

# HIGHVIEW COLLEGE



# 2024

## YEAR 9 COURSE HANDBOOK

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## WHAT IS THE POINT OF YEAR 9?

Year 7 is exciting and new, Year 8 is a year of consolidation and Year 10 leads into VCE. Once you progress into Senior School, your goals are in place and your focus is firmly fixed on the future. Year 9 provides an opportunity to take risks and explore. We urge students to take every opportunity to build self-knowledge, to practise compassion and tolerance, to develop an ability to accept differences in others and themselves, build resilience, extend their communication skills, move out of their comfort zone and try things they never imagined they might try.

After following a broad curriculum at Years 7&8, students at Year 9 reach the Middle Years of their secondary schooling and an important stage in their physical, intellectual and social development. At Year 9, Highview College continues to offer a broad curriculum and students have the opportunity to start to specialise in areas of interest and strength. We acknowledge the unique growing phase that 14 to 15 year olds experience and, through a rich and innovative curriculum, strive to provide opportunities for students to become independent and active learners. Highview's Year 9 Program is designed to enhance each student's enthusiasm for learning by constructing a learning environment in which they know they are respected and valued, and within which they can make mistakes while exploring their talents and strengthening their competencies.

Year 9 students will study an interconnected course with three components

<b>Student Wellbeing</b>	DELTA
<b>Core Subjects</b>	English, Mathematics, Science, Humanities, Physical Education
<b>Elective Subjects</b>	Select four studies (semester-long)

Carefully selected units from the available options in the Elective Program will ensure that each Year 9 student has an interesting and stimulating program, and the opportunity to be well prepared for Year 10 and beyond.

This Handbook outlines details of the core and elective subjects being offered at Year 9 in 2024.

It is the sincere hope of all Highview staff that the 2024 Year 9 students have a wonderful first year in Middle School.



A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brogahn Richards".

Brogahn Richards  
Head of Year 9

## CONNECTED LEARNING WITH TECHNOLOGY

All Highview College students are supplied with a computer in Year 7. This is replaced with a new one for their Senior study in Years 10-12.

SEQTA is an all-in-one collaborative teaching and learning ecosystem that empowers the school to change the way we see the relationship between school and home, simplifying and enriching the experience for teachers, students, and parents. When we made the decision to move to SEQTA, our priority was to have a product that improved outcomes for our students, as well as improving the school experience for teachers and parents.

Our use of SEQTA has changed the way we conduct our business, delivering benefits for all stakeholders, including:

- Increasing engagement between teachers, students, and parents – as students are able to access important course materials and notes at any time, and parents are able to view these notes and engage with their children and teachers as necessary
- Improving communication between teachers, students, and parents, allowing for a full, unhindered education ‘conversation’ between school and home – no longer are classrooms hidden behind doors and curtains, but the work of teachers and students is being showcased
- Online lesson delivery – richer content, with the ability for teachers to upload any number of relevant resources and notes to help students succeed, and allowing students to use SEQTA as an important revision and study tool, even when they are absent from school. This provides dynamic lessons and increased powers of differentiation in classrooms
- Making homework and assessment details known – relieving some of the stress for both students and parents as information is easily accessible
- Timely and relevant feedback to students – taking advantage of the research that shows just how valuable timely feedback is to student development

## YEAR 9 PROGRAM

Core subjects run for the whole year. Most Electives run for a semester.

Year 9 Subjects	25 Lessons per week
DELTA Student Wellbeing	20 minutes every day
English	4 lessons per week
Mathematics	4 lessons per week
Science	3 lessons per week
Humanities	3 lessons per week
Health & Physical Education	4 lessons per week
Electives (Semester-based X 4)	3 lessons per week each

## DELTA PROGRAM

DELTA is the Highview College Student Wellbeing Program which we have developed as a proactive approach to maximising student wellbeing. The program has been designed by Highview College staff specifically for our students. There are three main elements incorporated into the program, all under the banner of wellbeing: Study Skills, Safe Behaviours and Personal Development. These three areas reflect our school motto 'Education Through Wholeness'.

