



FEBRUARY 2010 TO OCTOBER 2011

certificate of advanced studies (CAS)

statistics and the evaluation of forensic evidence

ON-LINE COURSE

AUDIENCE

Forensic practitioners :
e.g. reporting officers, chief
scientists, lawyers

DATE/SCHEDULE

The first course will start in
February 2010.

The course will be offered on
a yearly basis thereafter.

The course is 18 months in
length with a workload of 4
hours per week.

The length of the course will
allow participants sufficient
time to cope with complex
subject matters. Theory will be
linked to casework to improve
understanding of the key
concepts.

CERTIFICATION

The University of Lausanne
delivers 15 ECTS university
transferable credits.

Faculty of Law and Criminal Sciences, University of Lausanne

CONTENT

This on-line course is designed to train practitioners in the most up to date approaches to the evaluation and interpretation of scientific evidence and to provide them with a sound theoretical and practical background in probabilistic and statistical reasoning.

A probabilistic framework will be established and its use will be illustrated by an extensive set of realistic case studies. Topics will cover issues in scientific evidence evaluation and interpretation, the interpretation of raw data, sampling issues and the communication of findings in both written and oral statements.

The course aims to ensure quality and robustness and to provide training in the interpretation and evaluation of evidence tailored for experts in forensic science by recognised specialists in the field.

WHY CHOOSE E-LEARNING

Current multimedia technology enables the provision of an interactive course rich with innovative aids for teaching and learning. Online training allows the latest knowledge and expertise to be brought directly to your workplace without consideration of distances, travel, expenses or time schedules. Specialists from well-established forensic institutions will interact with participants and help them to tackle, at their own pace, difficult but essential themes.

The learning-platform will enable tutors and participants from different laboratories to study, discuss and exchange ideas on past and present case scenarios involving scientific evidence.



OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of the course are:

- * To gain specialized and up-to-date knowledge in the field of forensic interpretation and evaluation of evidence.
- * To master probabilistic reasoning, graphical models and statistical methods using appropriate tools and software.
- * To deal with issues of interpretation at a high level from case reception to court.
- * To acquire skills in oral and written communication of uncertainty.
- * To develop independence and self-confidence in the solution of practical inferential problems.
- * To establish a fruitful exchange amongst practitioners taking the course.
- * To gain a harmonised view with regard to interpretation across forensic disciplines and laboratories, including the establishment of Standard Operating Procedures.

