

FORENSIC SCIENCE FAQs

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1. What is Forensic Science?

Forensic Science is a discipline where scientific principles are used in the service of the law. The newly revised Forensic Science Minor programme (“Minor”) allows students to explore the entire process of a criminal investigation – from the collection of evidence at the crime scene; to laboratory analysis of the evidence; and finally to the tendering of the evidence in the courtroom.

2. What are the major components of the Forensic Science Minor?

The scientific component of the Minor will include the study of fundamental concepts and principles behind scientific techniques and their applications to crime scene and evidence processing.

The law and evidence component of the Minor will include the study of selected statutes which are relevant to the field of criminal justice such as the Penal Code and the Evidence Act.

3. Who are the lecturers for Forensic Science?

The lecturers in the Minor are practitioners in the field of criminal justice and include senior prosecutors, forensic scientists, police officers, forensic pathologists and forensic psychologists who will share their expertise and experience to give students a holistic overview of the criminal justice system and its many components.

4. How do I get into the Forensic Science minor programme?

Students can only apply for the minor after completing LSM1306 (Introduction to Forensic Science). Good grades for the module and a satisfactory CAP are required to be selected for the Minor programme.

After selection into the Minor programme, students need to complete a total of six modules (total: 24 modular credits [MCs]) to be awarded the Minor upon graduation.

5. What are the module requirements?

To be awarded the Minor, the following requirements are to be fulfilled:

Minor in Forensic Science Requirements (24MC)
Essential Modules – Pass the following 3 modules (3 x 4MC = 12MC)
LSM1306 Forensic Science
CM3301 Advanced Forensic Science
SP3202 Evidence in Forensic Science
Elective Modules – Pass 12MC from the following list of modules, including:
a) A maximum of 4MC from Level 1000 modules
b) A minimum of 4MC from Level 4000 modules
SP4261 Articulating Probability and Statistics in Court
SP4262 Forensic Human Identification
SP4263 Forensic Toxicology and Poisons
SP4264 Criminalistics: Evidence and Proof [This is a 2MC module. Please complete an equivalent of 12MC of elective modules for the purpose of Minor requirements fulfilment.]
SP4265 Criminalistics: Forgery Exposé with Forensic Science [This is a 2MC module. Please complete an equivalent of 12MC of elective modules for the purpose of Minor requirements fulfilment.]
LL4362V Advanced Criminal Litigation - Forensics on Trial [This is a 5MC module]
CM2101 Physical Chemistry 2
CM3242 Instrumental Analysis II

LSM1102 Molecular Genetics
LSM3211 Fundamental Pharmacology
PC1141 Introduction to Classical Mechanics
PR1110/A Foundations in Medicinal Chemistry
PR3116 Concepts in Pharmacokinetics & Biopharmaceutics
ST2234 Probability and Statistics; OR MA2216/ST2131 Probability
CM/FST/LSM/MA/PC/PR/ST/ZB3288 Advanced UROPS I (forensic science related; subject to approval of Minor programme coordinator)

Note:

Please take note that the double-counting between a Major and this Minor in Forensic Science is up to 8MCs or typically two modules only. Please read sufficient additional modules to fulfil the two programmes.

6. Do I need to overload my modules?

With good planning of modules to be read each semester, most students can complete the minor without overloading.

7. How do I apply for the programme?

Application forms for the Minor programme will be made available online in October each year. Students will need to submit a one page write up to accompany their application form.

For more information, refer to <http://www.dbs.nus.edu.sg/doc/education/FSminor.html>

8. What are the career prospects for graduates of the Forensic Science Minor programme?

Graduates can look forward to employment as crime scene investigators or officers in the Singapore Police Force, Central Narcotics Bureau, Singapore Civil Defence Force, forensic scientist, researcher or educator. Graduates also have the option of furthering their postgraduate studies in related fields such as law and medicine, or to pursue a Ph.D.. The more entrepreneurial graduates have also set up their own business ventures.

9. What kind of new pedagogies will I be expecting in this Forensic Science Minor Programme?

The central dogma of Forensic Science is "Every Contact Leaves A Trace". The Minor programme is filled with practical sessions that are purposefully constructed to teach students about real-life applications of forensic techniques. Students will also get to think out of the box and learn through experiential hands-on activities to uncover all vital pieces of evidence at simulated crime scenes. These pieces of objective evidence will later serve as tools to exonerate the innocent or incriminate the guilty in moot courts. Students will have a chance to role-play as crime scene investigators, lawyers and expert witnesses. At the end of the programme, students will be critical thinkers, persuasive communicators and adept writers.

10. Who do I contact if I have further queries?

Please contact Assoc Prof Stella Tan Wei Ling (dbstwls@nus.edu.sg) or Dr Chen Litai, Jeremiah (chmchlj@nus.edu.sg).