

Forensic & Criminal Investigation Foundation Diploma

Teacher in Charge - Mrs P Colebrook

Exam Board – Pearson

Course Outline

Forensic and criminal investigation is a largely practical-based course relating to investigation of crime scenes. The forensic and criminology sector is diverse and wide-ranging including, for example, forensic science, forensic psychology, and forensic criminology. There is a wide range of occupations for graduate entry including forensic laboratories, the police force and the probation service. The Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Foundation Diploma in Forensic Investigation is intended to be an Applied General qualification for post-16 students wanting to continue their education through applied learning, and who aim to progress to higher education, probably in a range of related degree courses, and ultimately to employment. The qualification is equivalent in size to 1.5 A levels. The qualification carries UCAS points and is recognised by higher education providers as contributing to admission requirements to many relevant courses.

Entry requirements

The Level 3 Diploma in Medical Science is for post 16 learners who have already enjoyed and been successful in science. Typically, learners starting this qualification will already have science qualifications at level 2, e.g. GCSEs in science subjects or GCSE Applied Science (Double Award) at grade C or above

What will I study?

The qualification covers the underlying principles of Biology, Chemistry and Physics with a large focus on practical procedures and techniques and investigative skills. You will also study the principles of forensic investigation and some specific areas of forensic analysis such as environmental forensics.

How will I be assessed?

In order to achieve the Level 3 Foundation Diploma in Forensic and Criminal Investigation, learners are required to complete 6 units:

Type of assessment

Unit	%	Internal or external	
Principles and Applications of Science	23.5%	External	2 hour exam
Practical Scientific Procedures & Techniques	17.5%	Internal	Pract. assessment
Science Investigative Skills	17.5%	External	Pract. assessment
Forensic Investigative Procedures in Practice	17.5%	Internal	Assignment
Environmental Forensics	12%	Internal	Assignment
Forensic Genetics	12%	Internal	Assignment

Career Opportunities and Progression

This qualification enables students to acquire substantial cross-sector scientific knowledge and practical scientific skills, as well as forensic evidence collection and analysis skills. Students develop the transferable and higher-order skills that are highly regarded by both higher education and employers; for example, carrying out practical laboratory tasks and planning forensic investigations. The qualification carries UCAS points and is recognised by higher education providers as contributing to admission requirements to many relevant courses. Taken alongside other qualifications, it will prepare students to progress to a wider range of degree programmes such as criminal psychology, criminology or forensic science degree courses.