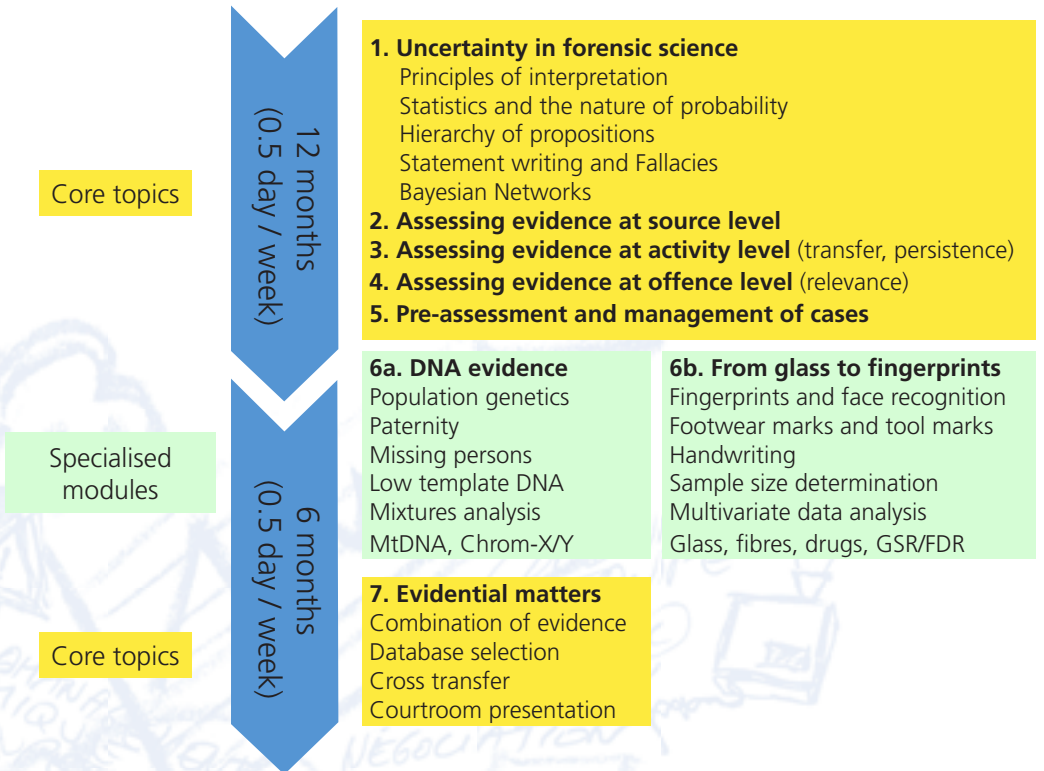
STRUCTURE

The course will begin with core topics covering interdisciplinary interpretation issues that cross forensic disciplines. Theoretical online material will be reinforced by formative and evaluative casework exercises. Specialised computer programs for evaluation and interpretation will be used (e.g. R, Hugin) and a registered forum will allow the sharing of hypothetical cases. Videoconferences will be organised to support specific learning tasks. Participants will also have an opportunity to put together a personal portfolio.

The programme is designed in such a way that specialists of all disciplines will work together in the core modules. Specific evidential topics such as DNA, micro-traces, marks and impressions or handwriting will be covered in specialised modules. All participants will take the core topics, and will choose one of the two specialised modules.



program



Each of the seven modules of the course will be evaluated on-line at regular intervals.

AUDIENCE

The course is open to practitioners from any forensic discipline with a University degree (at least BSc) or an equivalent degree of a higher education programme.

Subscriptions for a course will be restricted to a maximum of thirty participants. Preference will be given to forensic scientists with casework and reporting experience.

INSTRUCTORS

- Professor Franco Taroni (*Forensic statistics*)
- Professor Christophe Champod (*Identification evidence*)
- Dr Alex Biedermann (*Graphical models*)
- Dr Tacha Hicks (*Trace evidence*)

They will develop and tutor the online course.

Professor Colin Aitken (University of Edinburgh, Scotland) and Dr Ian Evett (United Kingdom) will act as consultants and take an active part in the course.

Romain Voisard (University of Lausanne) acts as pedagogical advisor.

All of them have extensive theoretical and practical experience with evaluation and interpretation from laboratory to courtroom. They have published over the years hundreds of scholarly papers and textbooks on the subjects of evaluation and statistics in forensic science.

«There is a critical need in most fields of forensic science to raise the standards for reporting and testifying about the results of investigations»

National Research Council, Strengthening Forensic Science in the United States: A Path Forward. Committee on Identifying the Needs of the Forensic Sciences Community, Committee on Applied and Theoretical Statistics (2009) p.6-3

ADMISSION

Fondation pour la formation continue universitaire lausannoise
Unithèque
1015 Lausanne (VD)
Switzerland

CONTENT OF APPLICATION

The application form duly completed and signed. Your complete curriculum vitae.

Last deadline for registration is January 2010.

FEES

CHF 12'000.- for the whole period

FURTHER INFORMATION AND CONTACT

Website :
[www.unil.ch/formcont/
page66616.html](http://www.unil.ch/formcont/page66616.html)

E-mail address :
sefe@unil.ch

REGISTRATION FORM

REGISTRATION FOR :

Statistics and the evaluation of evidence

PERSONAL DATA :

Last name : First name : Date of birth :

Profession :

Mailing address : private professional

Billing address : private professional

PROFESSIONAL ADDRESS :

PRIVATE ADDRESS :

Company :

Street :

Street :

Postcode and city :

Postcode and city :

Country :

Country :

Private Phone n° :

Professional Phone n° :

Fax n° :

Fax n° :

Mobile n° :

E-mail address :

E-mail address :

Unless specific advertisement made in writing to the participant, any discontinuance announced within 3 weeks before the course results in a deduction of 10% of the entry fee. If less than 10 days before the course, the whole is due to the Foundation.

Date Signature

All courses are updated regularly on our website :
www.unil.ch/formcont

Please return this form by fax or mail :