TRENT UNIVERSITY | Forensics



Forensics at Trent University

Canada's Home for Forensic Science

Forensic Science brings together science, investigation, and the law to help answer complex questions. At Trent, you will study in one of Canada's most established forensic programs, learning through specialized courses, advanced laboratories, and a state-of-the-art Crime Scene Facility designed specifically for forensic education.

Few universities offer the breadth of forensic study available at Trent. In addition to our renowned Forensic Science degree, Trent also offers degrees in Forensic Anthropology, Forensic Biology, and Forensic Chemistry, along with opportunities for graduate study through the Master of Science in Forensic Science. Whether Forensics students interested in DNA analysis, human identification, crime scene investigation, ballistics, firearms, environmental forensics, fingerprinting, document examination or chemical evidence, at Trent you develop specialized knowledge through research, field experiences, and close interaction with faculty who are experts in the field.

A Forensics Education Built Around Your Interests

Forensic science relies on more than technical expertise. Professionals in the field need strong analytical thinking, attention to detail, communication skills, and the ability to draw connections across disciplines. At Trent, students develop those abilities through an interdisciplinary approach that encourages you to explore forensic science from multiple perspectives.

With flexible degree options, including joint majors, you can tailor your studies to reflect your interests and goals. You also have opportunities to gain experience through a placement, community-based research project or a research thesis; where students design and carry out research and contribute to projects often in collaboration with organizations such as the Centre for Forensic Science, Canada Border Services Agency, RCMP, and Health Canada.

Why Study Forensic Science?

As the bridge between the laboratory and the courtroom, Forensic Science plays a critical role in modern investigations, helping uncover and interpret evidence through scientific analysis. From identifying human remains and analyzing DNA to examining unknown substances and reconstructing events, forensic professionals contribute expertise that supports both investigations and the justice system.



Get Hands on in a Space Built for Investigation

A first-of-its-kind learning space on a Canadian university campus, Trent's 4,100 square-foot Forensics Crime Scene Facility gives you the opportunity to work in staged crime scenes to gather evidence, examine vehicles, investigate ballistic patterns, fingerprints and documents, collect DNA swabs for analysis, and tackle the complexities of outdoor investigations. Learning these skills right on campus is what sets our graduates apart in the workforce.

"An experience I felt was unique to Trent was the third-year placement I completed where I was able to work with the Canadian Border Services Agency as a Student Border Services Officer. I got to do everything a full-time officer would do."



Maia Sitzer, Bachelor of Forensic Science (B.Sc.) Graduate



Forensic Science, Five Ways

Which Forensic Program is Right for You?

Curious about how science solves crimes?

1 FORENSIC SCIENCE (B.Sc.): Trent's renowned Forensic Science program combines science, investigation, and the law to examine how evidence is collected, analyzed, interpreted, and presented. Students study core sciences while exploring investigative practices and legal principles that shape modern forensic investigations.

Interested in the stories our bones can tell?

2 FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY (B.Sc.): Explore how biological anthropology and forensic science work together to support human identification investigations. Study skeletal remains, human variation, and recovery techniques used in missing persons cases, mass disasters, archaeological findings, and forensic casework.

Fascinated by the science of living things?

3 FORENSIC BIOLOGY (B.Sc.): Focus on the biological evidence behind forensic investigations through the study of genetics, DNA, molecular biology, and living systems. Learn how biological evidence can help answer questions in criminal investigations, human identification, and related scientific fields.

Intrigued by unknown substances?

4 FORENSIC CHEMISTRY (B.Sc.) Co-op Available: One of the only degree programs of its kind in Canada, Forensic Chemistry focuses on the analysis and identification of substances that often play a critical role in forensic investigations. Combine chemistry with forensic applications to better understand the evidence behind a case, with the option to add paid work experience to your degree as part of our co-op stream.

Add a Specialization in Law & Policing

Round out your Forensic Science degree with a career focused Law & Policing specialization. Apply Forensics principles and techniques to the Canadian legal system and build skills to meet the changing demands of forensic investigation in this field.

5 Customize Your Degree with a Joint Major

At Trent, you can design your degree around your interests. With flexible degree options and an emphasis on interdisciplinary learning, Trent is one of the only universities to offer joint majors within Forensics, making it easy to combine Forensic Science with an Arts or Science major of your choice. A Forensics joint major will broaden your expertise and equip you with a unique combination of skills that employers notice.

Whether you are interested in the science behind the evidence, the minds behind the crimes, or the business of forensic organizations, a joint major allows you tailor your education to your career goals.

