

Academic year
2025/26 entry



Postgraduate master's courses in

Forensic science

Forensic Archaeology and Anthropology
Forensic Biology
Digital Forensics
Forensic Investigation

Cranfield University

Our reputation

We are the UK's only specialist postgraduate university in technology and management, with longstanding relationships with some of the most prestigious global companies. Our close collaboration with industry, and passion for the areas we operate in, will help your career.



**Specialist
postgraduate**

A research-focused
professional community.

We work with over



1,500

businesses and governments
based in over 40 countries.



Over £150m

of investment in new
facilities over the past
five years.



5,000+

postgraduate
students from
100+ countries.



A network of

80,000+
alumni, from
173+ countries.

As we are postgraduate only, we are not listed in many league tables that help compare undergraduate universities.

Documenting evidence in our crime scene facility



Reasons to study forensic science with us

1

Heritage

Cranfield University has a strong heritage in postgraduate education, industry collaboration and research in forensic science. Cranfield Forensic Institute was established in 1998 and since then has grown into the foremost academic authority in disciplines including digital forensics, explosives, forensic archaeology, forensic anthropology, forensic investigation, and materials science.

2

Industry links

We have developed close links with forensic units, police forces and industry partners which has allowed us to not only enhance their staff with education and research, but our students benefit from enhanced networking opportunities whilst studying.

3

Flexible delivery

We recognise that the majority of students seek to further their careers or add skills and experience to their portfolio. Our courses are organised and resourced to provide full- and part-time options to enable you to maximise limited study time.

4

World-class facilities

The University features its own airport and crash investigation site, a simulated mass grave, crime scene investigation house, morgue scene and anthropology laboratory and multiple world-class laboratory facilities.

5

Hands-on learning

We use hands-on simulations and workshops to bring our teaching to life. Learn from experienced academics and industry professionals in an environment that prepares you for your future role.

6

Expert-driven teaching

Our team of academics and researchers are at the forefront of their fields. Offering you the chance to learn and work with current practitioners, industry experts and the choice to continue your studies through to further research.

Courses

We know how important it is for you to get the most out of your study and use it to set yourself up for a successful career in forensic science.

This is why the Cranfield Forensic programme is designed specifically to let you choose elective modules that suit you personally, professionally or just strike up interest and enthusiasm.

Compulsory modules are listed in the order they are delivered. For further details on the elective modules for each course please see the course pages on our website.

The compulsory modules offered in the 2024-25 academic year, are shown to give you an idea of course content. To keep our courses relevant and up-to-date, modules are subject to change so please check the latest information on our website.

Forensic Archaeology and Anthropology

www.cranfield.ac.uk/faa	Full-time, Part-time	MSc, PgDip
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You will have the opportunity at getting your hands dirty with practical archaeological excavations, recovery and identification of human remains, exploring the science and investigating simulated mass grave sites and using a plethora of practical and theory-based techniques to analyse human remains from a variety of contexts.

Compulsory modules

- Introductory Studies,
- Investigation and Evidence Collection,
- Reasoning for Forensic Science,
- Analytical Techniques,
- Courtroom Skills,
- Forensic Archaeology: Recovering Buried Remains,
- Forensic Archaeology: Mass Grave Excavation,
- Fundamentals of Forensic Anthropology,
- Further Forensic Anthropology: Identification,
- Thesis.



Accredited by:



The
Chartered
Society of
Forensic
Sciences

Forensic Biology

www.cranfield.ac.uk/forensicbiology	Full-time, Part-time	MSc, PgDip
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There is a focus on the interpretational skills required to critically evaluate different forms of forensic evidence recovered from exhibits in the laboratory and at the crime scene, based on scenarios.

Compulsory modules

- Introductory Studies,
- Investigation and Evidence Collection,
- Reasoning for Forensic Science,
- Analytical Techniques,
- Courtroom Skills
- DNA,
- Body Fluids,
- Bloodstain Pattern Analysis,
- Thesis.

Digital Forensics

www.cranfield.ac.uk/digitalforensics	Full-time, Part-time	MSc, PgDip, PgCert
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The MSc in Digital Forensics seeks to address the academically orientated operational needs of policing and serious skills shortage of educated and trained individuals in the field to fill digital forensic positions and support criminal justice systems and private sector.

