MSc FORENSIC SCIENCE

Canterbury
INTRODUCTION

The MSc in Forensic Science is an exciting new taught Master’s programme which prepares you for a professional role in forensic science within the criminal or civil judicial systems, the Police, forensic practice, or research. It is specifically aimed at graduates with a strong grounding in forensic science who wish to advance their knowledge beyond a three-year degree.

About the programme
The MSc in Forensic Science allows you to develop command, control and management skills in relation to major incidents and gain the ability to present expert evidential incident reports in court to the highest standard. You also develop your knowledge and understanding of advanced laboratory analytical methods applied to forensic investigation. This enables you to select the most appropriate analytical techniques for forensic investigation and to use a wide range of advanced analytic apparatus to evidential standards.

At the end of the programme, you will have the skills and knowledge to recognise and solve forensic-related problems at an advanced level. In addition to enhancing the employment opportunities and career prospects of graduates in forensic science and related subject areas, this programme helps you to develop an integrated and critical understanding of forensic science to prepare you to undertake a PhD in any associated disciplines.

Expert teaching
The School of Physical Sciences at Kent offers postgraduate students the opportunity to participate in groundbreaking science, working with expert staff at the forefront of their fields. Students on our Forensic programmes are taught not only by our expert in-house lecturers, but also by industry specialist lecturers from the Home Office, the Forensic Science Service and the Forensic Explosives Laboratory. We also have strong collaborative links with the Forensic Science Service, Kent Police, local health authorities and with biotechnology, chemical and pharmaceutical companies in the UK and Europe.

Leading-edge research
The School of Physical Sciences achieved excellent results in the most recent Research Assessment Exercise. All of the programmes taught within the School are underpinned by a strong, active and cutting-edge research environment.

The School has an innovative research team in Forensic Imaging, bringing together physics and forensic science. The team is developing a computerised photo-fit system and new methods for producing images in facial recognition. You are able to take advantage of this leading research expertise by choosing the optional module in Forensic Imaging.
Excellent facilities

As a student of this programme, you have access to newly refurbished state-of-the-art laboratories as well as access to first-class facilities. These facilities include a dedicated firearms and ballistics kit, forensic investigation equipment, FT-IR microscopy, NMR spectrometers (including solutions at 600 MHz), Raman spectrometer, X-ray fluorescence, atomic absorption and scanning electron microscopy.

Impressive career prospects

Kent has an excellent record for postgraduate employment: over 90% of our postgraduate students who graduated in 2010 found a job or further study opportunity within six months. The School of Physical Sciences was placed third for job prospects in The Times Good University Guide 2009. In addition, the School is one of only five institutes nationally to be fully accredited by the Forensic Science Society and endorsed by SkillsMark under the Skills for Justice programme.

“This programme offers higher level training than is found in undergraduate forensic science degrees, enabling its graduates to undertake more senior forensic roles. There is also a strong emphasis on research methodology, allowing you to develop new forensic procedures as well as embark on a research career in a variety of scientific areas.”

Michael Went
Professor of Chemistry and Forensic Science
Programme content
This one-year Master's programme in Forensic Science offers academic rigour combined with practical application and professional orientation. It consists of taught modules and a research project.

The programme comprises two stages over the year. In stage one, you undertake the five core modules and can select one additional optional module from the range available. The taught component is delivered over the first two terms.

At the beginning of the second term, you are assigned an academic supervisor for your dissertation project which you undertake during stage two of the programme. The dissertation is completed over the summer. To proceed to stage two, you are required to pass all modules with a minimum of 40%. Students who successfully complete stage one, but do not complete the dissertation, will be eligible for the award of postgraduate diploma.

Core modules
- Physical Science Research Planning
- Topics in Functional Materials
- Substances of Abuse
- Incident Management
- Advanced Laboratory Techniques
- MSc Research Project

Optional modules
- Forensic DNA Analysis
- Image Processing
- Fires and Explosions

Assessment
Assessment is by examination and coursework.

Programme staff
- Professor Michael Went, Professor of Chemistry and Forensic Science
- Professor Michael Smith, Professor of Physics (Research Planning)
- Professor John Todd, Emeritus Professor of Mass Spectroscopy
- Professor Alan Chadwick, Emeritus Professor of Physical Chemistry
- Dr Chris Solomon, Reader in Physics (Forensic Imaging)
- Dr Simon Holder, Senior Lecturer in Organic Chemistry
- Dr Stefano Biagini, Senior Lecturer in Organic Chemistry
- Mr Mark Johnson, Senior Lecturer in Forensic Science
- Dr Maria Alfredsson, Senior Lecturer in Theoretical Materials
- Dr Donna Arnold, Lecturer in Forensic Science
- Dr Christopher Shepherd, Lecturer in Forensic Science
- Dr Serena Corr, Lecturer in Materials Research
- Dr Stuart Gibson, Lecturer in Forensic Science
- Dr Peter Nicholls, Senior Lecturer in Cell and Molecular Biology
- Guest lecturers with experience from the Forensic Science Service and Forensic Explosives Laboratory

www.kent.ac.uk/physical-sciences
DID YOU KNOW?
Forensic Science at Kent came first in the UK for student satisfaction in the 2009 National Student Survey and joint first in the 2010 National Student Survey.
APPLYING TO KENT

Entry requirements
You should hold a good first degree (usually an upper second-class classification or above, or the equivalent) in forensic science.

