Welcome to Forensic Science

Our postgraduate qualifications in Forensic Science will prepare you for a career in forensic science and introduce you to leading edge issues and techniques in this exciting field.

The Forensic Science programme offered by the School of Chemical Sciences gives science graduates the opportunity to progress their interest and knowledge of forensic science.

Forensic Science is the application of science to matters of law. As our knowledge and technical expertise in science increase, so does the complexity and importance of the science presented to the courts in the legal system.

Postgraduate Diploma in Forensic Science students attend laboratories teaching them key skills in forensic searching and chemical and biological analysis, together with workshops on modern data analysis. Research students in the MSc and PhD programmes pursue cutting-edge research at both The University of Auckland and at ESR, and have access to modern DNA analysers and chemical instrumentation.

You’ll be taught by both practitioners and by academics many of whom are major contributors in their field. We look forward to working with you.

Postgraduate study in Forensic Science will enable students to begin or further their career in forensic or other sciences.

DR DOUGLAS ELLIOT
Director of the Forensic Science programme

The Forensic Science programme is jointly run by the University of Auckland and the Institute of Environmental Science and Research (ESR) (the suppliers of forensic science to the New Zealand Police).
Students benefit from expert guest lecturers, including Crown Prosecutors and independent forensic practitioners.

The Forensic Science programme is one of the longest established forensics programmes in Australasia
Certificate of Proficiency

Selected courses from the Forensic Science Programme may be taken individually. In particular, FORENSIC 701 and 702 provide a unique education in forensic science for professionals and graduates in all involved disciplines such as lawyers, justice persons, the police, scientists, health and medical professionals, and journalists.

Prerequisite: A Bachelor of Science or other relevant qualifications as approved by the Programme Director.

Structure: FORENSIC 701 and 702 (15 points each). FORENSIC 703 and 706 are also available to qualified applicants.

Length: Each course takes one semester.
Postgraduate Diploma in Forensic Science (PGDipForensic)

The Postgraduate Diploma in Forensic Science qualification (one year taught programme) normally requires candidates to have completed a degree in science, medicine, technology or related topics. A candidate’s professional experience is also taken into account in the selection process.

**Prerequisite:** A BSc or other relevant qualifications as approved by the Programme Director.

**Structure:** 105 points from FORENSIC 701-704, 706, 707. 15 points from any approved 600 or 700 level course

**Length:** Two semesters of full-time study
Master of Science (MSc) in Forensic Science

The one year research MSc is available to students who wish to perform research in a Forensic Science field. A thesis (FORENSIC 796, 120 points) based on a research project is normally completed within one year.

Prerequisite: A PGDip in Forensic Science with an average of B– or higher or other relevant qualifications as approved by the Programme Director.

Structure: Independent research with a supervisor

Length: One year of full-time study

Students are advised to consult the 2017 Calendar for detailed regulations for this degree.
Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Forensic Science

Quick facts

- **Points per degree**: 360 points
- **Full-time study**: 3-4 years
- **Part-time study**: 6-8 years
- **Degree structure**: Research
- **Taught at**: All Campuses or off-campus registration (subject to approval)
- **Application closing dates**: Apply at any time
- **Start date**: Start at any time

Entry to PhD

The normal requirement for admission to the PhD in Forensic Science is a masters degree with second class honours (first division) or better. Candidates with overseas qualifications should consult the school for advice and assessment of their qualifications. Candidates may be required to enrol in one or more courses concurrent with research work to complement either their research work or their background in the subject.

Postgraduate Forensic Science courses

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<td>FORENSIC 701</td>
<td>Fundamental Concepts in Forensic Science</td>
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<td>FORENSIC 702</td>
<td>Introduction to Forensic Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>FORENSIC 703</td>
<td>Statistics and Molecular Biology in Forensic Science</td>
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<td>FORENSIC 796</td>
<td>MSc Thesis in Forensic Science</td>
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For course descriptions and more information, go to [www.chemistry.auckland.ac.nz/pgcourses](http://www.chemistry.auckland.ac.nz/pgcourses)

Research areas

Forensic science covers a broad range of subjects, from the statistical evaluation of glass evidence to the development of new molecules to aid in the visualisation of fingerprint residues. Some past and possible future research areas are:

- **Field Science**: 3D laser scanning, blood pattern analysis
- **Physical Evidence**: differentiating lubricants, discriminating glass fragments, gunshot residue analysis
- **Forensic Biology**: DNA fingerprinting, Wildlife forensics, Next generation sequencing, Identification of tissue types
- **Illicit Drugs**: Identification of trace impurities, Analysing designer drugs
- **Environmental Forensic Science**: Investigating contamination at clandestine laboratories
“I’ve always wanted to work in science, and have been drawn to forensics in particular.

“The University of Auckland is the only university that offers postgraduate study options in Forensic Science and the forensics programme has a fantastic reputation.

“The great thing about the forensic programme is the fact that it is run in conjunction with the Institute of Environmental Science and Research (ESR), who is the sole provider of forensic services to the New Zealand police. It means that we are learning from the personal experience of a wide range of forensic practitioners and experts in their fields, and gives us the opportunity to get a great insight into the actual workings of the forensic field.

“Going into this qualification my hopes were that it would lead to employment in forensic casework. I am currently working at ESR in their forensic research team and it is fantastic putting into action all the skills and knowledge I have spent the last two years refining.”

Gemma Nancollis studied toward a Master of Science specialising in Forensic Science and graduated in 2016. Previously, Gemma studied for a Postgraduate Diploma in Forensic Science and completed this qualification in 2015.
Helpful information

Academic dates
www.auckland.ac.nz/dates

Accommodation
www.accommodation.auckland.ac.nz

Apply for postgraduate study
www.auckland.ac.nz/applynow

Career Development and Employment Services
www.cdes.auckland.ac.nz

Childcare
www.auckland.ac.nz/childcare

Course advice and degree planning in Science
www.science.auckland.ac.nz/student-centre

Disability Services
www.disability.auckland.ac.nz

How to enrol
www.auckland.ac.nz/enrolment

Information for postgraduate students
www.postgraduate.ac.nz

International students
www.international.auckland.ac.nz

Libraries and Learning Services
www.library.auckland.ac.nz

Māori and Pacific students
www.science.auckland.ac.nz/tuakana

Need help?
www.askauckland.ac.nz

Postgraduate Students’ Association
www.pgsa.org.nz

Rainbow Science Network for LGBTI students
www.science.auckland.ac.nz/rainbowscience

Scholarships and awards
www.scholarships.auckland.ac.nz

www.auckland.ac.nz/fees

Support for students
www.science.auckland.ac.nz/support

Questions about Forensic Science?
douglas.elliot@esr.cri.nz

Disclaimer
Although every reasonable effort is made to ensure accuracy, the information in this document is provided as a general guide only for students and is subject to alteration. All students enrolling at the University of Auckland must consult its official document, the University of Auckland Calendar, to ensure that they are aware of and comply with all regulations, requirements and policies.