Compulsory modules

- Introductory Studies,
- Digital Forensics Techniques and Traces,
- Introduction to Digital Crime and Investigation,
- Internet Based Investigations,
- Programming for Digital Forensics,
- Mobile Device Forensics,
- Investigation and Evidence Collection,
- Courtroom Skills,
- Thesis.



Accredited by:



Accredited Degree

Forensic Investigation

www.cranfield.ac.uk/forensicinvestigation	Full-time, Part-time	MSc, PgDip, PgCert
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It is designed to give an understanding of the cutting-edge research and latest forensic methodologies and is intended to enable graduates to resolve issues in relation to civil and criminal law.

Compulsory modules

- Introductory Studies,
- Investigation and Evidence Collection,
- Reasoning for Forensic Science,
- Analytical Techniques,
- Courtroom Skills,
- Advanced Crime Scene Investigation,
- Thesis.



Accredited by:



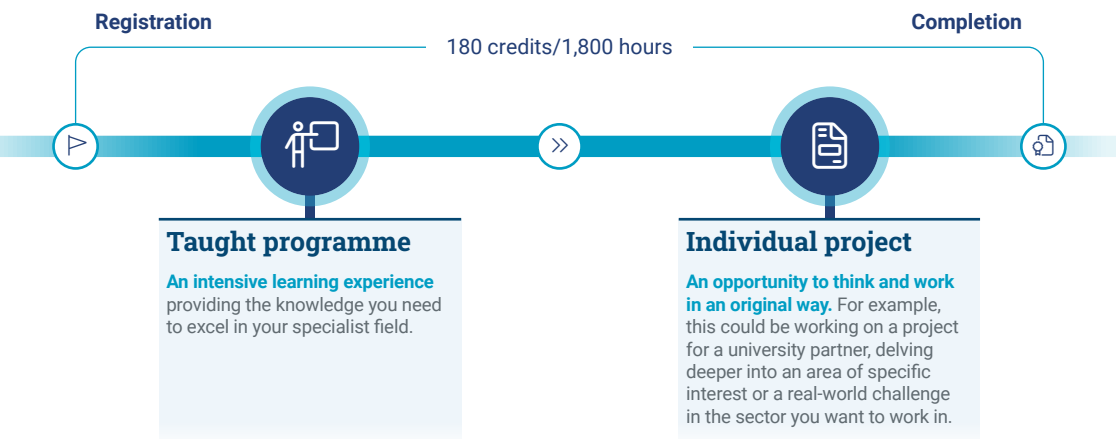
The Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences



Course structure

Our specialist, sector-focused master's courses are set up and developed in close collaboration with industry partners, ensuring the content of our courses remains industry-relevant and employers are impressed with our graduates' business-readiness.

This diagram illustrates the standard course structure for our master's programmes. Please check your course structure online for more detailed information.



“

“The bloodstain pattern analysis module was absolutely fantastic. The lectures were really informative and engaging, and the practicals were a wonderful experience and really educational. I learnt a lot, and it definitely reinforced my pre-existing passion with the subject.”

Daniela Honig, current student, (Forensic Biology MSc)



Industry links

Cranfield has unrivalled links with industry and academia. You will benefit from our extensive contacts and track record of close collaboration with the forensic and security sectors.

Our Cranfield Recovery and Identification of Conflict Casualties (CRICC) team has taken part in critical collaboration projects with the U.S. Department of Defense in repatriating and identification of fallen WWII US Airforce servicemen.

Our links include worldwide collaborations with other universities and museums. We have been working closely with the National Museum of the Royal Navy, Ministry of Defence (MOD) and Gosling Foundation to investigate and reveal the damage caused to HMS Victory by Deathwatch Beetles. The research aims to support how experts and conservators will analyse future items, artefacts or finds of historical nature.



Informed by industry experience

Our courses are reviewed each year by a team of leading academics and practitioners of companies and institutions in the sector. This ensures that the skills you acquire are up-to-date and what employers want. This includes practitioners within police units, museums, forensic laboratories and wider academia.



Careers

Our forensic courses open doors to several different career opportunities. These include employment routes into government and non-governmental bodies, police forces, law enforcement agencies, independent forensic service providers and consultants working in a range of sectors.

Read more on our website www.cranfield.ac.uk/careers

Roles:

- Casework Officer,
- DNA Specialist,
- Forensic Firearms Technician,
- Forensic Scientist,
- Scenes of Crime Officer,
- Toxicology Analyst.

