

## **GRADUATE POLICE EDUCATION IN TURKEY: 10 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE**

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**ABSTRACT:** The Institute of Legal Medicine and Forensic Sciences of Istanbul University, Turkey is an institute of higher learning that aims to teach the graduates of diverse disciplines the forensic aspects of their fields. The institute that gives master's and PhD degrees in Forensic Sciences, aims to enable students to explore a particular interest across several fields. One of the groups of students is graduates of Turkish Police or Military Academies. The institute enrolls students from 1990 and on to this program. Characteristics of the program will be presented in order to share our experiences with international colleagues.

**KEYWORDS:** Graduate education; Law enforcement; Istanbul University; Turkey.

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### INTRODUCTION

Success in struggle against crime directly depends on training and education of the criminal justice personnel and particularly the police [1, 2, 3, 4]. The Institute of Forensic Sciences of Istanbul University makes substantial contributions to the post graduate education of the graduates of the national police academy in Turkey, since almost its foundation in 1985.

The Institute of Forensic Science of Istanbul University is the one and only academic institution in Turkey, offering graduate degrees in forensic sciences. The Institute provides comprehensive and enlightened training to prepare its graduates for law practice, for public service at the national and international levels, and for forensic science teaching and scholarship.

The Graduate Program is the division of Istanbul University responsible for Master in Forensic Sciences and the Doctor of Forensic Sciences (PhD) degrees and for various aspects of graduate forensic science studies.

As Istanbul University continues to internationalize its students, faculty and curriculum, the Graduate Program is one of the University's most valuable resources. Through our degree programs, we are working to train the next generation of leaders in academia, private practice, government and non-profit and non-governmental organizations.

The Graduate Program attracts lawyers, judges, prosecutors, law enforcement officers, and scientists of demonstrated intellectual and academic excellence from all over the country. Each year, the Master in Forensic Sciences program enrolls 50–70 outstanding students – the nation’s future leaders in teaching and scholarship, government service, international organizations and private practice. The PhD program, modeled on the very best PhD programs in other disciplines, hosts some 20 individuals planning careers in teaching and scholarship.

The Master of Forensic Science has six concentrations: criminalistics, advanced investigation, forensic molecular biology, criminology, forensic psychology and criminal justice.

One of the groups of students is graduates of Turkish Police or Military Academies. The Institute enrolls students from 1990 and on to this program. The regular full time post-graduate program of advanced investigation is especially designed and offered to them and they can also be enrolled to criminalistics, criminology and criminal justice, the details of which will be given below.

55 students have been enrolled as a total within 10 years and 3 of them have completed their PhD Thesis topics range from: “Firearm identification”, “Collection and identification of gunshot residues” and “Drug dependence in Turkey” to “Fingerprint classification and comparison: An evaluation of AFIS”, “Organised crime” etc.

#### THE CONCENTRATION OF ADVANCED INVESTIGATION

An in-depth study of crime scene procedures including recognition, protection, documentation and collection of physical evidence; scene documentation, scene search procedures; reconstruction from evidence and scene patterns; comparison and individualisation of physical evidence by biological and chemical properties is presented in lectures and carried out in the laboratory, the theories and practice of microscopic, biological, immunological and chemical analysis are applied to the examination of blood, saliva, seminal fluid, hair, tissues, botanical evidence and other material of forensic interest. A part of the course material consists also: an inquiry into the nature and scope of the Turkish Constitution as it relates to criminal procedures, the law of search and seizure, arrests and the right to counsel, comprehensive study of the rules of evidence particularly as applied to physical evidence including judicial notice, presumptions, hearsay rules, confessions admissions, scientific evidence and expert testimony, an introduction to procedures and techniques for medicolegal investigation of questioned death and identification of deceased persons, including autopsy technique,

odontological procedures and anthropological approaches, an Introduction to the use of computerised mapping in crime control and prevention, crime mapping software, the spatial analysis of crime with an emphasis on street level drug markets and tracking serial offenders with use of GIS data.

The courses and the credit hours that have to be completed are as follows.

The following courses are required: FSS 510 – Law and Evidence; FSB 520 – Advanced Criminalistics I; FSB 521 – Advanced Criminalistics II; FSB 524 – Statistics in Forensic Sciences; FSM 510 – Legal Medicine; FSB 531 – Advanced Investigation I; FSB 532 – Advanced Investigation II. Plus one of the following: FSM 511 – Forensic Psychiatry; FSB 533 – Application of GIS in Criminal Justice; FSB 528 – Crime and Evidence; FSB 530 – Firearms and Toolmark Identification.

#### MASTER OF FORENSIC SCIENCES WITH A CONCENTRATION IN CRIMINOLOGY

This concentration aims to provide contemporary information on crime prevention, the theory and practice of punishment, criminal offenders, the police, courts and correctional institutions and current crime and deviance issues.

The following courses are required: FSS 530 – Introduction to Criminology; FSB 520 – Advanced Criminalistics I; FSM 510 – Legal Medicine; FSB 510 – Research Methods and Statistics in Criminology; FSS 531 – Victimology; FSM 511 – Forensic Psychiatry.

Plus two of the following: FSS 551 – Psychology of Criminal Behavior; FSB 511 – Forensic Anthropology; FSS 532 – Advanced Crime Prevention; FSS 533 – Literature Review in Forensic Science; FSB 528 Crime and Evidence.

#### MASTER OF FORENSIC SCIENCES WITH A CONCENTRATION IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE

This concentration aims to provide contemporary information on theory and practice of medico-legal and forensic science investigation techniques.

The following courses are required: FSB 520 – Advanced Criminalistics I; FSS 511 – Criminal Law: Evidence; FSM 510 – Legal Medicine; FSS 512 – Forensic Issues in Turkish Criminal Justice System; FSS 513 – Scientific Evidence in Civil and Criminal Cases.

Plus three of the following: FSS 514 – Harmonisation of Law; FSB 512 – Survey Methods in Criminal Justice; FSS 532 – Advanced Crime Preven-

tion; FSS 551 – Psychology of Criminal Behavior; FSS 533 – Literature Review in Forensic Science; FSB 528 – Crime and Evidence; FSM 511 – Forensic Psychiatry.

The studies are purely academic and the degrees do not guarantee a certain ranking the police hierarchy in our country.

We believe that in an approach of a European integration, working together to combat crime and trying to improve the quality of policing for our public we have to pay more attention in the teaching of police and not live the whole process to training. On this issue the universities have to undertake their responsibilities and International cooperation will be maximally beneficial.

References:

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