



do illicit
products
have a signature?

master of science (MSc) in forensic science orientation chemical criminalistics

GENERAL OUTLINE

Objectives

The Master of Science in Forensic Science, orientation Chemical Criminalistics, aims to understand the contribution of analytical chemistry techniques to forensic science as well as to several other fields requiring instrumental analyses in order to solve problems. The programme of the Master includes a theoretical component supplemented by a large number of practical exercises involving analytical chemistry as well as the application of forensic science. In addition to courses taught by the School of Criminal Justice, the programme benefits from the collaboration of the Chemistry and Chemical Engineering Section (SCGC) of the Ecole polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) and of the University Centre of Legal Medicine Lausanne-Geneva (CURML).

Career prospects

University studies develop, in addition to specific academic skills, a great many transverse skills such as: problem-solving abilities, communication, critical, analytical and summarising faculties, abilities in research, and so on. 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:

- Forensic science laboratories in Switzerland or abroad
- Swiss or foreign scientific police laboratories
- Cantonal laboratories
- Institutes of legal medicine and toxicology
- Private or public laboratories active in analytical fields, quality control, the environment, hygiene
- Academic and research careers in the forensic and analytical chemistry fields
- Organisations that combat counterfeiting and illicit trafficking
- Insurance companies, loss control

Alumni move into a wide variety of roles, for example as a scientist in a biomedical material testing laboratory.

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Organisers

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

Degree awarded

Master of Science (MSc) in Forensic Science, orientation Chemical Criminalistics

ECTS credits

120

Duration

4 semesters

Teaching language

French. Recommended level: C1.

A good understanding of English is necessary since most of the literature is published in English and a few courses may be taught in English.

Contact

Secretariat
School of Criminal Sciences
Quartier UNIL-Sorge
Batochime
CH- 1015 Lausanne
Tel. +41 (0)21 692 46 00
info.esc@unil.ch

More information

www.unil.ch/esc

EDUCATIONAL CONTENT

Description

The Master of Science (MSc) in Forensic Science has been entirely reworked and reorganised to offer an even more flexible, specialist and applied course, with a particular focus on practical aspects in each orientation. The “mandatory courses” in year 1 cover cross-disciplinary areas of forensic science, which can be supplemented with the equivalent of 18 ECTS credits from a choice of options, depending on your expectations and interests.

“Specialist subjects” and “additional subjects” are offered in both years of the course and provide a structured basis for problem-solving through specimen analysis. They also contribute to deepen students’ knowledge by proposing different analysis methods. You have the opportunity to put your knowledge into practice within the framework of practical work and projects requiring a concrete and global approach.

In the second year, as part of the module “Cross-disciplinary practical work”, which supplements the “mandatory courses”, you put your knowledge into practice by working on fictional cases covering several types of traces and requiring the coordinated involvement of several groups of forensic experts. The fourth semester is dedicated to a dissertation based on a piece of ambitious personal research, worth 30 ECTS credits.

Mobility

The School has agreements in place with several international universities. You may spend one semester (max. 30 credits) abroad as part of your course, during your second year. Semesters or projects successfully completed abroad are, in principle, recognised on the student’s return from the relevant study periods. Some dissertation work may be completed in a professional setting with one of our partners.

SYLLABUS

Module 1: Mandatory Courses

- Appraisals, Mandates and Reports
- Interpretation of Scientific Evidence and Decision-Making
- Lectures and Seminars
- Cross-disciplinary Practical Work
- Choice of Options (18 ECTS)

38 ECTS credits

Module 2: Specialised Subjects (choice of options)

- Fundamentals of Chemical Criminalistics
- Narcotics Profiling
- Organic Microtraces
- Causes of Fire or Explosion
- Advanced Practice in Chemical Criminalistics
- Operational Criminal Analysis
- Causes of Fire or Explosion
- Appraisal of Handwriting and Signatures
- Choice of options (8 to 16 ECTS)

40 ECTS credits

Module 3: Additional Subjects (choice of options)

- Statistical Data Processing
- Chemical Criminalistics: Applications
- Dating and Chronology
- Analytical Toxicology and Doping
- Ecotoxicology
- Food Chemistry
- Protein Mass Spectrometry and Proteomics
- Risk Management

12 ECTS credits

Module 4: Master’s Thesis

30 ECTS credits

GENERAL INFORMATION

Admission requirements

The candidate must be a holder of a Bachelor of Science in Forensic Science or in Chemistry awarded by a Swiss university. 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 (info.esc@unil.ch), subject to the candidate’s formal admissibility to the Master’s degree course.

Enrolment and final date

Applications must be submitted to the Admissions Department (www.unil.ch/immat) before 30 April. Candidates needing a visa to study in Switzerland: 28 February

Start of courses

Mid-September
Academic calendar: www.unil.ch/central/calendar

Part-time Master’s degree

Under certain conditions, a Master programme can be followed part-time. See www.unil.ch/formations/master-temps-partiel. See also the Master’s degree regulations: www.unil.ch/esc

Timetables

www.unil.ch/esc

General information on studies, guidance

www.unil.ch/soc

Accommodation and financial assistance

www.unil.ch/sasme

International

www.unil.ch/international

