



BMED19007 Forensic Science

Term 1 - 2021

Profile information current as at 07/05/2024 02:13 pm

All details in this unit profile for BMED19007 have been officially approved by CQUniversity and represent a learning partnership between the University and you (our student). The information will not be changed unless absolutely necessary and any change will be clearly indicated by an approved correction included in the profile.

General Information

Overview

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to explain the roles and guiding ethical principles for forensic scientists in cases of law and in incident investigations. You will interpret information from the current forensic science literature, methodologies and technologies including methods for dealing with trace evidence and the use of DNA profiling for identification, and how forensic science results are interpreted and analysed. These topics will be explored through practical classes.

Details

Career Level: *Undergraduate*

Unit Level: *Level 2*

Credit Points: 6

Student Contribution Band: 8

Fraction of Full-Time Student Load: 0.125

Pre-requisites or Co-requisites

CHEM11041 Chemistry for the Life Sciences or CHEM11043 Atoms, Molecules and Matter

Important note: Students enrolled in a subsequent unit who failed their pre-requisite unit, should drop the subsequent unit before the census date or within 10 working days of Fail grade notification. Students who do not drop the unit in this timeframe cannot later drop the unit without academic and financial liability. See details in the [Assessment Policy and Procedure \(Higher Education Coursework\)](#).

Offerings For Term 1 - 2021

- Mixed Mode

Attendance Requirements

All on-campus students are expected to attend scheduled classes – in some units, these classes are identified as a mandatory (pass/fail) component and attendance is compulsory. International students, on a student visa, must maintain a full time study load and meet both attendance and academic progress requirements in each study period (satisfactory attendance for International students is defined as maintaining at least an 80% attendance record).

Residential Schools

This unit has a Compulsory Residential School for distance mode students and the details are:
Click here to see your [Residential School Timetable](#).

Website

[This unit has a website, within the Moodle system, which is available two weeks before the start of term. It is important that you visit your Moodle site throughout the term. Please visit Moodle for more information.](#)

Class and Assessment Overview

Recommended Student Time Commitment

Each 6-credit Undergraduate unit at CQUniversity requires an overall time commitment of an average of 12.5 hours of study per week, making a total of 150 hours for the unit.

Class Timetable

[Regional Campuses](#)

Bundaberg, Cairns, Emerald, Gladstone, Mackay, Rockhampton, Townsville

[Metropolitan Campuses](#)

Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth, Sydney

Assessment Overview

1. **Practical and Written Assessment**

Weighting: 20%

2. **Written Assessment**

Weighting: 30%

3. **Take Home Exam**

Weighting: 50%

Assessment Grading

This is a graded unit: your overall grade will be calculated from the marks or grades for each assessment task, based on the relative weightings shown in the table above. You must obtain an overall mark for the unit of at least 50%, or an overall grade of 'pass' in order to pass the unit. If any 'pass/fail' tasks are shown in the table above they must also be completed successfully ('pass' grade). You must also meet any minimum mark requirements specified for a particular assessment task, as detailed in the 'assessment task' section (note that in some instances, the minimum mark for a task may be greater than 50%). Consult the [University's Grades and Results Policy](#) for more details of interim results and final grades.

CQUniversity Policies

All University policies are available on the [CQUniversity Policy site](#).

You may wish to view these policies:

- Grades and Results Policy
- Assessment Policy and Procedure (Higher Education Coursework)
- Review of Grade Procedure
- Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure
- Monitoring Academic Progress (MAP) Policy and Procedure – Domestic Students
- Monitoring Academic Progress (MAP) Policy and Procedure – International Students
- Student Refund and Credit Balance Policy and Procedure
- Student Feedback – Compliments and Complaints Policy and Procedure
- Information and Communications Technology Acceptable Use Policy and Procedure

This list is not an exhaustive list of all University policies. The full list of University policies are available on the [CQUniversity Policy site](#).

Previous Student Feedback

Feedback, Recommendations and Responses

Every unit is reviewed for enhancement each year. At the most recent review, the following staff and student feedback items were identified and recommendations were made.

Feedback from self reflection

Feedback

The residential school has been substantially developed with the addition of several new practicals. Although the practicals were successful, they need to be refined in order to improve the accuracy of the outcomes.

Recommendation

Refine the practicals by adding more materials to be tested and using different solvents.

Unit Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

1. Explain the roles and the guiding ethical principles for forensic scientists in cases of law, in incident investigations, and in international collaborations
2. Interpret information obtained from a variety of forensic science laboratory techniques for physical evidence analysis
3. Describe and critique current forensic science literature and technologies including methods for dealing with trace evidence and the use of DNA profiling for identification
4. Analyse and communicate forensic science results clearly and accurately, drawing appropriate conclusions.

