

# Forensic Custody Nursing Education in Dundee

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The University of Dundee CFLM has extensive experience of teaching forensic medicine to nurses. What began as 1 & 3 day CPD courses (1995-2000) later evolved into a full optional BMid/BN module (2001-03).

The academic forensic pathologists now also provide clinical Forensic Medical Examiner (FME) services to Tayside police in support of a new **nurse-led** proactive multi-faced collaboration between the NHS, University of Dundee and Tayside police. In support of this new Forensic Custody Nursing (FCN) service the CFLM is now introducing **Certificate, Diploma** and **Masters** level educational modules.

**The Graduate Certificate** teaches the knowledge base and assessment skills required by FCNs involved in the clinical care of detainees in a police custody setting. **The Graduate Diploma** builds upon the Certificate to teach the higher knowledge and clinical skills required to enable FCNs to actively assist FMEs in forensic examination and evidence collection. The **Masters program** then aims to equip the FCN to undertake forensic examinations and to offer opinions. Teaching and assessment will be directed to the students own area of experience and sub-specialisation.

All three modules are similarly structured to allow training in post over the course of one year. They are taught by directed web based self-learning and periodic lecture-based teaching blocks.

**The potential exists for all three qualifications to be opened up to interested FCN's working elsewhere in the UK, either by means of efficient coordinated teaching sessions in Dundee (or elsewhere), or by distance learning.**

## Graduate Certificate: 60 SCQF credits at level 9/11. 1 year part time. Fee £1300

**Aim:** to teach and assess the basic competences required of nurses working in a custody setting

**Content:** Police powers; Ethics, Consent & Confidentiality; Fitness to be Detained/Interviewed/Plead; Alcohol; Drugs; Driving; Injuries; Trace evidence; Court; Case discussions

**Assessment:** Portfolio (10 cases - 50%), Written Assignment (20%), Computer Aided Assessments (30%)



## Graduate Diploma: 120 SCQF credits at level 9/11. 1 year part time. Fee £1300. Certificate prerequisite

**Aim:** to teach further knowledge & skills necessary to assist FME in forensic examination & specimen collection

**Content:** Restraint; Mental health; Psychosocial aspects of Alcohol/Drugs/Violence; Driving offences; Injury patterns & Documentation; Sexual abuse; Child abuse; Intimate Samples & collection; Death investigation; PF & Coroner; Scene of death; Autopsy; Detention facilities; Case discussions; Visits to death scenes, Mortuary

**Assessment:** Portfolio (7 cases – 50%), 2 Written Assignments (30%), Computer Aided Assessment (20%)



## Masters: 180 SCQF credits at level 9/11. 1 year part time. Fee £1000. Cert & Diploma are prerequisite

**Aim:** to equip nurses with skills & experience necessary to perform forensic examinations and offer opinions

**Content:** Documentation & Interpretation of Injuries, Writing a Report; Interpretation of Findings in Sexual Assault; Post Mortem Changes; Asphyxia & Suicide; Identification & Fingerprints; Hairs & Fibres, Other Trace Evidence; Blood Stains & DNA; Criminal Personality Profiling; Court Procedure & Giving Evidence; Case discussions

**Assessment:** Portfolio (5 cases – 30%), 2 Written Assignments (30%), Submission of Review Article to Journal (40%)