If you excel at science, are keen to develop your investigative skills in a variety of scenarios and have meticulous attention to detail, you will enjoy studying Forensic Science at Kent. Fascinating and challenging, it opens up a wide range of career opportunities.
WHY STUDY FORENSIC SCIENCE AT KENT?

Choice of programmes
As well as our three-year BSc, you could also opt to take a four-year MSci undergraduate Master’s which includes a final-year research project. We also offer a foundation year programme which, upon successful completion, gives you entry to any of our courses.

Academic support
University is different to school. You need to be self-motivated and well organised to succeed. We help you make the leap by assigning you an academic adviser and running a peer mentoring programme. You can also get help with academic skills, such as essay writing.

Excellent resources
There has been substantial investment in recent years to provide you with an excellent learning environment, including our new crime scene house. We have been commended by The Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences for our range of available forensic equipment.

Professional accreditation
All of our Forensic Science programmes are formally accredited by The Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences. This gives you, and potential employers, reassurance about the relevance and quality of your degree.

Work in industry for a year
Spending a year working in industry, you gain invaluable workplace experience and can also assess a particular career path to see if it is for you. This greatly enhances your CV and gives you the opportunity to apply your academic skills in a practical context.

Inspirational teaching
You are taught by some of the best teachers in the country, from the School of Physical Sciences and Kent Law School, one of Britain’s most innovative law schools. Both schools have received good ratings in the most recent Teaching Quality Assessments.

International links
We have strong collaborative links with forensic science services, local health authorities and biotechnology, chemical and pharmaceutical companies in the UK and Europe. We also have a close association with Interpol and forensic consultancies worldwide.

Career success
Employability is a priority at Kent. By studying, you broaden your subject knowledge and sharpen the skills that are useful in working life. You have opportunities to gain work experience, and access to careers advice, workshops and employability events.

Lively campus
Kent is a campus university, so everything you need is within walking distance. You can watch a play or film at the Gulbenkian arts centre; dance at The Venue nightclub; keep fit at our sports centre and meet friends at one of many campus cafes and restaurants.
Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE)
• Of Forensic Science students who graduated from Kent in 2016, over 90% of those who responded to a national survey were in work or further study within six months

Research Excellence Framework
• Kent was ranked in the top 20 for research intensity in the Times Higher Education, outperforming 11 of the 24 Russell Group universities

Teaching Excellence Framework
• Kent was awarded gold, the highest rating, in the UK government’s Teaching Excellence Framework*

Benefit from our world-leading research
Our undergraduates work alongside lecturers and tutors who are not only teachers, but researchers working at the forefront of their field. Current research projects include: novel methods for analysis of gunshot residues; accelerant analyses to aid arson investigation; the creation of new techniques for fingerprint recovery and the creation of realistic blood spatter patterns for training purposes. Additionally, facial identification software developed by researchers at Kent is being used by most UK police forces and many international organisations.

Independent rankings

Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE)
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*The University of Kent’s Statement of Findings can be found at www.kent.ac.uk/tef-statement
Forensic Science
Faith Taylor is in the final year of her BSc (Hons) in Forensic Science.

What attracted you to studying at Kent?
I did a lot of research into which universities offered the course and every time I looked into it, Kent was always at the forefront. It is really well recognised as a place to take this degree, so it just seemed like the best fit for me. Also, it’s close to London, which is where I grew up, has good transport links and is a beautiful campus.

What have you enjoyed most on your course?
Obviously we have forensic and chemistry modules, but I really do enjoy the law side of the degree as well. We also have Forensic Evidence Collection assessments where we are given simulations of an incident: there’s a suspect, a weapon and a crime scene and we have to analyse it. Sometimes we have to put ourselves in the mind of the person we are trying to catch, such as a sniper. We had to write a ballistics essay from the perspective of getting away with killing someone, so there was a lot of research into ammunition and firearms.

What are the facilities like?
We are very lucky to have an actual crime scene house where our crime scene evaluations are done. It’s an actual house about ten minutes away from central campus, fully furnished with a large garden. The labs in the School were renovated recently with new state-of-the-art equipment brought in. It’s fantastic; we have access to pretty much everything you would need as a forensic scientist.

What do you like to do in your spare time?
I am part of the School of Physical Sciences outreach team; we go out and teach the wider community about sciences. We also go to schools with specific shows to highlight what we are doing. Discovery Planet, a local initiative, offers us volunteering opportunities, such as working in a pop-up shop where the public can come and learn about windmills or turbines or other scientific projects. I also spend time just socialising with my friends.

What kind of career are you hoping to follow once you graduate?
When I first cam e onto the course, I was thinking that I want to be in the field but, as I’ve gone through the degree, I’ve realised, actually, that’s not for me. I would like to work in lab analysis rather than at actual crime scenes.

