Forensic Science BSc (Hons) Programme Specification

Academic Entry Year:	2026/2027	
Degree Awarding Body:	The University of Bradford	
Main Location:	City Campus	
Qualifications Framework:	HE Qualifications of UK Degree Awarding Bodies (FHEQ: QAA 2024)	
Target Degree Award:	Bachelor of Science with Honours (BSc Hons) Forensic Science	[FHEQ Level 6]
Intermediate/exit awards:	Ordinary Degree of Bachelor (BSc)	[FHEQ Level 6]
	Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE)	[FHEQ Level 5]
	Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE)	[FHEQ Level 4]
Programme Admissions:	UK and international students	
Programme Start Date(s):	September	
Programme Modes of Study:	(UCAS code F410) 3 years full-time	
	(UCAS code F411) 4 years full-time with placement year or study abroad	
	(partner entry only) 4-5 years full-time (international incorporated Bachelors)	

This programme is accredited by The Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences (CSoFS) to the following component standards: IEPE (Interpretation, Evaluation and Presentation of Evidence); LA (Laboratory Analysis).

Please note: The University has a set of terms and conditions for all students accepting an offer to study on a course here at Bradford. This is called the Student Contract. This document sets out the Terms and Conditions which apply when an offer of a place on a programme of study at the University of Bradford is accepted. View our Student Contract for further details. Information about this programme and its modules has been published in advance of the academic year to which it applies. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information is accurate at the time of publication, but changes may occur given the interval between publishing and commencement of teaching. Any change which impacts the terms and conditions of an applicant's offer will be communicated to them.

Recent changes

1. April 2024: Annual changes for 2024 academic year.
2. July 2025: Updates for 2025-26 academic year including new academic regulations.
3. July 2026: Updates for 2026 entry including new template, revised admissions and core curriculum.

Programme overview

BSc (Hons) Forensic Science focuses on the processing and analysis of physical evidence from crime scenes. It emphasises the application of science, particularly chemistry and biology, and stresses the importance of quality assurance procedures in a forensic setting. A characteristic of Bradford's approach is in the integration of practical skills training within a good theoretical

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framework – whether in terms of crime scene investigation, the collection, examination and interpretation of physical evidence, laboratory processing or analysis. This programme of study provides students with a sound knowledge of how scientific techniques can be used within forensic investigations and allows students to explore a challenging area of applied science. The programme will develop students into a professional with the scientific skills to work within areas such as crime scene investigation, forensic science and related laboratory areas.

Throughout the programme, students will acquire skills that will be useful in whatever profession they choose to follow. These include project and time management, critical review and analytical thinking, presentation skills, computer, other applied IT skills and the management of data. These will be taught, practised and assessed. Students enrolled on the 4-year programme will be offered the opportunity to either undertake a placement or study abroad between the second and final years of study. The placement allows students to develop their professional and transferable skills whereas study abroad allows students to explore their discipline from a different cultural perspective.

Crime scene investigation and processing is taught through a series of simulated exercises based in our specially appointed Crime Scene Facility. Forensic Laboratory science is taught from our specialist Forensic Examination Laboratory and the analytical facilities in the Analytical Centre (including ESEM, FT-Raman, GC-MS). Teaching on Forensic Taphonomy is based around lectures and practical classes in our specialist Forensic Taphonomy Laboratory (including autopsy tables, fume extraction and insect colony) and the Oxenhope Taphonomy Field Station. Forensic Anthropology is taught in our state-of-the-art osteology laboratories, supported by an extensive collection of human skeletal remains. Archaeological and Forensic Sciences has also secured significant investment through CapCo, which has a trickle-down research impact to teaching activities.