Making an application
There is no fixed closing date for applications although we recommend you make your formal application as early as possible and at least three months before your intended start date. You can apply for the MSc in Forensic Science programme online via our website at www.kent.ac.uk/courses/postgrad/gradapply.html. If you do not have access to the web, please contact Information, Recruitment and Admissions at the address on the opposite page to request a paper application form.

English language
The University requires all non-native speakers of English to reach a minimum standard of proficiency in written and spoken English before beginning a postgraduate degree. Only English language tests taken up to a maximum of two years prior to the date of registration will be accepted for admission to the University.

Tuition fees
For the most up-to-date information on tuition fees, see www.kent.ac.uk/finance-student/fees

Further information
For further information, please visit www.kent.ac.uk/physical-sciences

For more specific enquiries, please contact:
Mr Mark Johnson,
School of Physical Sciences,
Ingram Building,
University of Kent,
Canterbury,
Kent CT2 7NH
T: +44 (0)1227 823759
E: spsrecruit@kent.ac.uk

Admissions enquiries
T: +44 (0)1227 827272
E: information@kent.ac.uk

Terms and conditions: The University reserves the right to make variations to the content and delivery of courses and other services, or to discontinue courses and other services, if such action is reasonably considered to be necessary. If the University discontinues any course, it will endeavour to provide a suitable alternative. To register for a programme of study, all students must agree to abide by the University Regulations (available online at: www.kent.ac.uk/regulations).

Data protection: For administrative, academic and health and safety reasons, the University needs to process information about its students. Full registration as a student of the University is subject to your consent to process such information.
Kent: the UK’s European university
Kent is known as the UK’s European university. Our two main UK campuses, Canterbury and Medway, are located in the south-east of England, close to London, and we have specialist postgraduate centres in Brussels and Paris.

We have a diverse, cosmopolitan population with 125 nationalities represented. We also have strong links with universities in Europe, and from Kent, you are around two hours away from Paris and Brussels by train.

World-leading research
A great deal of the University of Kent’s research has been ranked as world-leading in terms of originality, significance and rigour, according to the Government’s most recent Research Assessment Exercise. Kent staff were found to be engaged in research of international and world-class standing.

A global outlook
Kent has a great international reputation, attracting academic staff and students from around the world. Our academic schools are engaged in collaborative research with universities worldwide and we offer a range of opportunities to study abroad and an approach that is truly global.

Strong academic community
At Kent, our postgraduate students are part of a thriving intellectual community that includes staff and students from all our locations. In addition to lectures, seminars and one-to-one supervisions, our students benefit from a rich and stimulating research culture.

The Graduate School
As a postgraduate student, you also have the support of the Graduate School, which promotes your academic interests, co-ordinates transferable skills training and the Global Skills Award, and facilitates cross-disciplinary interaction and social networking.

Funding
Kent provides a variety of financial support opportunities for postgraduate students. These range from research studentships, location-specific funding, sport and music scholarships, and funding specifically for overseas fee-paying students. For further information, see www.kent.ac.uk/scholarships/postgraduate

Enhanced career prospects
At Kent, we want you to be in a good position to face the demands of a tough economic environment. During your studies, you acquire a high level of academic knowledge and specialist practical skills. We also help you to develop key transferable skills that are essential within the competitive world of work.

Location
Canterbury

Faculty
Faculty of Sciences

School
School of Physical Sciences

Further information
Mr Mark Johnson, School of Physical Sciences, Ingram Building, University of Kent, Canterbury, Kent CT2 7NH
T: +44 (0)1227 823759
E: spsrecruit@kent.ac.uk

Applications
Online at www.kent.ac.uk/courses/postgrad/apply

How to apply
For information about applying to Kent, or to order a copy of the Graduate Prospectus, please contact:
The Information, Recruitment and Admissions Office, The Registry, University of Kent, Canterbury, Kent CT2 7NZ, UK
T: +44 (0)1227 827272
F: +44 (0)1227 827077
E: information@kent.ac.uk

The University also holds Open Days and postgraduate recruitment events throughout the year. Please see www.kent.ac.uk/opendays
COME AND VISIT US

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