Complex Criminal Investigation

Module Code | CCI | NQF level: | 7 |
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Credit Value | 20 | Study duration: | 12 weeks |

Module description:
This module brings together academic research and professional practice in a way that helps students consolidate their learning but also understand how their knowledge can be applied within real life complex criminal investigation. It will explore in depth the challenges which arise when investigating complex crime and how those challenges can sometimes derail an investigation. Contextual information from other countries will help foster a greater understanding of emerging international trends. Students will be taught the importance of multi-agency involvement during complex criminal investigation evidencing the importance of different professionals within criminal investigations. The module has been designed and developed by a former Detective Chief Superintendent who was in charge of the Homicide and Major Enquiries Team in one of the UK’s largest Police Forces.

This module aims to:
- develop advanced understanding in students of the definition and practical nature of complex criminal investigations
- describe and critically evaluate the application of investigative strategies to a range of different forms of complex criminal investigations
- identify and critically assess a range of scientific, forensic and technical techniques available to the complex crime investigator
- study and gain a detailed understanding of at least one known miscarriage of justice case from the UK
- gain an understanding of an international perspective in relation to a chosen complex crime type

Learning outcomes
On completion of this module, students will be able to:
- define, describe and critically assess complex crime investigations in accordance with current national standards
- identify a range of such complex criminal investigations and demonstrate awareness of various operational strategies and supporting techniques appropriate for tackling complex crime
- critically evaluate and describe the investigative pitfalls which may have led to a UK major miscarriage of justice
- analyse and demonstrate a comparative understanding of a complex crime type in an international context
- apply criminological and criminal justice theories to the investigation of complex crime

Syllabus
- Introduction to complex criminal investigations
- The challenges of a homicide investigation
- Riots: the balance between resumption of normality and criminal investigation
- Historic and ‘cold case’ investigations; the evidential hole caused by time lapse
- Miscarriage of Justice
- The role of the coroner
- Investigative pitfalls
- Multi agency working within criminal investigations

Learning and teaching methods
The module will be delivered by reading materials available on the learning platform supported by discussion forums and online lecture-casts. Students will be encouraged to identify and share relevant web-based resources. Self-directed learning will supplement the lecture-casts and discussions and tutors will provide students with direction on required readings.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description of unit of assessment</th>
<th>Length/Duration</th>
<th>Submission Date</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 Assessed Discussion Activities</td>
<td>Two weeks</td>
<td>Q1 and Q3</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-module assignment: Essay</td>
<td>2,500 words</td>
<td>Mid term</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>End of module project: Case Study</td>
<td>2,500 words</td>
<td>End term</td>
<td>40%</td>
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