

FORENSICS AT THE FRONTLINE OF MALTA'S HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION

The European Forensic Institute – located at Malta's Life Sciences Park – offers undergraduate programmes and professional training in the fields of forensic science, criminology, digital forensics, investigative and intelligence sciences, with the aim of bringing together experts with students and professionals alike.

Innovation is at the forefront of this higher education institution, where programmes are continuously evolving to meet the needs of professional life and the most modern requirements of the forensic and investigative field.

The programmes are orientated towards the skills and knowledge required to meet the requirements of 21st century forensic services supporting criminal justice.

"At the European Forensic Institute, we pride ourselves on providing a truly distinctive learning environment where learners connect directly with professionals working in all areas of investigative sciences," according to Andreas Melinato, Director of the European Forensic Institute (EFI).

Melinato, who is a forensic engineer and an expert in fire investigation and road accident reconstruction, said: "We are fortunate to work with professionals from a broad spectrum of expertise, from Crime Scene Investigation to Digital Forensics and Natural Sciences in Chemistry and Biology to Data Sciences in Information Technology, and even Machine Learning and Blockchain.

"Each expert brings a unique point of view to the table, contributing to the diversity in thought and discussion invaluable to students.



Andreas Melinato, Director of the European Forensic Institute (EFI), pictured with Prof Robert Milne, EFI's Dean of Applied Science, at the 'crime scene' during a training exercise.

"The experience of our academic team stems from many professional service sectors including public policing, judiciary, academic and counselling to private sector investigators, natural scientists, data scientists, engineers and experts in IT, financial services and law.

"Our collaboration includes close working relationship with the most prestigious forensic science associations globally. In addition to the abundance of knowledge available for transfer, students also benefit immensely from learning about the skills and competences required of a professional directly from the expert giving them a head start in their careers."

ACCESS TO LATEST RESEARCH

Prof Robert Milne, EFI's Dean of Applied Science, with over 40 years of experience at Scotland Yard and a forensic intelligence pioneer, said that the blended teaching model (where students learn the theory online and then meet up for practical laboratory work) is game-changing, allowing for busy professionals to connect with students seamlessly.

"Teaching is frequently underrated, but at the Institute, this highly fulfilling job is made accessible and truly valued. In addition, academic staff and students are encouraged to become members of the Chartered Society of Forensic

Sciences (CSFS), giving them access to the latest research and access to their peers," he added.

The EFI's headquarters, which is strategically located at the heart of the Mediterranean Sea, makes it a favourable hub for forensic innovation. "Malta was selected due to its location and strong business systems infrastructure. It is a culturally diverse country, rich in history and open to ideas; its vibrant and growing economy geared towards the future is perfectly complementary to our outlook and ideals," noted Melinato.

In order to ensure the highest quality of education, the Institute is fully accredited by the Malta Further and Higher Education Authority (MFHEA) as a Higher Education Provider (License Number 2018-014).

It continues to successfully satisfy a robust Quality Assurance policy and academic programme requirements, in accordance with the European Qualification Framework. "There is no compromise for quality of education at the Institute," noted the EFI Director.



For further information on the European Forensic Institute visit www.eufor.eu or email info@eufor.eu