The Program also explores issues relevant to each year level, with a specific focus on areas such as Resilience Training, Cyber Safety and Healthy Relationships.

Students will have a 20 minute DELTA session every day with their DELTA Mentor who will facilitate and guide them through the Program. Each student's DELTA Mentor will be the 'go to' teacher for both students and parents. With this consistent point of contact in a non-academic setting, students will foster meaningful relationships with their Mentors.

The DELTA Program promotes Health and Growth in students – physically, intellectually, emotionally and spiritually. It supports positive change and development in students' thinking, fosters learners who are able to engage and thrive and helps adolescents grow into strong and resilient adults.

The name DELTA was chosen for a number of reasons. In scientific terms, DELTA symbolises change. In geographical terms DELTA refers to the place where rivers meet the sea and is a place of growth. The Greek alphabet symbol for DELTA is a triangle – representing the three elements of our program: Study Skills, Safe Behaviours and Personal Development. With this in mind, our DELTA program stands for:



Developing  
Engaged  
Learners &  
Thriving  
Adults

## ECUMENISM

Highview College was the first Ecumenical School in Australia when it opened in 1974. What is central to ecumenism is what Christian religions have in common. Our GRACE values are firmly based in Christian tradition (Growth, Respect, Aspiration, Compassion and Excellence).

Highview College is a Christian Ecumenical College. Firstly this means, the Christian message is at the heart of the learning, values and principles we espouse and, secondly, that we promote Christian Unity and respect throughout our School. Our ecumenical philosophical approach to fellow Christians is easily and appropriately applied to those from other religious backgrounds.

The Ecumenism course is based around the idea of students developing their own answers to 'Big' spiritual questions. Rather than attempting to teach students what to believe, the approach of teachers and our Chaplain is to act as facilitators and ask a range of questions to assist students to explore faith.

Students will be invited to ask questions about religion and faith and will largely set their own agendas within the context of the questions. This program has provided a way of re-implementing the original ecumenical, holistic approach to education for the spiritual pathway at Highview. It not only highlights those things we have in common, but also celebrates that we each have distinct ways of practising our faith.

- Highview College has a Chaplain who meets formally and informally with students
- Prayer meetings are held for students and groups to gather whenever there is a desire for comfort and prayer
- We celebrate our Assemblies in the St Augustine's Church and commence and conclude in prayer
- The major liturgical events are celebrated in an ecumenist style at Highview College
- On the first morning of every week, staff gather and commence the week in prayer
- Christian Values guide all that we do in caring for young people in a safe, non-punitive learning environment

We will continue to strive to develop programs which engage the curiosity of young people, expand their thinking and provide them with access to the enrichment of personal faith.



## CORE SUBJECTS

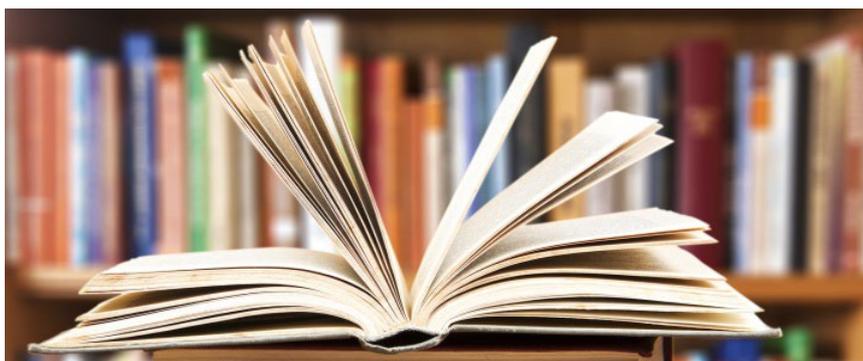
### ENGLISH

The study of English sees students developing a range of skills including:

- the ability to experiment with various forms of writing
- confident and competent speaking and listening skills
- creative and critical thinking
- reading and responding to a range of texts
- vocational and life language skills
- an awareness of the media and the role of media in our society
- an enjoyment of, and broadening experience with, literature of their own choosing.

The units provide a comprehensive foundation to enable students to continue their academic education and to participate effectively in the workforce and society.

