October 2019. Both sets of criteria have been used to inform course outcomes. The course operates at levels four, five and six of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications.

QAA and University of Worcester guidelines on work-related learning and experience have also been followed.

The BSc (Hons)/Forensic and Applied Biology course handbook shows how the Science PDP skills, based on the Biology QAA benchmark statement, are linked to the individual modules in the course. Key and Transferable skills are mainly expressed through the Science PDP scheme. Practical skills for employment are also addressed through the Biosciences Skills Passport where students on all levels of the course will have the practical skills, they have gained recorded.

17. Support for students

Forensic and Applied Biology students experience a variety of learning and teaching methods detailed in section 13.1 above and these are frequently reviewed and adapted in order to enhance the students' experience.
An induction programme extended throughout the first year of study in one of the 30 credit modules in year 1. This extended induction allows the necessary study skills to be developed at the most appropriate time for the student.
All students have a Personal Academic Tutor who they see twice each semester at level 4 and 3 times per academic year for levels 5 and 6 and the requirement to do so is linked to a mandatory module. The tutorial sessions are structured to guide and support each student, on an individual basis, throughout their course and to help them to realise their potential. The Personal Academic Tutors guide the students through completion of a Personal Development Plan related to the current QAA Biosciences benchmarks. All tutors have an open door policy.
The Disability and Dyslexia Service (DDS) provides advice and support to students who have a disability, medical condition or specific learning difficulty, including dyslexia. The DDS also provides support and advice to other departments and individual staff on how to ensure the needs of individual students are met. For more details see:

https://www2.worc.ac.uk/firstpoint/
https://www.worcester.ac.uk/life/help-and-support/services-for-students/home.aspx
https://www2.worc.ac.uk/disabilityanddyslexia/

Students have access to a Virtual Learning Environment (which includes the Blackboard Learn and Microsoft Teams) in which they are provided with module-specific material, documents, activities, videos, etc. Students are given the BSc (Hons) Forensic and Applied Biology Course Handbook (published on an annual basis) to provide them with detailed course information, information on modules and options available, and details of how to access University support for their studies. Students are also given detailed module guides for each module which include planned teaching activities, attendance requirements, assessment briefs, assessment criteria and resource lists. Detailed module outlines (module handbooks), which include planned teaching activity, attendance requirements, assessment brief, assessment criteria and reading lists.
Student Handbook (published on an annual basis), to provide students with detailed course information.

The Forensic and Applied Biology students' handbook provides detailed information on all of the above points as well as information on modules and options available.

18. Admissions

Admissions policy

We welcome applications from people of all ages and backgrounds with an interest in studying biological sciences. The University aims to be accessible; it is committed to widening participation and encouraging diversity in the student population. The School of Science and the Environment works closely with central student support services, including the Admissions Office, the Disability and Dyslexia Service and the International team (student services) to support students from a variety of backgrounds. We actively encourage and welcome people from the widest range of economic and cultural backgrounds, and value the contribution of mature students.

Entry requirements

The normal minimum entry requirement for undergraduate degree courses is the possession of 4 GCSEs (Grade C/4 or above) and a minimum of 2 A Levels (or equivalent Level 3 qualifications). Applicants must have an A Level pass in a Biological Science. Other qualifications, such as BTEC in Applied Science or equivalent, and Access to Higher Education (with at least 15 credits of Biological Sciences gained), will also be considered. Students who successfully pass the University's Foundation Year Biological Sciences will also be eligible to progress onto Level 4 of the Forensic and Applied Biology degree.

The current UCAS Tariff requirements for entry to this course are published in the prospectus and on the UW website https://www.worc.ac.uk/journey/a-z-of-courses.html

See the University's Admissions Policy for other acceptable qualifications.

Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) requirements

A satisfactory DBS disclosure may be required if a placement/Work Based Learning experience requires this. If they do this will be in liaison with the placement "employer" but additional information could also be sought from your Personal Academic Tutor (PAT) or First Point.

Recognition of Prior Learning

Details of acceptable Level 3 qualifications, policy in relation to mature students or applicants with few or no formal qualifications can be found in the prospectus or on the University webpages. Information on eligibility for recognition of prior learning for the purposes of entry or advanced standing is also available from the University webpages or from the Registry Admissions Office (01905 855111).

Further information on Recognition of Prior Learning can be found at http://www.worcester.ac.uk/registryservices/941.htm

Admissions procedures/selection criteria:

Offers are made in line with the entry requirements specified above and demonstration via the application form of a strong interest in Biological and Forensic Sciences. The reference is also taken into account.

Full-time applicants apply through UCAS FC 41
Part-time applicants apply directly to University of Worcester (UW)

19. Regulation of assessment

The course operates under the University's Taught Courses Regulatory Framework

Requirements to pass modules

- Modules are assessed using a variety of assessment activities which are detailed in module specifications.
- The minimum pass mark is D- for each module.

- A student is required to submit all items of assessment in order to pass a module, and in some modules, a pass mark in each item of assessment may be required.
- Full details of the assessment requirements for a module, including the assessment criteria, are published in the module outline.

Submission of assessment items

- A student who submits course work late but within 7 days (one week) of the due date will have work marked, but the grade will be capped at D- unless an application for mitigating circumstances is accepted.
- A student who submits work later than 7 days (one week) will not have work marked unless they have submitted a valid claim of mitigating circumstances.
- For full details of submission regulations please see the Taught Courses Regulatory Framework.

Retrieval of failure

- A student is entitled to resit failed assessment items for any module that is awarded a fail grade.
- Reassessment items that are passed are capped at D-.
- If a student is unsuccessful in the reassessment, they have the right to retake the module (or, in some circumstances, take an alternative module); the module grade for a re-taken module is capped at D-.
- A student will be notified of the reassessment opportunities in the results notification issued via the secure student portal (SOLE). It is the student's responsibility to be aware of and comply with any reassessments.