Organisations:

- Cellmark Forensic Services,
- College of Policing,
- Eurofins UK - Eurofins Scientific,
- Forensic Access Group,
- Taylor Marine,
- Wiltshire Police.

Academic staff

You will be taught by a wide range of subject specialists and industry professionals, who draw upon their research and industrial expertise to provide stimulating and informed teaching.

The academics shown below represent a small proportion of our staff; we also have a large number of highly-experienced guest lecturers.



Dr David Errickson,
Senior Lecturer in
Archaeology and Anthropology

www.cranfield.ac.uk/derrickson

David's background is predominantly in traditional archaeology. He is the current module leader for the Mass Fatality Incidents and Practical Archaeology Excavation modules.



Dr Graeme Horsman,
Senior Lecturer in Digital
Forensics

www.cranfield.ac.uk/ghorsman

Graeme has over 9 years of experience in teaching and research in higher education in the areas of digital forensics and cyber investigation.



Laura Hugh,
Course Director, Forensic
Biology MSc

www.cranfield.ac.uk/lhugh

Laura is a Forensic Biologist with 12 years practitioner experience. She originally trained as a Forensic Examiner in the Forensic Science Service (FSS).



Dr Nick Marquez-Grant,
Reader in Forensic Anthropology

www.cranfield.ac.uk/nmarquezgrant

Nick joined Cranfield as a Lecturer in Forensic Anthropology and supplements his role by remaining practitioner active, working on human skeletal remains from Prehistoric to early 20th century sites.



"I would recommend the Forensic Investigation MSc to anyone looking to gain hands-on experience in crime scene investigation. Cranfield has practical learning in focus and this is what I was lacking from previous studies, so I feel this will compliment my overall knowledge."

Irene Wallenius, current student, (Forensic Investigation MSc)



Key facts and statistics

Course information



Full-time

One year.



Part-time

Up to three years, see the course page for more information about part-time study.



Start date

September.



Award

MSc/PgDip/PgCert.

Not all courses offer all awards, see course information on pages 4 and 5 for details of awards offered.



Fees

Please see the individual course pages on our website for full fee information and full-time or part-time options. Terms and conditions apply.

See www.cranfield.ac.uk/fees

Cohort profile*



Geographic spread

72% UK.

28% International.



Cohort age range

20–49.



Average cohort size

13.



Student/academic staff ratio

4:1.

*These figures give an indication of the course make-up at registration across our forensic courses for the entry 2023-2024.



Useful information



Financing your studies

Whether you are a UK-based or international student, we provide information, advice and a range of online tools to help you put together the funding package you need. Take a look at our funding finder which provides a searchable database of sources of financial support. We also offer bursaries for high quality applicants. Visit our website where we provide a range of additional sources of potential funding and helpful organisations and contacts for information, advice and guidance.

Learn more at www.cranfield.ac.uk/funding

More than a degree with the Cranfield Enhance programme

Cranfield graduates are valued for their distinctive skills and capabilities. We have developed these programmes to complement and enhance what you learn on your chosen qualification. On the Cranfield Enhance programme, you will be able to earn 'digital badges' in areas such as employability and entrepreneurship to showcase your new skills to prospective employers.

Read more at www.cranfield.ac.uk/enhance



"The modules exceeded my expectations. The practical perfectly supplemented the lecture material, and it was a pleasure to be taught by some of the UK's leading professionals in this field."

Eden Gomes, current student, (Forensic Investigation MSc)



Life at Cranfield

A welcoming, professional campus community.



Explore our University

You can personalise your virtual visit to our campus by choosing the subject area you are interested in on our interactive tool:

virtualexperience.cranfield.ac.uk



How to apply

Read more about our entry requirements and how to apply at
www.cranfield.ac.uk/apply

Our location



Located just over an hour from London in the English countryside, Cranfield's campus environment supports close, working relationships between our multinational postgraduate students and academic and industry experts.

www.cranfield.ac.uk/visit



www.cranfield.ac.uk/CFI

Our sector study areas:

Aerospace,
Defence and Security,
Energy and Sustainability,
Environment and Agrifood,

School of Management,
Manufacturing and Materials,
Transport Systems,
Water.



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blogs.cranfield.ac.uk

For a full list of Cranfield courses, please see our **prospectus** and website.

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