Programme aims

- To provide educational opportunities for mature and alternatively qualified students, school leavers, and traditionally qualified students;
- To provide students with the opportunity to enhance their learning and professional awareness by applying their knowledge and understanding in work experience through a sandwich placement year (4-year programme), or to study abroad (3 or 4 year programmes);
- To deliver a programme of study in forensic science that is designed to meet the rigorous benchmarking standards developed by the Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences;
- To provide opportunities for students to develop a systematic knowledge and understanding of the core principles of chemistry, including a core range of chemistry-related practical and analytical skills, and enable the students to apply these to forensic science;
- To enable the student to become an autonomous learner and prepare the student for the lifelong learning skills required to be adaptable over the course of the student's career;
- To develop students' ability to think critically and creatively and collaborative and group working skills;

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- To develop wide subject knowledge and understanding and provide training in discipline skills to enable graduates to pursue further programmes of study or careers in forensic and laboratory sciences, crime scene investigation or related practice.

Programme learning outcomes

Students eligible for the FHEQ Level 4 Certificate award will be able to:

1. Demonstrate a knowledge of the underlying scientific principles in chemistry and forensic science.
2. Apply basic core practical forensic skills.
3. Recall a range of methods of forensic enquiry and recognise the importance of rigorous scientific process.
4. Assess methods of scientific investigation in a forensic context.
5. Manage time and learning effectively both independently and when working as part of a group.

Students eligible for the FHEQ Level 5 Diploma award will additionally be able to:

6. Employ appropriate numerical and statistical techniques, scientific formulae and calculations.
7. Assess and apply a range of forensic and chemical methods within different contexts.
8. Apply forensic examination techniques to a variety of physical evidence.
9. Undertake critical thinking and data evaluation within a range of chemical and forensic scenarios.
10. Interpret data derived from laboratory observations and instrumental measurements in terms of their significance and the theory underlying them.
11. Apply different methods for the identification and characterisation of materials of forensic interest.

Students eligible for the FHEQ Level 6 Honours Degree award will additionally be able to:

12. Critically evaluate the importance and function of quality assurance and employ it within forensic contexts.
13. Critically evaluate forensic recording protocols and defend a witness statement.
14. Critically evaluate forensic evidence and its shortcomings in miscarriages of justice.
15. Undertake critical thinking and data evaluation.
16. Plan and undertake a substantial piece of independent research.

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17. Present written and oral evidence in a professional manner.

Assessment strategy

The assessment strategy is designed to support the learning outcomes of the programme and to assess knowledge and understanding of core forensic principles and chemistry. A wide range of formative and summative assessment methods are used, including:

- laboratory reports
- portfolios
- expert witness statements
- case reports
- witness reports
- mock court exercise (oral cross examination)
- essays
- worksheets
- critiques
- group-work
- oral presentations
- reflective journals
- examinations (essays, short answers)
- research designs.

The research design and dissertation develops students' ability to undertake independent research and plan this research effectively.

Formalised formative assessment opportunities are available on a selection of modules across all stages of the degree, to offer informative feedback on specific assignments. Additionally, within our school learning and teaching philosophy, formative feedback encompasses much more, including:

- discussions during lectures, seminars and tutorials;
- during practical and laboratory activities;
- verbal comments after presentations;

and many other situations throughout the degree. A key skill that students will develop during the degree is the ability to identify feedback beyond that given as written comments on submitted assignments; in fact, the most beneficial feedback that students will receive is that given prior to assignments, allowing students to reflect and adapt, rather than just formal written feedback after assignments have been submitted and marked.

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Learning and teaching strategy

Archaeological and Forensic Sciences has developed its programmes around the principles of inclusivity and diversity, offering student choice and direction in learning, and development of autonomous skills. Our programmes integrate assessment for learning, in which learning sessions, assessment activities, intended outcomes and employability relevance are closely correlated and supported by formative feedback, aimed at student development.

