

O7. Skills required by new forensic science graduates and their development in degree programmes

STEVE HANSON, RUTH MEWIS AND TINA OVERTON

Higher Education Academy UK Physical Sciences Centre

A survey of recent graduates of forensic science programmes across the UK identified the areas of the forensic science curriculum including generic skills which are particularly useful for new graduates and evaluated how well they are developed within undergraduate degrees. Completed survey forms were received from 147 graduates from seven universities, of which 82% were in employment and 10% undertaking further studies. About two thirds of the graduates indicated that there was some involvement of forensic science in their activities since graduation. For new forensic science graduates it is clear from this study that generic skills are very important, irrespective of whether the graduates are employed in forensic science or non-forensic science related jobs, but some are relatively underdeveloped within degree programmes. Recommendations are made with regard to the content of degree programmes and the importance of work experience and careers guidance.