

Development dialogue
Master Forensic Science
University of Amsterdam
Amsterdam, 17 March 2023

The development dialogue was conducted in Amsterdam on 17 March 2023, at the end of the site visit of the assessment panel to the Master Forensic Science of University of Amsterdam. At the request of programme management of the Master Forensic Science, a number of recommendations of the panel were discussed.

The first panel recommendation discussed is to strengthen writing skills and advising knowledge and skills in the curriculum, the latter including the methodology of forensic science advising. Advising knowledge and skills in the forensic science field rest upon the clear methodology developed in this field of expertise. A body of knowledge has been developed with respect to the methodology for advising in the forensic science field. The panel, therefore, emphasises the importance not only of advising skills but also of advising knowledge, clearly including knowledge with respect to this methodology. The panel thinks it relevant to go to the professional field and ask them what they expect about advising knowledge and skills of programme graduates.

The second panel recommendation discussed is to inform students better about the second year of the programme and to intensify student meetings and study guidance in this year. The panel sees clear differences between the first year of the programme in which students intensively work together in interdisciplinary groups and the second year in which they tend to work mostly individually and on their own. The panel detects stress among students about this second year, in particular about finding adequate internships for the Research Projects. To reduce this stress, more formalised tools and instruments for study guidance, information and meetings would be very helpful.

The third panel recommendation discussed is to explore possibilities to enhance the diversity of disciplines (e.g. physics, mathematics, engineering) in the student population. One of the ways to enhance this diversity and to promote physics, mathematics or engineering students enrolling is to offer courses in these fields.

The fourth panel recommendation discussed is to consider developing independently the subjects of digital forensic science and data science from the *Cybercrime, Digital Traces & Forensic Data Analysis* course. The subjects of digital forensic science and data science are quite different. Digital forensic science is a specific branch of forensic science. Data science may be applied to all fields, such as bioinformatics in case of the life sciences. The panel recommends to further develop the *Cybercrime, Digital Traces & Forensic Data Analysis* course to address this difference more clearly.

The fifth panel recommendation discussed is to reorganise the Research Project assessment form, limiting the form to crucial criteria and allowing for more spread of final grades. The panel feels limiting the items listed in this assessment form to crucial criteria may make the form simpler and easier to fill out and may also lead to more differentiation of final grades.