

Module code	CI	NQF level	5
Credit value	15	Study duration	9 weeks

Criminal Investigation

This module aims to:

- Introduce students to the concept of criminal investigation and the models available for implementation when investigation is necessary
- Describe and critically evaluate the application of investigative skills and strategies to specific sets of circumstances
- Ensure students understand the legal duty appertaining to investigators and the implications of ineffective investigations
- Understand the availability and application of areas of support for investigators and when they should be utilised
- Identify and critically assess major investigations and the particular requirements of such inquiries
- Appreciate the continuing role of an investigator as a case reaches the criminal justice system

Learning outcomes

On completion of this module, students will be able to:

- define, describe and critically assess an investigation in accordance with current national standards
- identify and critically evaluate objects and locations capable of being crime scenes
- recognise and apply the different stages of an investigation
- identify the need for individual strategies in key areas of an investigation such as treatment of witnesses and suspects
- identify and critically assess the resources and support available to investigators

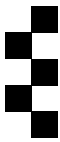
Learning and teaching methods

The learning and teaching methods for the module follow the intended online delivery strategy for the programme as a whole. The module will be delivered through the provision of specified reading materials on the virtual learning platform, which shall be supported by specified discussion forums and lecturecasts, and tutor support will be available to students via phone, email, and a fortnightly synchronous question and answer (Q&A) session.

Students will be provided with indicative guidance on, and encouraged to look at, relevant websites which are appropriate to the module, and to identify and share appropriate web-based resources as learning support references with their fellow students and as indicators of their individual learning contexts with their tutors. The lecturecasts will include referenced use of selected case studies which will be drawn from the reading materials/web based module learning resources and the practice-based and professional/educational contexts and experience of the tutors.

Syllabus

- Introduction to investigation:
 - explore the reasons for the development of investigative practice
 - consider the nature and extent of crime
 - examine the responses to crime
- The role of criminal investigation:
 - look at the different ways offenders are brought to justice
 - understand the definition of an investigation
 - examine varying investigative options
- The development of investigative practice:
 - explore recent events in the development of investigative practice
 - discuss the drivers for change
 - examine the role of the investigator
- Criminal law and the influence of policy:
 - explore at the influence of law on investigation
 - examine the investigatory framework
 - look at the sources and influence of policy
- Information for criminal investigation:
 - examine the sources of information in criminal investigation
 - consider how information may be classified
 - discuss the definition of 'material' in the Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act 1996
- The techniques of investigation (1):
 - examine the investigative process
 - analyse investigative decision-making
 - outline the investigative mindset
 - discuss investigative ethics
- The techniques of investigation (2):
 - examine how investigators acquire information
 - discuss approaches to deal with witnesses and suspects
 - examine how intelligence is obtained and utilised
- Investigative decision making:
 - describe how to manage a crime scene
 - discuss the utilisation of information recovered by passive data recorders
 - examine how to conduct elimination enquiries



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- The supervision of criminal investigation:
 - describe the structure of overall governance of criminal investigation
 - examine how investigations are managed at an executive level
 - discuss the importance of direct supervision of investigation
- How crimes are solved:
 - examine when a crime is considered to have been detected
 - look at how offenders, witnesses and investigators contribute to the solving of crime
 - discuss the factors which influence detection

Description of unit of assessment	Length/Duration	Submission date	Weighting
Discussion contributions	Fortnight	Unit 2 and Unit 3	10%
Mid-module assignment	2,000 words	Unit 6	40%
Journal entries	500 words (each)	Unit 4 and Unit 8	10%
End of module project	2,000 words	Unit 9	40%