Any advice for somebody thinking of coming to Kent?
Don’t be afraid to try new things and don’t worry if you don’t make friends straight away. It may take a few weeks but when you find your friendship group, you’ll be friends the whole time. The University really is a wonderful place to be.
CHOOSING YOUR DEGREE

Not sure which programme to choose? Here’s a quick guide to the forensic science degree programmes we offer.

**Forensic Science**
www.kent.ac.uk/ug/366
Our distinctive three-year programme offers a general approach to science, alongside an understanding of key legal topics.

**Forensic Science with a Year in Industry**
www.kent.ac.uk/ug/77
This programme covers the same content as the three-year BSc but with the benefit of an industrial placement year between your second and final years, to gain professional experience and enhance employability. For more information, see p9.

**Forensic Science MSci**
www.kent.ac.uk/ug/74
This is a four-year programme, which builds an advanced knowledge of the science and practice underpinning modern forensics. You take modules on subjects ranging from advanced laboratory analysis and substances of abuse to major incident management. This programme prepares you for professional practice or postgraduate study.

After successfully completing the foundation year, students can choose to progress on to any of our Forensic Science programmes.

**Need more information?**
For details on all our programmes, see www.kent.ac.uk/ug

“...this course is also highly rated in the independent university rankings and it offers an applied direction to the science. There’s a good mix of practical, written and research work, which covers a broad range of areas.”

**Hugo Perry**
Forensic Science MSci
YEAR IN INDUSTRY

If you choose to follow a programme with a year in industry, this placement year is taken between Stages 2 and 3.

Finding a placement
Work placements are usually advertised nationally and students apply by sending in a CV or application form. We guide you through the process, giving you valuable feedback on the placements that are likely to enhance your career prospects, how to write a winning CV and how to hone your interview skills. We also work closely with a number of local companies which often provide our students with placements.

Salary and benefits
Students usually work on placement for an entire calendar year. Salary and holiday entitlements vary according to the employer you work for. However, many students find that they earn enough to be able to save some of their income, and this often helps them in their final year at Kent.

Study and career benefits
A work placement provides practical experience that can be put to good use in your final year of study. It gives you a sense of how the theory works in practice and improves your skills in many areas. It also allows you to evaluate a particular career path and gain knowledge of the working environment.

Previous year-in-industry students have worked for Cranfield Defence and Security, Abbott Laboratories, GSK, Kent and Canterbury Hospital and Procter & Gamble among many others. In general, the year in industry is very popular with employers, because of the skills you gain. If your placement is a success, you may even be offered a job with the same employer after graduation.

Keeping in touch with Kent
To make sure you get the most out of the experience, you are assigned an academic supervisor who approves the company’s programme of work in consultation with your industrial supervisor. At the end, you write a report of the work you did during the placement and, on returning to Kent for your final year of study, present a lecture on your experiences. Your year in industry counts towards your final degree classification.
Your studies are divided into three stages for the BSc programmes and four stages for the MSci. If you take a year in industry you do this between Stages 2 and 3.

Teaching and assessment
There are approximately eight one-hour lectures a week, with one or two days of laboratory classes. Laboratory classes emphasise different aspects of the subject and are assessed on results and written reports. Problem-solving seminars also play an important role in our teaching programme. These are usually integrated within the lecture programme and discussions focus on difficulties that you may encounter within your written work.

Assessment is by written examinations at the end of each year, with some continuous assessment based on laboratory classes and other assignments. You must pass all modules in Stage 1 to go on to Stage 2. Marks from Stages 2 and 3 count towards your final degree result, as does the year in industry if taken.

Module information
The module lists below are not fixed as new modules are always in development and choices are updated yearly. The following lists give an example of what you could study.

Please see www.kent.ac.uk/ug for the most up-to-date information.

To read a full description of the modules listed, go to: www.kent.ac.uk/courses/modules and search using the module code.

Stage 1
Your modules provide you with a broad base of knowledge on which forensic science is founded.

You take the following compulsory modules:
• Chemical Skills for Forensic Scientists (PS381)
• Fundamental Organic Chemistry for Physical Scientists (CH309)
• Introduction to Ballistics (PS324)
• Introduction to Biochemistry and Drug Chemistry (CH314)
• Introduction to Forensic Science (PS301)
• Molecules, Matter and Energy (CH308)
• Skills for Forensic Scientists (PS318).

