

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 want to have an impact on the lives of people less privileged than me.”*

*– Rudranuj, studying towards a Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry*



### 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, and investigate tax fraud and cybercrime.

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

### 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 interested in the criminal mind you could think about majoring in psychology, or if you're into DNA you might like to study chemistry or biochemistry.

Biochemistry examines the complex processes happening within living organisms including proteins, cell walls, DNA, RNA and more. It is an increasingly useful tool in forensic investigations, thanks to advances in DNA analysis and genetic sequencing.



## BSc in Biochemistry – what you need to know

A BSc in Biochemistry 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 biochemistry:

- 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)
- Chemical Principles and Processes (CHEM111)
- Statistics (STAT101)

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

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

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

**Career options:** Analytical chemist, biomedical scientist, crime scene investigator, lab technician, forensic chemist, forensic serologist, forensic toxicologist.