Teaching on programmes across Archaeological and Forensic Sciences incorporates innovative practice and technologies. We undergo regular formal review both by the University of Bradford and our professional accrediting bodies to assure high standards in our teaching quality and maintain relevancy in our subject material and professional context. Our teaching occurs on a foundation of trust and expectation; we expect and trust that students participate and engage with all learning and teaching activities, whether they occur on campus or online, and students can expect and trust that staff will create engaging and productive learning and teaching environments.

The programme articulates with the Teaching and Learning strategies of the University. Students will be exposed to a variety of teaching methods designed to develop the learning outcomes and to cater for different preferences for learning. A wide variety of teaching methods appropriate to the learning outcomes of the individual modules is employed throughout the programme. These methods progressively focus on student-centred approaches to learning. Thus, students will be expected to take responsibility for their learning as they progress through the programme. In this way, students will develop the attributes needed for life-long learning and continuing professional development.

Learning outcomes 1-17, will be developed in a number of modules, through a mix of lectures, seminars, laboratory practical sessions, workshops, case studies and directed study. Directed study will include directed reading of selected textbooks, specified source literature and open learning materials, directed Web-based materials, report writing and other assignments. In addition, individual project/dissertation work will further help to develop learning outcomes 16 and 17.

Student choice is facilitated within the degree. Some assignments allow selection of topic and subject for coursework during certain modules, allowing diversity of focus in learning material, development of autonomous learning, and self-selection of degree focus.

This programme provides the option for students to undertake a work placement or period of study abroad between Stages 2 and 3. Placements are a fantastic way of building on the professional skills developed during the programme and boosting students' practical industry experience prior to graduating. Equally, study abroad opportunities can be very valuable in giving students experience of academic and/or industrial contexts in other countries. Students wishing to take this option can register directly for, or can transfer to, the 4-year variant of the programme.

Any placement or period of study abroad is subject to approval by the Programme Team. Students who wish to participate in a placement or period of study abroad will be required to find, apply for

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and make the most of their chosen opportunity, and will be supported in doing so by the Programme Team as well as the central University Careers and Employability Service.

Assessment, continuation and award regulations

This programme follows the Assessment, Continuation and Award regulations for undergraduate taught courses published on the University's Website (Regulation 2).

CSFS accreditation applies to the target BSc degree with Honours. Achieving these component standards means graduates will have an industry-relevant and globally recognised degree to kick-start a career in the criminal justice system as a forensic lab scientist, incident analyst or crime scene investigator.

Curriculum

The Forensic Science Honours programme consists of 360 credits, made up of core modules and optional modules over three Stages. Each levelled 'Stage' or taught 'academic year' of an Honours programme consists of two semesters. Students take 120 credits from modules at each Stage.

All students begin the programme in Stage 1, including direct entry students and transfers from the Foundation Year in Health and Life Sciences, and UBIC International Foundation Year and International Year 0 courses.

Table 1: Forensic Science Stage 1 Core Modules - FHEQ Level 4

Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Study Period
SAC4007-B	Introduction to Crime and Criminal Justice	20	Semester 1
ARC4021-B	Biological Anthropology: From Human Evolution to Forensic Anthropology	20	Semester 1
ARC4014-B	Independent Study for Forensic Scientists	20	Academic Year
ARC4016-B	Principles of Forensic and Crime Scene Investigation	20	Academic Year
CLS4014-B	Anatomy and Medical Imaging	20	Academic Year
ARC4013-B	Scientific Frameworks	20	Semester 2

Table 2: Forensic Science Stage 2 Core Modules - FHEQ Level 5

Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Study Period
ARC5036-B	Forensic Chemistry	20	Semester 1
ARC5031-B	Crime Scene Investigation	20	Semester 1
ARC5020-B	Forensic Examination and Analysis of Physical Evidence	20	Academic Year
ARC5022-B	Statistics and Databases for Forensic Scientists	20	Academic Year
ARC5032-B	Forensic Biology	20	Semester 2
ARC5034-B	Instrumental Analysis	20	Semester 2

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At the end of Stage 2, students who have completed the year may progress to Stage 3 or to the optional sandwich year in work or study abroad. Further information about **internships and placements** and **study abroad opportunities** is published on the University's website.