Stage 2
You take the following compulsory modules:
• Chemical Identification Techniques (CH506)
• Criminal Law for Forensic Scientists (LW562)
• Digital Forensics (PS511)
• Firearms and Ballistics (PS556)
• Forensic Archaeology (PS502)
• Forensic Physical Methods (PS501)
• Inorganic and Environmental Chemistry (CH534)
• Numerical, Statistical and Analytical Skills (PS512).
Stage 3
If you are studying on our BSc programmes, Stage 3 is the final year of your degree; for MSci students, Stage 3 is the penultimate year of study.

All students take the following compulsory modules:
- Advanced Topics in Forensic Science (PS712)
- Analytical Chemistry (CH604)
- DNA Analysis and Interpretation (PS637)
- Fires and Explosions (PS601)
- Forensic Expert Witness Skills (PS602)

BSc (only)
- Forensic Science Project (PS620)

MSci (only)
- Advanced Forensic Project Laboratory (PS720)

Stage 4 (MSci only)
You take the following compulsory modules:
- Forensic Science Research Project MSci (PS740)
- Physical Science Research Planning (PS700)
- Substances of Abuse (PS713).

“We provide a truly multidisciplinary experience to students with teaching contributions from lecturers in chemistry, physics, law, anthropology and forensic science, ensuring the content is always interesting, current and supported by a strong scientific underpinning.”

Dr Chris Shepherd
Forensic Science Lecturer
SUPERB STUDY SUPPORT

We’ll support you throughout your time at Kent, from helping you adjust to university study to discussing module choices and essay topics with you.

Academic adviser
You are assigned an academic adviser in your first year, and they help you get the most from your degree programme. You meet with them regularly to discuss general academic issues or specific assignments. They will assist you in developing academic skills and refer you to other sources of help if you need it.

Peer support
The best advice often comes from people who’ve been in your situation. On our Academic Peer Mentoring scheme, first-year students can request to be matched with second- or third-year students on a similar degree programme.

Peer mentors will help you settle into university life and find your feet. They can help you to discuss ideas and improve your study skills as you progress through your first year.

Study skills advice
Successful students take control of their own learning. Kent’s Student Learning Advisory Service (SLAS) can help you increase your competence and confidence and fulfil your potential. You can request a one-to-one appointment or attend workshops on a diverse range of topics from making the most of lectures to writing well and effective revision skills.

Student support and wellbeing
You might need extra help to get the most from university. If you have a medical condition, specific learning difficulty, mental health condition or disability, the Student Support and Wellbeing team is there to support you.

They are committed to improving access to learning for all students at Kent and can assist with many things, including:
• helping you with emotional, psychological or mental health issues
• applying for relevant funding to support you.

As a Forensic Science student you also benefit from the School of Physical Sciences’ own student support team. You can arrange a meeting with our Student Support Adviser to discuss any pastoral, health or welfare issues.

Find out more at: www.kent.ac.uk/studentsupport

DID YOU KNOW?
Kent won the Outstanding Support for Students award at the 2017 Times Higher Education (THE) Awards.
A SUCCESSFUL FUTURE

What do you hope to do once you have your degree? Whether you have a specific career path in mind or haven’t yet thought much beyond university, we can help you to plan for success in the future.

Build your CV
Your degree studies help you to develop skills such as thinking critically, expressing yourself clearly, solving problems and working independently and as part of a team. These transferable skills are valued by employers and will also be vital if you go on to further study.

At Kent, you have lots of other great opportunities to enhance your skills. For instance, you could:
• join a society or sports club (even better – get involved in running it)
• volunteer with a community
• work in a part-time job or take up a summer internship
• represent your fellow students as a student rep, or become a student ambassador
• learn a new language or skill with Study Plus.

Getting involved like this means that you can earn Employability Points, which you can exchange for employability rewards. The more points you earn, the more valuable the rewards: we work with local, national and international employers to offer internships, work experience and a range of other activities that prepare you for the world of work.

Experience work
Our programmes include the opportunity to spend a year in industry. Our students have worked with employers such as GSK, LGC and Pfizer.

Find a great job
Forensic science provides many more opportunities for graduate employment than in its traditionally perceived role in the service of the law. Forensic skills are now used in a wide range of professions and industries, for instance at disaster scenes, within archaeology and in the food and pharmaceutical industries. As scientific liaison officers are being appointed by the police service, the knowledge and communication gap between the scientists and the police at the crime scene has narrowed.

Our graduates go into areas such as government agencies, consultancies, emergency services, local authorities, contract laboratories, research or further vocational training.

The School of Physical Sciences has its own Employer Engagement Officer who works for South East Physics Network helping to provide industrial opportunities for students throughout their time at Kent.

The University has a friendly Careers and Employability Service which can give you advice on how to apply for jobs, write a good CV and perform well in interviews.

