BSc with Honours in Forensic Sciences – 2018 entry

Duration of programme: 4 years (where students join the programme in year 1)

Award on successful completion: Bachelor of Science with Honours

Accreditation: Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences. Graduates are eligible to apply for Associate Members of the Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences (CSoFS) upon graduation.

Location of delivery: Abertay University, Bell Street, Dundee

Composition of the programme: 120 SCQF (Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework) credits in each academic year, delivered in modules of 20 credits each, with 3 modules taken in term 1, and 3 in term 2 each year. In years 1 and 2, students have the opportunity to take modules outside their main subject. Students complete a 40 credit independent project in the final year.

Contact hours and workload: Each academic year typically requires 1200 hours of student effort; on average across the 4 years of this programme, 29% of that time is in lectures, seminars, practicals and similar activities; the remainder is independent study.

Assessment methods: Assessment is by a variety of methods enabling students to demonstrate progress in different ways. Coursework typically includes laboratory reports, essays and oral presentations. Formal exams typically include questions that require either short answers or essays, coupled with problem-solving of forensic-related challenges.

Additional costs: Students must purchase a laboratory coat (cost around £15) and a laboratory notebook.

Academic staff: This programme is delivered by staff in the Division of Science in the School of Science, Engineering and Technology. Staff profiles can be viewed at http://www.abertay.ac.uk/studentlife/schools/set/staff/

Core modules in the programme:
Biology Principles & Practice
Foundations of Chemistry 1 & 2
Introduction to Forensic Science, Practice and Techniques
Molecular Biology & Genetics
Special Topics in Forensic Biology
Forensic Chromatography & Spectroscopy
Forensic Trace Evidence
Forensic Applications of DNA
Substances of Abuse
Honours Project
Other modules that may be offered, but are subject to change over time:
Human Physiology
Advanced Chemical Processes
Cell Biology and Immunology
Investigative Analytical Science

Criminal Law & Evidence
Scene Examination and Management
Forensic Material Investigation
Forensic Pharmacology & Toxicology
Interpretation and Presentation of Evidence

Developments in the discipline: It is important to note that the curriculum within all modules, including core modules, is expected to evolve over time, to maintain a real world connection as new scientific, medicolegal and diagnostic paradigms and tools come to the fore. This may, for example, include introduction of novel DNA techniques, alteration to teaching to reflect changes in levels of gun crime, or provision for competencies outlined by industry bodies.