Students in Year 9 English are guided to explore and interpret different perspectives on increasingly complex issues and to construct spoken and written responses relating these perspectives to a personal understanding of the contemporary world. Students develop a critical awareness of language and how it both shapes and is reflected in texts. This knowledge is the foundation of further study of the English language.



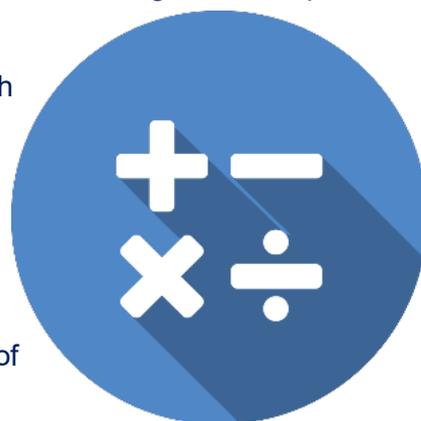
### MATHEMATICS

The broad aim of the Year 9 Mathematics Program is to encourage the development of important ideas in more depth, and to promote the interconnectedness of mathematical concepts.

A common core of topics from each of the Mathematics dimensions include Number and Algebra, Measurement and Geometry, and Statistics and Probability. Year 9 Mathematics units offer a range of learning experiences which include skills practice and applications, modelling activities, problem solving and investigations, and technology applications.

Mathematics classes provide an opportunity for students to work with others of similar ability. Teachers are able to move students more quickly toward understanding when they can shape their teaching to meet the needs of the group.

Access Maths is a special program which runs at Years 7-10 to support students who find Mathematics challenging. We also offer Extension Mathematics and General Mathematics Mainstream classes which are tailored to the learning needs and confidence of students.



## SCIENCE

Science provides opportunities for students to develop an understanding of important science concepts and processes. Students will explore practices used to develop knowledge of Science's contribution to our culture and society and its applications in our lives. The curriculum supports students to develop scientific knowledge, understandings and skills to make informed decisions about local, national and global issues.

Science understanding at Year 9 level covers Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Earth Science, Health Science, Space and emerging sciences including Biotechnology, Green Chemistry and Nanotechnology. Science Inquiry allows students the opportunity to undertake and reflect on their own investigations.

Students explore ways in which the human body as a system responds to its external environment including aspects of nutrition, health and disease. Students are introduced to the notion of the atom as a system of protons, electrons and neutrons, and how this system can change through nuclear decay. Students will learn that matter can be rearranged through chemical change and that these changes play an important role in many systems. Students also begin to apply their understanding of energy and forces to global systems such as continental movement; and investigate electricity and explore electronics. Students are exposed to the process of designing, reporting and evaluating practical investigations along with the design of research projects.



## HUMANITIES

Humanities provides students with the framework to examine the complex processes that shape and influence the modern and emerging world. This broad subject promotes investigation and analysis in the areas of civics and citizenship, economics and business, social and physical geography, ancient and modern history and a general awareness of cultural and environmental diversification. Students are required to investigate and respond to differing global and domestic challenges while linking current events to the past. Humanities provides an ongoing opportunity for students to employ and consolidate foundation science, literacy and numeracy skills; while developing higher order thinking through the process of analysis and research.

## GEOGRAPHY

The Geography curriculum presents a structured way of exploring, analysing and understanding the characteristics of the places that make up our world, using the concepts of place, space, environment, interconnection, sustainability, scale and change. It addresses scales from the personal to the global and time periods from a few years to thousands of years. Students learn to question why the world is the way it is, reflect on their relationships with and responsibilities for that world, and propose actions designed to shape a socially just and sustainable future. Geography as a discipline integrates the natural sciences, social sciences and humanities to build a holistic understanding of the world.

**Biomes and Food Security** - examines the biomes of the world, their alteration and significance as a source of food and fibre, and the environmental challenges and constraints on expanding food production in the future.

**Geographies of Interconnections** – this focuses on investigating how people, through their choices and actions, are connected to places throughout the world in a wide variety of ways, and how these connections help to make and change places and their environments. Students will undertake fieldwork, which is a major element of Geography.



