
Making Partnerships Work-Reciprocal Agreements - Forensics

Area of Focus

Forensics course team have been finding ways to work with police to help maximise opportunities for students and staff from both university and the police teams. Signing up to memorandums of understanding (MOUs) or reciprocal agreements clearly sets out the relationship and has been used to benefit both the course and the employer.

The Forensic team have 2 such partnerships one with the East Midlands Support to Operations Forensic Services (EMSOU-FS) and one with Nottinghamshire Police Search Team (POLSA).

Our relationship with police now incorporates, student placements, access to training facilities at the university, teaching inputs and access to specialist training/talks for staff.

The relationship developed through the year-long placements.

During the placements our students were seen to be highly valued members of staff and in the last 5 years several placement students have been offered full time jobs. This being prior to completing their degrees or straight from graduation.

This success has meant that we now have up to 12 placements on offer every year.

The agreement means that staff can use our specialist facilities like the crime scene training facility to run training for the police staff, they in return deliver talks to the students and help in assessments, like presentation of evidence in court.

Forensic teaching staff and technicians have been able to access police training inputs from areas like National Ballistics Services and DNA units so that our own teaching is kept up to date.

Our final year students are now being offered live projects to work on which benefit police forensic units in researching areas that are important for delivery of their services and the students in working on relevant projects which really contribute to Forensics in their local and at times national areas.

In exchange for use of the Crime Scene training Facility to assess and train the Police Search team they talk to our final year students on the work of the team and then participate in a fieldtrip to Brackenhurst campus and allow the students to work with the search team. Every year this exercise is a highlight for the students reflected in the EVASYS responses.

The actual agreements as they are signed by both management of the School and the Department are great frameworks and have allowed us to work with our partners in creative ways tying in need for training and assessment by the employer and contributions to teaching and student opportunities for the course.

‘The practical sessions, especially the POLSA activity, allowing for knowledge to be put into practice’ and

‘I like the interactive sessions they are more interesting and I feel I learn more during these than normal lectures. The guest lecturers are good and the fieldtrip was a fun alternative to other labs.’

Student Comment