

Tohu Paerunga Pūtaiao Tiro Taihara Postgraduate Forensic Science



Apply your scientific expertise to matters of the law with Forensic Science. As our knowledge and technical expertise in science increases, so does the complexity and importance of the science presented to the courts in the legal system.

The Forensic Science programme is jointly run by the University of Auckland and the New Zealand Institute for Public Health and Forensic Science, who are the providers of forensic science to the New Zealand Police.

As a Forensic Science student, you will cover a broad range of topics, from the statistical evaluation of glass evidence to the development of new molecules to aid in the visualisation of fingerprint residues. You will learn key skills in the examination of items for forensic evidence and chemical and biological analysis and the application of data science and statistics.

Some of the courses available in this subject include:

- > Introduction to Forensic Science
- > Fundamental Concepts in Forensic Science
- > Forensic Science in a Digital World
- > Statistics and Molecular Biology for Forensic Science
- > Techniques and Applications for Forensic Science
- > Project in Forensic Science

Choosing your supervisor

Supervisors can usually only take a small number of students, so make sure you talk to them sooner rather than later.

Choose an area you feel passionate about. Undertaking research involves successes as well as challenges, so choosing a topic you are genuinely interested in will help you overcome challenges and get through the tough times. Ensure you're compatible with your supervisor. Ask questions, seek advice and share your ideas with academic staff to find out their research interests, and whether you would be a good fit with their current projects.

Scholarships

You can apply for a range of scholarships when you apply for postgraduate study in Science.

auckland.ac.nz/science-scholarships



Career opportunities

Forensic Science is the application of science to matters of law. 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.

Our graduates learn key skills in the examination of items for forensic evidence, chemical and biological analysis as well as modern data analysis.

Many of our alumni have gone on to become forensic scientists or technicians, and can be found in forensic science organisations, the New Zealand Police, academic and commercial science organisations and government agencies.

Others have chosen related careers or decided to pursue further study.

Our graduates have been employed in the following jobs:

- › Forensic scientist, Department of Health (NSW)
- › Forensic DNA analyst, Royal Canadian Mounted Police
- › Crime scene attendant, New Zealand Police
- › Senior forensic biologist, Environmental Science & Research Ltd
- › Toxicologist scientist, The Drug Detection Agency

This subject is available in:

- › Postgraduate Diploma in Forensic Science
- › Master of Science
- › Doctor of Philosophy

You may also be interested in our programmes in Biological Sciences, Chemistry and Medicinal Chemistry.



Find out more about how your degree will be structured and what courses you need to take at

auckland.ac.nz/science/pg-forensic-sci

Applications close on 8 December.



"The main thing that drew me to Forensic Science is the ability to help people who sometimes cannot help themselves. I would be helping them by using my science knowledge to assist in a court scenario."

Jessie Davys
Master of Science in Forensic Science.

Kuhua ki tō mātou hāpori, ā, Kimihia tōu Pūtaiao.
Join our community and find your Science.



Disclaimer: The information in this document is a general guide only for students and subject to alteration. All students enrolling at the University of Auckland must consult its official Calendar, to ensure that they are aware of and comply with all regulations, requirements and policies. [2026]

Have any questions?
Contact the Student Hub

auckland.ac.nz/student-hubs