

Do you like a good mystery? Have you got an eye for detail? Are you interested in crime and justice? If so, a career in forensic science could be for you.

Forensic science applies scientific methods and principles to matters of the law. Forensic scientists use science to solve crimes, gather DNA evidence, recover digital documents, help police find or eliminate suspects, and more.

*“I’m interested in developmental psychology. I’ve always wanted to help people – now I can.”*

*– Lihini, studying towards a BSc in Psychology*



### Why forensic science?

Forensic science is a vital tool in solving crimes and finding the truth in legal proceedings. It draws upon multiple scientific disciplines such as chemistry, biology, mathematics, physics and psychology and is used around the world to identify criminals, analyse evidence, investigate tax fraud and cybercrime, and support rehabilitation of criminal offenders.

You can specialise in a range of different areas such as forensic toxicology, digital forensics or forensic psychology.

### Where do I start?

The minimum requirement for most forensic science jobs is a Bachelor of Science (BSc) majoring in the area of forensics you want to specialise in. For example, if you’re into DNA, you might like to study chemistry or, if you’re interested in the criminal mind and human behaviour, you could think about majoring in psychology.

Psychology uses research, observation and rigorous testing of ideas to give scientific explanations for human behaviours and the mental processes behind them. Forensic or criminal psychologists specialise in applying psychological knowledge to legal matters, both in the criminal and civil arenas.



## BSc in Psychology – what you need to know

A BSc in Psychology is a three-year degree that will give you the knowledge and skills you'll need to pursue a career in forensic science. A BSc is just the beginning. You could boost your career options further by gaining a postgraduate degree.

Here are some courses you can study in your first year of psychology:

- Science, Society and Me (SCIE101)
- Introductory Psychology – Brain, Behaviour and Cognition (PSYC105)
- Introductory Psychology – Social, Personality and Developmental (PSYC106)
- Cellular Biology and Biochemistry (BCHM111)
- Structure and Reactivity in Chemistry and Biochemistry (BCHM112)
- Introduction to Communication Disorders (CMDS113) or Neuroscience of Swallowing and Communication (CMDS162)
- Violence in Society (HSRV103)
- Youth Realities (HSRV104)

Explore more course options at [www.psyc.canterbury.ac.nz](http://www.psyc.canterbury.ac.nz)

**Transferable skills:** Critical thinking, data analysis, interdisciplinary experience and knowledge, report writing and case-study analysis, practical research skills.

**Postgraduate study options:** Bachelor of Science with Honours, Postgraduate Diploma in Clinical Psychology, Postgraduate Diploma in Science, Master of Science.

**Career options:** Behavioural analyst, computer forensics, crime scene investigator, criminal profiler, electronic crime analyst, fingerprint officer, forensic psychologist, forensic scientist, forensic serologist, forensic toxicologist, mediator.