Requirements for Progression

- A student will be permitted to progress from Level 4 to Level 5 if, by the time of the reassessment Board of Examiners, they have passed at least 90 credits at Level 4. Outstanding Level 4 credits must normally be studied in the following academic year.
- A student will be permitted to progress from Level 5 to Level 6 if, by the time of the reassessment Board of Examiners, they have passed at least 210 credits, including 90 credits at Level 5. Outstanding Level 5 credits must normally be studied in the following academic year.
- A student who, by the time of the reassessment Board of Examiners, has failed 90 credits or more (after exhausting all reassessment opportunities) during the academic year, will have their registration with the University terminated
- If a student has not passed at least 90 credits by the reassessment Board of Examiners, the student is not permitted to progress to the next level and will be required to either complete outstanding reassessment or retake the failed modules the following academic year. Students will be able to carry forward any passed modules.

Requirements for Awards

Table 11 credit requirements

Award	Requirement
Certificate of Higher Education: Cert HE Forensic and Applied Biology	To be eligible for the exit award of Certificate in Higher Education in the named subject/area of study, a student must have passed at least 120 credits in total including the mandatory modules for Level 4 of the award as specified on the award map.
Diploma of Higher Education: DipHE Forensic and Applied Biology	To be eligible for the exit award of Diploma in Higher Education in the named subject/area of study, a student must have passed at least 240 credits

	in total including the mandatory modules for Level 4 and Level 5 of the award as specified on the award map.
Forensic and Applied Biology Degree (non-honours)	Passed a minimum of 300 credits with at least 90 credits at Level 5 or higher and a minimum of 60 credits at Level 6, including the mandatory modules for Level 5 and Level 6 of the award (not the Dissertation/Project module) as specified on the award map.
Degree with honours Forensic and Applied Biology (BSc)	Passed a minimum of 360 credits with at least 90 credits at Level 5 or higher and a minimum of 120 credits at Level 6, as specified on the award map.

Classification

The honours classification will be determined by whichever of the following two methods results in the higher classification:

- Classification determined on the profile of the 120 credits attained at Level 5 and 120 credits at Level 6. Level 5 and Level 6 grades are weighted on a ratio of 1:2
  OR
- Classification determined on the profile of the 120 credits attained at Level 6 only

- Classification will be based on the weighted average grade together with a requirement for at least half of the Level 6 grades to be in the higher class.

For further information on honours degree classification, see the Taught Courses Regulatory Framework

Please Note: The above methods apply to students entering Level 4 of three or four year degree programmes who commence Level 4 from September 2022.

20. Graduate destinations, employability, and links with employers

Graduate destinations

An increasing number of our Forensic and Applied students go on to study for Masters or PhD awards (in Forensic **or** Biology related disciplines) and advice on following this pathway is included in our careers guidance within the School.
Some students have entered employment with direct links to their degree subject, for example Forensic Toxicology, Forensic DNA Analysis, Forensic Biology, CSI / SOCO, Police, Medical careers, research, diagnostics. Others have used their transferrable graduate skills to gain employment in seemingly unrelated areas.

Career opportunities (forensic) include:
Independent forensic contractors such as Eurofins, Cellmark Forensic services, Key Forensic, Forensic Access, and Orchid Biosciences Europe (Independent DNA Testing)
Police laboratories such as West Mercia Constabulary as Scene of Crime Officers and in laboratories
Forensic Science Agency of Northern Ireland as the forensic science service but for Northern Ireland
Horse racing Forensic Laboratory,
The Home Office

Career opportunities (Applied Biology) include:
Government Agencies (e.g. Environment Agency, MoD & English Nature)

Non-governmental Organisations (e.g. Greenpeace & Local Wildlife Trusts)
Local Government (e.g. Environmental Health)
Technical Posts (e.g. Microbiological monitoring & medical technicians, water companies, hospital technicians)
Education (e.g. teaching, lecturing & research)
Other Graduate Professions (e.g. accountancy & management)
Further Study: M.Sc., M.Phil., or Ph.D.
Scientific and medical sales

Student employability
Careers advice is embedded in the curriculum at all three levels. In Level 4, students are introduced to the Careers Service in BIOL1001 Cell Biology as part of the Science PDP scheme. This is followed up in BIOL2001, with a more substantial careers session which looks at careers options and strategies. In this module one of the assignments takes the form of an interview and submission of a CV. Careers advice is also provided at all levels of the course. Students are given the opportunity in most modules to develop work-based skills (see PDP table in hand book) however; students also have the opportunity to take a Work Experience module.
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The University has developed a set of Graduate Attributes that will enable our graduates to have a positive impact on their own lives and those of others. These Graduate Attributes can be found in the University's Learning and Teaching Policy. The University's Careers and Employability Service is available for all students and graduates, throughout their careers.

Links with employers
We have links with local police forces and forensic suppliers, Worcestershire and Herefordshire Wildlife Trusts and Birmingham Sea Life Centre, with whom staff liaise to arrange Research Projects and employment opportunities. An employee of Worcestershire Wildlife Trust (and ex-student) also sits on the University Strategic Biodiversity Management Group, chaired by a member of the Biology staff. We also have links with West Mercia Police and Hereford and Worcester County Council. These links have provided work experience opportunities, facilities for Research Projects, and careers advice from those in the relevant fields.

The involvement of The Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences in Course Development
In the 2009/2010 period, Accreditation was awarded by The Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences. This has been maintained and expanded to include forensic archaeology competent standard. We consistently receive positive feedback from our accrediting body.

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content, and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in associated course documentation e.g., course handbooks, module outlines and module specifications