Our track record speaks for itself: just six months after graduating in 2016, more than 96% of Kent graduates who responded to a national survey were in work or further study (DLHE, 2016).
What are your plans for the future?
DNA and toxicology are my two passions in forensic science. For the future, I hope to transfer back across to DNA and learn more about that. I then plan to specialise in either toxicology or DNA and become a reporting manager to write expert witness statements and go to court. Finally, in the far distant future, I do hope to become a lecturer of forensic science and share my passion with a new group of people.

What advice would you give to someone thinking of coming to Kent?
The greatest two bits of advice I have for them are: Say yes. Three years may seem like a long time, but it will fly by. There is no point hesitating on starting new things or missing out on new hobbies by saying no.
Second is a bit of advice I received on my first day and that is to treat university like a job. Work 9am to 5pm with little breaks here and there. This is what I did and you will find that you work more efficiently and have more time to do all the fun new hobbies you have picked up!
Choosing a university is a big step, so it’s important to find out as much as you can before you make your decision. Come and visit us to see what we can offer you.

Open Days
Open Days are a great way to find out what life as a student at Kent is like. For instance, you can:
• learn more about the course you are interested in at a subject presentation
• ask questions – talk to the academic teams at the information stands
• experience our teaching at a taster lecture*
• try your hand at evidence gathering in our new state-of-the-art crime scene house
• find out about student finance, opportunities to study abroad and extracurricular activities such as Kent Sport.

Explore the campus at your own pace on the self-guided walking tour. You will be able to visit different types of accommodation, chat to current students and enjoy the stunning views over the city of Canterbury.

Open Days are held in the summer and autumn. Book your place at www.kent.ac.uk/opendays

* Programme of events varies according to subject.

Applicant Days
If you apply to Kent and we offer you a place (or ask you to come for an interview), you will usually be invited to an Applicant Day. Applicant Days run in the autumn and spring terms and are an opportunity to find out about the course in more detail. You spend time with your academic school meeting staff and current students, and take part in activities that give you a flavour of your prospective course and university life.

Informal visits
If you can’t make it to an Open Day or Applicant Day, you can still visit us. We run tours of the campus throughout the year.

If you live outside Europe, we appreciate that you might find it difficult to attend our scheduled events, so we can arrange a personal campus tour for you and your family.

Let us know you’re coming
Scheduled tours and personal campus tours (for international students) need to be booked in advance – you can do this via www.kent.ac.uk/informal

CONTINUED OVERLEAF
Meet us in your country

Our staff regularly travel overseas to meet with students who are interested in coming to Kent. We also have strong links with agents in your home country who can offer guidance and information on studying at Kent. Find out more at www.kent.ac.uk/courses/international

Self-guided tours

If you prefer to explore on your own, you can download a self-guided walking tour at www.kent.ac.uk/informal or pick up a copy from us.

A self-guided audio tour is available too, which allows you to learn about Kent without even leaving home. See www.kent.ac.uk/courses/visit/informal/audio-tour.html

Explore online

For the latest departmental information on studying Forensic Science at Kent, please see www.kent.ac.uk/physical-sciences/prospective/undergraduate

Contact us

If you have any other enquiries about the course, please contact spsadmissions@kent.ac.uk

If you would like more information on Kent’s courses, facilities or services, please contact us on: T: +44 (0)1227 768896 www.kent.ac.uk/ug

Location

Canterbury

Award

BSc (Hons), MSci

Degree programmes

• Forensic Science BSc (F410)
• Forensic Science MSci (F414)
• Forensic Science with a Foundation Year (F412)
• Forensic Science with a Year in Industry (F411)

Typical offer levels

BBB at A level; IB Diploma 34 points overall or 15 at HL inc Biology or Chemistry 5 at HL and Mathematics 4 at HL or SL.

Access and BTEC Level 3

Extended Diploma applicants are assessed on an individual basis, please contact us for more information.

Foundation Year: evidence of prior Level 3 scientific study needed.

Year in Industry

See p9.

Professional recognition

All our programmes are formally accredited by The Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences.

Foundation year

Passing all modules in the foundation year programme guarantees you entry on to one of our Forensic Science degree programmes.

Scholarships and bursaries

Please see www.kent.ac.uk/ugfunding for details of scholarships and bursaries.

Offer levels and entry requirements are subject to change. For the latest information, see: www.kent.ac.uk/ug

Required subjects

A level grade B or equivalent in Chemistry, Biology or Human Biology with a pass grade in the relevant practicals, plus GCSE Mathematics grade 4/C.

Foundation Year: evidence of prior Level 3 scientific study needed.
COME AND VISIT US

To find out more about visiting the University, see our website:
www.kent.ac.uk/visit