Alignment of Learning Outcomes, Assessment and Graduate Attributes



Alignment of Assessment Tasks to Learning Outcomes

Assessment Tasks	Learning Outcomes			
	1	2	3	4
1 - Written Assessment - 30%			•	
2 - Practical and Written Assessment - 20%		•		•
3 - Take Home Exam - 50%	•			

Alignment of Graduate Attributes to Learning Outcomes

Graduate Attributes	Learning Outcomes			
	1	2	3	4
1 - Communication				
2 - Problem Solving		•		•

Textbooks and Resources

Textbooks

BMED19007

Prescribed

Criminalistics: An Introduction to Forensic Science

Edition: 11 (2015)

Authors: Richard Saferstein

Pearson

Essex, England

ISBN: 9780133458824

Binding: Other

Additional Textbook Information

If you prefer to study from a paper copy, they can be purchased at the CQUni Bookshop here: <http://bookshop.cqu.edu.au> (search on the Unit code)

[View textbooks at the CQUniversity Bookshop](#)

IT Resources

You will need access to the following IT resources:

- CQUniversity Student Email
- Internet
- Unit Website (Moodle)

Referencing Style

All submissions for this unit must use the referencing styles below:

- [Harvard \(author-date\)](#)
- [American Psychological Association 7th Edition \(APA 7th edition\)](#)

For further information, see the Assessment Tasks.

Teaching Contacts

Olivia Daniels Unit Coordinator

o.daniels@cqu.edu.au

Schedule

Week 1 - 08 Mar 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Introduction to Forensic Science, The Crime Scene	Criminalistics: An Introduction to Forensic Science Chapters 1 and 2	

Week 2 - 15 Mar 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Physical Evidence	Criminalistics: An Introduction to Forensic Science Chapters 3 and 4	

Week 3 - 22 Mar 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
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Fingerprints	Criminalistics: An Introduction to Forensic Science Chapter 6
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Week 4 - 29 Mar 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Microscopy	Criminalistics: An Introduction to Forensic Science Chapters 7	

Week 5 - 05 Apr 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Firearms, Tools, Glass	Criminalistics: An Introduction to Forensic Science Chapters 8 and 9	

Vacation Week - 12 Apr 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
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Week 6 - 19 Apr 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Hair, Fibres	Criminalistics: An Introduction to Forensic Science Chapter 10	Laboratory Manual Due: Week 6 Monday (19 Apr 2021) 5:00 pm AEST

Week 7 - 26 Apr 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Drugs	Criminalistics: An Introduction to Forensic Science Chapter 11	

Week 8 - 03 May 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Toxicology	Criminalistics: An Introduction to Forensic Science Chapter 12	Literature Review Due: Week 8 Friday (7 May 2021) 11:59 pm AEST

Week 9 - 10 May 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Metals, Paints, Soils	Criminalistics: An Introduction to Forensic Science Chapter 13	

Week 10 - 17 May 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Serology	Criminalistics: An Introduction to Forensic Science Chapter 14	

Week 11 - 24 May 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
DNA Profiling	Criminalistics: An Introduction to Forensic Science Chapter 15	

Week 12 - 31 May 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Arson, Explosions	Criminalistics: An Introduction to Forensic Science Chapter 16	

Review/Exam Week - 07 Jun 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Online Test Due: Review/Exam Week Monday (7 June 2021) 11:45 pm AEST		

Exam Week - 14 Jun 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
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Term Specific Information

The unit coordinator for this unit is Dr. Olivia Daniels.

My email address is: o.daniels@cqu.edu.au

My Phone number is: (07) 4930 6775. Please note that this is a computer based phone. I am sometimes not available by phone and there may be no message facilities, so you can't leave a message.

The very best way to contact me is by email. I check my emails regularly and I am usually quick to respond. However, Please allow two working days for a reply.

Assessment Tasks

1 Laboratory Manual

Assessment Type

Practical and Written Assessment

Task Description

Marks will be awarded for correct answers to each question in the Laboratory Manual. Marks will be totaled and converted to a grade out of 20 marks for the assessment. Further information will be provided in Moodle.

Assessment Due Date

Week 6 Monday (19 Apr 2021) 5:00 pm AEST

Assessment will be submitted at the end of the residential school.

Return Date to Students

Week 8 Monday (3 May 2021)

A marked and scanned copy of the assessment will be emailed back to students.

Weighting

20%

Minimum mark or grade

50 %

Assessment Criteria

No Assessment Criteria

Referencing Style

- [Harvard \(author-date\)](#)
- [American Psychological Association 7th Edition \(APA 7th edition\)](#)

Submission

Offline

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Interpret information obtained from a variety of forensic science laboratory techniques for physical evidence analysis
- Analyse and communicate forensic science results clearly and accurately, drawing appropriate conclusions.

