



is identity
a proof
in itself?

master of science in forensic science subject area identification

GENERAL OUTLINE

Objectives

The Master of Science (MSc) in Forensic Science, subject area Identification offers in-depth training, both theoretical and practical, in the identification of people or objects.

Transdisciplinary teaching covers the main areas of identification: fingerprinting, DNA analysis, biometrics, detection of traces, firearms and handwriting/signatures, and lays particular emphasis on statistical methods of interpretation.

The Master of Science in Forensic Science, subject area Identification, is designed to lay the foundations of legal expertise in the field of identification. Practical teaching is therefore strongly oriented towards the resolution of fictitious cases and case analyses. Students are encouraged to consider problems relating to research,

detection and identification in investigative and evaluative mode and to conduct their research in the manner of an expert's report intended for the criminal courts.

Career prospects

- Forensic science laboratories in Switzerland or abroad
- Technical and scientific police services in Switzerland or abroad
- Institutes of legal medicine in Switzerland or abroad
- Police services at the cantonal and federal levels
- Administrative services dealing with questions of identity
- Academic and research careers in the forensic field
- Service companies active in biometrics

GENERAL INFORMATION

Organiser

School of Criminal Justice, Faculty of Law and Criminal Justice:
www.unil.ch/esc

Degree awarded

Master of Science (MSc) in Forensic Science, subject area Identification

ECTS credits

120

Duration

4 semesters

Teaching language

French, some courses in English

Enrolment

Applications must be submitted to the Admissions Department before the deadline:
www.unil.ch/immat

Contact

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EDUCATIONAL CONTENT

Description

In the first year, transversal courses cover common areas of the forensic science. Specialist courses provide in-depth theoretical and practical knowledge in different fields of forensic science. "Subject area" courses allow students to improve their understanding of different areas and techniques relating to identification: revelation of prints, fingerprint identification, forensic genetics, analysis and interpretation of biometric data.

In the second year, the students put their knowledge into practice by working on fictional cases covering several types of traces. They also complete a diploma assignment consisting of a personal research project.

The course is completed by optional subjects worth 15 ECTS credits spread out over 2 years.

Examinations

To obtain the Master's degree, a minimum average of 4 is required as well as passes in the examinations corresponding to 90% of the credits. The candidates must also pass their own personal work for the Master's degree.

Mobility

The school has concluded agreements with the Jagiellonian University (Krakow, Poland), the University of Technology (Sydney, Australia), and the Ecole Polytechnique de Toulouse for forensic science. Semesters or projects successfully completed abroad are, in principle, recognised on the student's return from the relevant study periods.

The studies do not include any obligatory internship, but most students do in fact take advantage of the internships organised by the School.

Skills development

University studies develop, in addition to specific academic skills, a great many transverse skills such as: oral and written communication, critical, analytical and summarising faculties, abilities in research, the learning and transmission of knowledge, independence and the ability to make judgments in the field of specialisation and overlapping areas. This panoply of skills, combined with specialist knowledge acquired in the course of studies, is excellent preparation for a wide range of employment opportunities such as those mentioned in the «Career prospects» section.

SYLLABUS

1st year

Mandatory Courses

- Appraisals, Mandates and Reports
- Interpretation of Scientific Evidence
- Statistical Data Processing
- Analysis of Criminality and Information and Communication Technologies
- Investigation Methods (seminar)

17 ECTS credits

Subject area

- Identification of Papillary and Sole Traces
- Identification by Forensic Genetics
- Cryptology and Identities in the Information Society
- Biometrics

20 ECTS credits

Specialised subjects (4 courses from a choice of 5)

- Narcotics Profiling + practical work
- Organic Microtraces + practical work
- Causes of Fire or Explosion + practical work
- Appraisal of Handwriting and Signatures + practical work
- Identification of Firearms based on Munitions Information + practical work
- Operational Criminal Analysis + practical work

18 ECTS credits

Optional Courses

15 ECTS credits over two years

2nd year

Complex Cases

20 ECTS credits

Diploma work

30 ECTS credits

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Admission requirements

The candidate must be a holder of a Bachelor of Science in Forensic Science. Another degree or university title may be judged to be equivalent and give access to this Master's degree course, with or without further conditions. The School of Criminal Justice is competent for the final decision on equivalence (mailto: info.esc@unil.ch), subject to the candidate's formal admissibility to the master's degree course.

Regulations and additional information concerning the course

Web site of the School of Criminal Justice:
www.unil.ch/esc

Final enrolment date

30 April

Candidates needing a visa to study in Switzerland must apply for enrolment at least two months prior to the deadline indicated above.

Start of courses

mid-September

Part-time Master's degree

See Directive 3.12:
www.unil.ch/interne/page44629.html#3

Academic calendar

www.unil.ch/central/page4804.html

Timetables

Web site of the School of Criminal Justice:
www.unil.ch/esc

General information on studies, career prospects and guidance

Guidance and advisory service:
www.unil.ch/soc

Accommodation and financial assistance

Office for socio-cultural affairs:
www.unil.ch/sasc

International students

www.unil.ch/international

Study abroad possibilities

www.unil.ch/echanges



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