Table 3: Forensic Science Elective Placement/Study Abroad (Full Year)

Module Code	Module Title	Selection
ARC5013-Z	Placement	Placement Year Route
ARC5014-Z	Study Abroad Experience	Study Abroad Year Route

Table 4: Forensic Science Stage 3 Core Modules - FHEQ Level 6

Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Study Period
ARC6024-B	Interpretation and Presentation of Forensic Evidence for Forensic Science	20	Academic Year
ARC6025-D	Dissertation	40	Academic Year
ARC6036-B	Forensic Genetics	20	Semester 1
ARC6027-B	Analysis of Controlled Substances	20	Academic Year
ARC6013-B	Forensic Taphonomy: the degradation of human remains and death-scene materials	20	Semester 2

Admission requirements

We are proud to be **one of the most inclusive universities in the UK**. All our students have potential, and we believe that as many people as possible should have the chance to benefit from higher education, no matter what their background or circumstances.

We take the time to understand the background of our applicants, understand their journey to education, and make decisions based on an applicant’s potential to thrive at university and beyond.

People thinking of studying with the University of Bradford don’t need to wait for the start of the year to contact our Disability Service. The University can arrange for anyone to talk to this team about what support is on offer at Bradford including an invitation to our Get Set Day. To contact the Disability Service please complete the **request support form**.

Minimum entry requirements
All UK applicants are required to have GCSE Grade 4 (national grade C) or above in English Language, Mathematics and a Science. Alternative, equivalent RQF Level 2 qualifications like Functional Skills are accepted.

For international students, the standard English language requirement applies and this is listed on the **University of Bradford English language requirements website**.

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International applicants who do not meet the English language requirement can take a **University of Bradford pre-sessional English course**, which takes 3 to 10 weeks, or can look at taking a pathway with our **International College** from one term to a year.

Academic requirements
Applicants typically have 112 Ucas points and should have studied science at Level 3.

- A-Levels: BBC to include B in Biology, Physics or Chemistry
- T-Levels: Merit, including scientific subjects
- BTEC Extended Diploma: Distinction/Merit/Merit, including scientific subjects or Forensic and Criminal Investigation.
- Access to Higher Education: meet the Ucas points from Science or Health Science subjects
- International Baccalaureate: meet the Ucas points with Higher science at 6/7 and English and Maths passed at Standard 5 or Higher 4 or above.

UK/home students can progress to this course from the **Foundation Year in Health and Life Sciences**. Foundation Year entry requires 64 Ucas points with GCSE English/Science achieved at grade 4/C (no Maths requirement).

We are committed to raising aspirations and widening access to higher education, regardless of your background. The **University of Bradford Progression Scheme** welcomes Ucas applicants from a number of groups including adult learners who are 21+ on the first day of term, British armed forces families, carers and care experienced learners, estranged or orphaned learners, refugees and asylum seekers, and Romani or Traveller family members.

On completion of a UCAS form students will be invited to the School for an Open Day when the student will have the opportunity to meet staff, view the facilities and discuss “the Bradford experience” with current students.

If applicants have prior certificated learning or professional experience which may be equivalent to parts of this programme, the University of Bradford has procedures to evaluate and recognise this learning to provide applicants with exemptions from specified modules or parts of the programme. Find more information about **recognition of prior learning decisions** on the University website.

Information in this document is for the contemporary recruitment cycle and was accurate at time of publication. The current tariff and accepted qualifications for entry onto the programme is published at the online course page:
https://www.bradford.ac.uk/courses/ug/forensic-science-bsc/

Information about entry to UBIC provision for this programme including available pathways is published online by Oxford International Education Group:
https://www.oxfordinternational.com/courses/detail/degree-university-of-bradford-bsc-hons-forensic-science/

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