You’ll work in modern research labs alongside staff who are international leaders in their field. You can also spend time doing fieldwork at forensic agencies and voluntary organisations that provide services for offenders or victims of crime. You’ll explore how forensic psychology relates to policy and practice in areas such as adult corrections, family violence prevention, youth offending, and child eyewitness interviewing.

CAREERS
You’ll graduate with transferable skills and knowledge useful to inform work in various roles such as a research or policy analyst, psychologist, a rehabilitation programme facilitator, or a police or probation officer. Previous graduates have found employment in a range of settings, including the Department of Corrections, district health boards, Police, and the Ministry of Social Development. This programme can also lead to a PhD.

WHO CAN APPLY
This programme is suited to students with an undergraduate degree in Psychology or equivalent with at least a B+ average in their best four final year Psychology courses.
PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

The Master of Science in Forensic Psychology is a two-year programme that combines coursework with a research thesis. The programme comprises:

FPSY 580 Research Preparation (30 points): A practical course where students will acquire the key skills needed to undertake postgraduate level research in some aspect of Forensic Psychology.

PSYC 412 The Psychology of Criminal Conduct 1: Basic Concepts in Criminal Justice and Crime (15 points): This course covers basic concepts in criminal justice and the study of crime, and examines the nature of offending from sociological, psychiatric, and psychological perspectives.

PSYC 442 The Psychology of Criminal Conduct 2: Areas of Application (15 points): Focusing on the application of theory and research to practice, this course usually includes psychopathy, rehabilitation topics, forensic assessment, and theories and rehabilitation with various types of offenders.

FPSY 591 Thesis (120 points): A focused research thesis in a student’s chosen area, supervised by one of the principal investigators within the programme. Further courses worth a total of 60 points, typically from:
- Forensic Psychology (FPSY 401–488)
- Psychology (PSYC 401–488)

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Programme Director
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SHAMEEELA ALLEN
Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Kahungunu
Collections Registry Officer,
Ministry of Justice

“I have always been interested in the intersection between psychology and crime and how scientific research can help to understand why people offend, as well as identifying ways in which we may reduce reoffending.

“Victoria University of Wellington is a great place to study and is widely recognised for the level and quality of research produced. This Master’s programme not only enhanced my forensic and clinical knowledgebase but also provided valuable practical experience through the many internships offered at different agencies.

“In my current role, I deal with the collection of fines, civil enforcement, and victim reparation. This can involve issuing attachment orders, warrants, court summons, and writing reports to Judges. I am currently on secondment as part of a small team involved in a pilot initiative helping to resolve historical profiles and return reparation payments to victims of crime.”

www.victoria.ac.nz/forensic