
Criminology and Forensic Science for Leaders: Crime Analysis, Prevention and Evidence Use Course

18 – 22 January 2027
Geneva





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Ref: 720_34969 **Date:** 18 – 22 January 2027 **Location:** Geneva **Fees:** 5500 GBP

Programme Summary

Criminology and forensic science for leaders is the subject of this one-week training course for senior officials at strategic level who use crime analysis and forensic results in decisions, ending in a crime and forensic briefing pack for one area. Leaders are asked to explain crime trends, fund prevention and rely on laboratory findings they did not produce. The programme moves from explanations of crime to analysis, prevention design and the questions to put to forensic providers, using examples from policing, security and justice. Mars Training Centre UK delivers this programme on criminology and forensic science to mixed-organisation cohorts.

The Business Case

Resources follow what leaders believe about crime. A trend read from poor data sends patrols to the wrong place, a prevention measure that is never tested continues by habit, and a forensic result accepted without questions can carry more weight than it deserves. Leaders who can test the analysis, the intervention and the science behind a finding make decisions that withstand scrutiny from courts, oversight bodies and the public.

- Resource Targeting: Improves as crime patterns are separated from reporting effects before deployment.
- Prevention Value: Rises as crime prevention measures are chosen, targeted and evaluated against a stated problem.
- Evidence Reliability: Strengthens as forensic requests, limits and quality controls are questioned before reliance.

Principles and Evidence Base

- ISO/IEC 17020 Requirements for Inspection Bodies: Frames the questions leaders ask about scene examination and inspection activity, applied in Session 4.
- ISO/IEC 17025 Competence of Testing and Calibration Laboratories: Frames the questions leaders ask about laboratory methods, validation and reporting, applied in Session 4.
- Crime Pattern Analysis Logic: Separates tactical from strategic analysis and tests patterns against recording bias, applied in Sessions 1, 2 and 5.
- Problem Analysis Logic: Links a prevention measure to a defined problem, a mechanism and a test of effect, applied in Sessions 3 and 5.



Intended Participants

- Senior officials who set policing and security priorities from crime analysis.
- Leaders who commission forensic work and must judge the reports they receive.
- Justice sector managers who rely on forensic and crime data in policy and case decisions.
- Risk directors who protect people, property and assets from crime.
- Heads of strategy who fund and review prevention programmes.

Typical settings include police services, private security, justice ministries and critical infrastructure operators.

Learning Outcomes

1. Participants will be able to evaluate explanations of crime against local evidence and recording limits.
2. Participants will be able to diagnose patterns, hotspots and trends in a crime data set.
3. Participants will be able to construct a prevention plan tied to a defined problem and a test of effect.
4. Participants will be able to prioritise interventions and partners by expected value and risk of displacement.
5. Participants will be able to formulate a forensic request that states the question, scope and quality expectations.
6. Participants will be able to justify reliance on, or challenge of, a forensic report from its stated limits.

Programme Structure

Day 1: Criminology Foundations: Causes, Context and Data

Which explanations of crime help leaders judge the patterns they are shown?

- Crime Causation Theory Map
- Offender, Victim and Place Triangle
- Crime Data Source Review
- Recorded Crime Bias Checklist
- Local Context Profile Sheet

Day 2: Crime Analysis: Patterns, Hotspots and Trends

How are patterns identified and separated from noise?

- Hotspot Mapping Review
- Tactical and Strategic Analysis Brief
- Trend and Seasonality Chart
- Series Linkage Test
- Analytical Product Quality Checklist



Day 3: Crime Prevention Design and Evaluation

How is a prevention measure chosen, targeted and tested?

- Problem Analysis Worksheet
- Intervention Options Matrix
- Displacement and Backfire Screen
- Partner Roles Chart
- Prevention Evaluation Plan

Day 4: Forensic Science Results: Commissioning, Quality and Interpretation

What should a leader ask before, during and after a forensic examination?

- Forensic Request Specification
- ISO/IEC 17020 Scene Activity Review
- ISO/IEC 17025 Laboratory Question Set
- Evidence Weight and Limits Statement
- Forensic Report Challenge Questions

Day 5: Crime and Forensic Briefing Pack for One Area

Do analysis, prevention and forensic findings form one briefing that a senior board could act on?

- Applying the Session 2 Hotspot Mapping Review
- Testing the Session 3 Intervention Options Matrix
- Reviewing the Session 4 Report Challenge Questions
- Checking the Session 1 Recorded Crime Bias Checklist
- Completing the Crime and Forensic Briefing Pack

Methodology

The programme uses a data workshop built on one prepared area case with recorded crime data, a draft prevention proposal and two sample forensic reports. Participants decide each step, record the reason in a common format and compare results in small groups before applying the same tools to an area or case from their own organisation.

- Suggested activity: Reading a hotspot map for reporting bias before deploying resources.
- Suggested activity: Designing a test of effect for a prevention measure.
- Suggested activity: Questioning a sample forensic report on method, limits and wording.



Capstone Output

Each participant completes a crime and forensic briefing pack for one area. It holds a data quality note, a pattern summary, a prevention plan with an evaluation test, a forensic request specification and a list of questions for the next report received. The pack is used at work to brief the senior board and to guide the next funding round.

Frequently Asked Questions

Is criminology and forensic science training suitable for leaders without a scientific background?

Yes. Criminology and forensic science are taught through a worked area case. The training assumes experience in policing, security or justice at senior level, but no laboratory or statistical background.

Which references does criminology and forensic science training rest on?

Criminology and forensic science training rests on ISO/IEC 17020 and ISO/IEC 17025 for forensic quality, together with crime pattern analysis logic and problem analysis logic for crime prevention.

How is the briefing pack from criminology and forensic science training used at work?

You use the crime and forensic briefing pack to brief your senior board, set the questions for the next forensic report, and justify where prevention funds are directed.

How does criminology and forensic science differ from criminal investigation training?

Criminology and forensic science training covers crime patterns, prevention and reliance on forensic results, while criminal investigation training concentrates on running an inquiry, interviews and case files.