Popular Forensics Joint Majors include:

- PSYCHOLOGY: Explore how human behaviour and mental health relate to forensic investigation.
- SOCIOLOGY: Understand how justice and social factors intertwine to shape communities.
- BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION: Develop leadership and management skills to apply to forensic organizations.
- COMPUTER SCIENCE: Build technical skills that complement the growing field of digital forensics.



Take Your Forensics Education Further

Through Trent's Master of Science in Forensic Science (M.Sc.F.S.), you can pursue advanced, independent research and specialized training while investigating complex forensic questions and deepening your expertise in a focused area of study.

What Can I Do With My Forensics Degree?

As forensic science advances, so do the opportunities for graduates in this evolving field. At Trent, you develop the knowledge and experience to pursue and succeed in a variety of careers:

- Forensic Scientist
- Crime Scene Technician
- Criminologist
- Human Identification Specialist
- DNA Analyst
- Forensic Wildlife Specialist
- Forensic Chemist
- Genetic Counselor
- Forensic Toxicologist

"Our department provides diverse programing to our students, with intention to ready students for all kinds of careers, from crime scene through the lab to courthouse, and anywhere in between. Students who enter our programs gain deeper understanding of fundamental concepts, and technical hands-on experience with practical aspects of forensic science which are tangible assets for future positions."



Dr. Sanela Martic
Department Chair & Associate Professor
Forensic Science Department,
Environmental and Life Sciences Program/
Material Science Program

Admission Requirements

General admission requirements for all Trent Forensics programs: Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) with six 4U/M courses, including ENG4U. Admission requirements vary by program. Review the requirements below and visit trentu.ca for the most up-to-date admission information.

Program	Requirements	Recommendations	Estimated Admission Average
Forensic Anthropology (B.Sc.)*	ENG4U, SBI4U, and 4U Math	–	75 - 80%
Forensic Biology (B.Sc.)*	ENG4U, SBI4U, SCH4U, and MHF4U or MCV4U	SPH4U	75 - 80%
Forensic Chemistry (B.Sc.)*	ENG4U, SBI4U, SCH4U, and MHF4U or MCV4U	SPH4U	75 - 80% Co-op Admission Average - 80-85%
Forensic Science (B.Sc.F.S.)*	ENG4U, SBI4U, SCH4U, and MHF4U or MCV4U	SPH4U	75 - 80%
Forensics & Arts (B.A.)	ENG4U	–	70 - 75%
Forensics & Science (B.Sc.)	ENG4U	4U Math	70 - 75%

* Pre-requisite courses used in calculating admission average



Funding Your Education

Renewable Entrance Scholarships

Attention top scholars! Undergraduate students with an entering average of 95%+ are awarded full first-year tuition. Achieve an average of 80% or higher and you automatically receive an entrance scholarship – no application required. And it's not just a one-time thing. Trent's national entrance scholarships are RENEWABLE each year. When you maintain an 80% average each year, this can really pay off – with a total scholarship potential of $18,000.

Entrance Average	Maximum Scholarship Potential
95%+	$18,241 $6,241 first year tuition + $4,000 x 3 years
90% - 94.9%	$12,000 $3,000 x 4 years
85% - 89.9%	$8,000 $2,000 x 4 years
80% - 84.9%	$6,000 $1,500 x 4 years

Forensics Awards & Prizes

Trent offers dedicated awards, scholarships, and prizes to help support Forensics students throughout their studies. Here are just a few:

- Walker Wood Foundation Award ($2,500): Generous support from the Walker Wood Foundation provides scholarships and awards to help Trent Forensic Science students pursue their academic and career goals.
- Forensic Science Student of Excellence Prize: Recognizes a graduating Forensic Science student who has demonstrated excellence in and beyond the classroom throughout their time at Trent.
- Greg & Laura Piasetzki Award: Awarded annually to a returning Forensic Science student.

Explore a full list of available scholarship and bursaries trentu.ca/scholarships



Connect With Us

1-888-739-8885
1-289-512-0194
discovertrent@trentu.ca
@TrentUniversity
TrentUniversity
@trent.university
TrentUniversity

Find Us

Directions and campus map for the Peterborough campus:
trentu.ca/howtofindus

Questions? Get In Touch

Connect with the Forensics department:
(705) 748-1011 x7200
forensicscience@trentu.ca

Discover Trent

Find your place at Trent. Join our virtual livestreams to discover the Trent Advantage and visit our campuses for Open House or a campus tour to meet our community and explore our spaces. Tours run six days a week, Monday to Saturday.
trentu.ca/discover

Trent Advantage Livestream Series

Join us for one hour livestream events where you can connect with faculty, staff and current students as they cover topics including programs, admission requirements, how to apply, residence, and experiential learning opportunities, to name a few.
trentu.ca/livestreams

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* conditions apply

TRENT UNIVERSITY

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