

The following questions have been designed to assist prospective students and parents assess the content and structure of tertiary forensic science courses. The list of questions and answers is still under development, so if you have any comments regarding other questions/answers that may be detailed or other suggestions regarding information which would assist you, please let us know by e-mailing [info@nifs.com.au](mailto:info@nifs.com.au)

1. What is the name of your course(s)?
2. What is the level (BSc, MSc, etc) and duration of your course(s)?
3. Is there a specific focus for your course? If so, what is it?  
***Ensure the specific focus of the course is relevant for your intended career path***
4. Is it offered in part-time mode?
5. Is it offered in distance education mode?
6. What are the entry requirements?
7. Do you recognise relevant prior learning (i.e. can give exemptions for subjects already passed at other institutions)? If yes, can you name the institutions for which this applies?  
***The general expectation is that equivalent subjects at an equivalent level will be recognised***
8. Do you have any formal arrangement for transfer or exchanges with other institutions? If yes, can you name the institutions for which this applies?
9. How many units of general science subjects (eg. chemistry, biology, physics) are in the course and at what level?  
***This answer will be course dependent (eg. undergraduate v. postgraduate)  
For a 3-year Bachelor degree, at least half of the units should be general science subjects***
10. How many units of specialised forensic science subjects (eg. physical evidence, crime scene, toxicology, forensic biology, expert evidence presentation, etc.) are in the course?  
***This answer will be course dependent (eg. undergraduate v. postgraduate)  
For a 1-year Graduate Diploma all units may be specialised forensic subjects***
11. What electives or additional subjects (eg. psychology, law, statistics, criminology) are offered in the course?  
***Electives or additional subjects should be relevant for your intended career path***
12. What is the percentage of practical v. theory?  
***Laboratory/field science subjects or courses should have a strong practical component***
13. Does the course include a research component?  
***For employment in the forensic industry, a course that includes a research component is highly desirable***
14. Does the course include an industry-based component? For example placements, internships, laboratory visits, etc.  
***Some form of industry-based component is highly desirable***

15. Do you involve industry-based personnel in teaching and/or project supervision? If so, to what extent?  
***The involvement of industry-based personnel is highly desirable. The extent of this involvement should be appropriate for the level and aims of the course***
16. Do you have academic staff with experience in forensic casework? If so, please provide details.  
***It is highly desirable that academic staff delivering specialised forensic subjects have forensic casework experience.***
17. Do you have a Course Advisory Committee or equivalent and who are members of this group? Do they include operational forensic service managers?  
***There should be a Course Advisory Committee or equivalent and membership should include operational forensic service managers***
18. What career opportunities will this course give me?  
***The career opportunities should be consistent with your intended career path***
19. What is the level of graduate employment on completion of this course? Can you give me some specific examples of graduate employment outcomes?  
***The level of graduate employment should be high and specific examples should be provided that are consistent with your intended career path***
20. Can graduates pursue research degrees after this course? If so, what are the options?  
***This answer will be course dependent. For an undergraduate degree, there should be a clear progression path to a research program***