Graduate Attributes

- Problem Solving
- Team Work

2 Literature Review

Assessment Type

Written Assessment

Task Description

Recent advances in forensic science—A literature review

Over the past decade, there have been rapid advances in forensic science and forensic analytical capabilities, mainly driven by the advent of new methodologies, techniques or instrumentation. Your task for this assignment is to prepare a literature review by choosing an area of forensic science that interests you, and where a major advance in capability has occurred recently or is currently occurring. Some examples might include:

- Organic gunshot residue analysis
- Laser ablation ICP-MS for metals analysis in a variety of case exhibits (including packaging tape, glass, and ammunition)
- Capillary electrophoresis for explosives detection
- Y-chromosome STR and single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) analysis
- New methods for analysing degraded DNA
- RNA fingerprinting analysis
- New developments in analytical spectroscopy
- Solid phase microextraction of drugs
- Arson and post-explosion evidence
- New scientific developments in forensic anthropology and forensic archaeology

Word count: 1500-2000 words (excluding references). Please use 2.0 line spacing and size 12 font (preferably Arial).

Assessment Due Date

Week 8 Friday (7 May 2021) 11:59 pm AEST

The assessment must be submitted via Moodle.

Return Date to Students

Week 10 Friday (21 May 2021)

The marked assessment will be returned via Moodle.

Weighting

30%

Minimum mark or grade

50 %

Assessment Criteria

The literature review will be out of 120 initial marks. Marks will be awarded for:

- Introduction (20 Marks)
- Review, analysis and style (body of text) (50 Marks)
- Conclusion (20 Marks)
- Presentation (10 Marks)
- Clarity of expression (10 Marks)
- Referencing (10 Marks)

The initial marks will be totaled and converted to a Final grade out of 30 marks e.g. an initial mark of 120 = a Final grade of 30 Marks.

A Marking Criteria document will be available on Moodle along with further information for this assessment.

Referencing Style

- [Harvard \(author-date\)](#)
- [American Psychological Association 7th Edition \(APA 7th edition\)](#)

Submission

Online

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Describe and critique current forensic science literature and technologies including methods for dealing with trace evidence and the use of DNA profiling for identification

Graduate Attributes

- Critical Thinking
- Information Literacy

3 Online Test

Assessment Type

Take Home Exam

Task Description

The online test will be in the form of a Moodle Quiz requiring short answer to essay type responses. Students will be required to answer the questions within the given time period. More information will be provided in Moodle.

Assessment Due Date

Review/Exam Week Monday (7 June 2021) 11:45 pm AEST

The assessment will be completed and submitted in Moodle.

Return Date to Students

Exam Week Monday (14 June 2021)

Marks to be released on certification of grades day.

Weighting

50%

Minimum mark or grade

50 %

Assessment Criteria

Due to the nature of the questions, each question will have specific instructions and assessment criteria, which will be further explained in Moodle, as well as the assessment document.

Referencing Style

- [Harvard \(author-date\)](#)
- [American Psychological Association 7th Edition \(APA 7th edition\)](#)

Submission

Online

Submission Instructions

To be submitted by the due date/time.

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Explain the roles and the guiding ethical principles for forensic scientists in cases of law, in incident investigations, and in international collaborations

Graduate Attributes

- Communication

Academic Integrity Statement

As a CQUniversity student you are expected to act honestly in all aspects of your academic work.

Any assessable work undertaken or submitted for review or assessment must be your own work. Assessable work is any type of work you do to meet the assessment requirements in the unit, including draft work submitted for review and feedback and final work to be assessed.

When you use the ideas, words or data of others in your assessment, you must thoroughly and clearly acknowledge the source of this information by using the correct referencing style for your unit. Using others' work without proper acknowledgement may be considered a form of intellectual dishonesty.

Participating honestly, respectfully, responsibly, and fairly in your university study ensures the CQUniversity qualification you earn will be valued as a true indication of your individual academic achievement and will continue to receive the respect and recognition it deserves.

As a student, you are responsible for reading and following CQUniversity's policies, including the [Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure](#). This policy sets out CQUniversity's expectations of you to act with integrity, examples of academic integrity breaches to avoid, the processes used to address alleged breaches of academic integrity, and potential penalties.

What is a breach of academic integrity?

A breach of academic integrity includes but is not limited to plagiarism, self-plagiarism, collusion, cheating, contract cheating, and academic misconduct. The Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure defines what these terms mean and gives examples.

Why is academic integrity important?

A breach of academic integrity may result in one or more penalties, including suspension or even expulsion from the University. It can also have negative implications for student visas and future enrolment at CQUniversity or elsewhere. Students who engage in contract cheating also risk being blackmailed by contract cheating services.

Where can I get assistance?

For academic advice and guidance, the [Academic Learning Centre \(ALC\)](#) can support you in becoming confident in completing assessments with integrity and of high standard.

What can you do to act with integrity?



Be Honest

If your assessment task is done by someone else, it would be dishonest of you to claim it as your own



Seek Help

If you are not sure about how to cite or reference in essays, reports etc, then seek help from your lecturer, the library or the Academic Learning Centre (ALC)



Produce Original Work

Originality comes from your ability to read widely, think critically, and apply your gained knowledge to address a question or problem