## HISTORY

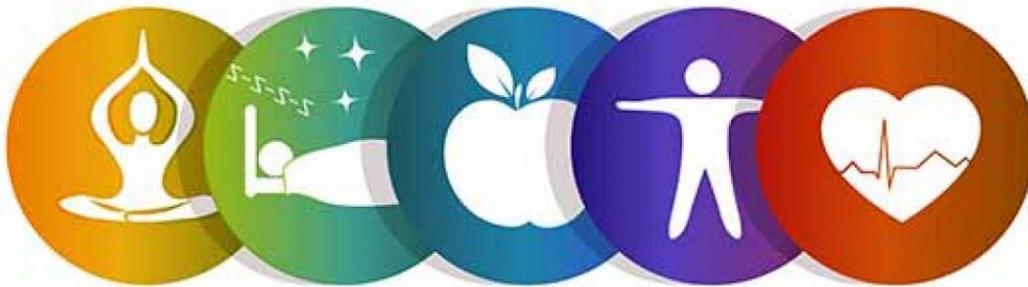
History is a disciplined process of enquiry into the past that develops students' curiosity and imagination. It promotes the understanding of societies, events, movements and developments that have shaped humanity from earliest times. It helps students appreciate how the world and its people have changed, as well as the significant continuities that exist to the present day. The study of history is based on evidence derived from remains of the past. Generally history takes a world approach within which the history of Australia is taught. It does this in order to equip students for the world (local, regional and global) in which they live.

**The Modern World** - The Year 9 curriculum provides a study of the history of the making of the modern world from 1750 to 1918. It was a period of industrialisation and rapid change in the ways people lived, worked and thought. It was an era of nationalism and imperialism, and the colonisation of Australia was part of the expansion of European power. The period culminated in World War I, 1914-1918, the 'war to end all wars'. Students will explore a range of topics such as the Industrial Revolution, and World War I.

## HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION / RECREATION

In Year 9 Physical Education students participate in a variety of activities that aim to refine previous skills and further develop their self-confidence, independence and leadership qualities. They experience a wide range of sporting activities as well as the 'Sport Education Physical Education Program' (SEPEP), Sports Coaching experience, and other similar sports-initiative Programs.

Personal Development education assists students to perceive and value themselves and others, to enter into personal relationships and to make practical decisions and take actions that are personally and socially responsible. The subject matter of Personal Development focuses on personal and social health, movement and fitness, safety in the outdoors, responsibility and leadership skills within the sporting community.



### 'STRIVE' PROGRAM

(Strength, Thinking, Reflection, Innovation, Versatility and Energy)

The Year 9 'STRIVE' Program aims to develop a real 'sense of belonging' to Highview and enhance a positive school culture. It supports students to strive to be the best that they can be. It encourages self-directed learning and independent thinking. Students will have opportunities to become more aware of their community, reflect on what makes them who they are and to focus on establishing goals for their future. STRIVE also provides an opportunity for students to undertake a major project focusing on an area of personal interest. The STRIVE 'Activity Program' is designed to push students out of their comfort zone in a fun and challenging way. It aims to encourage growth, both physical and emotional.

The Year 9 Activity Program:

- contributes to students' personal development through building relationships, self-esteem, independence, resilience, self-reflection
- focuses on teamwork and co-operation
- encourages problem-solving, decision-making, reasoning and creativity
- facilitates strong community links

## YEAR 9 ELECTIVES PLANNING SHEET

Most Electives run for one Semester which allows students to experience four of these electives over the year. Each of these electives is explained in this Handbook.

In addition, there are two special programs which run for a whole year.

Students need to list six preferences (number 1 being the most desired choice and 5&6 being reserve choices) from the following Electives:

STUDY AREA	ELECTIVES	PREFERENCES
SPECIAL PROGRAMS	ANY LOTE Distance Education Requires two semester units Consult with LOTE Teacher	
	LEARNING SUPPORT Can be one or both semesters Consult with Learning Support Team	
THE ARTS	ART	
	VISUAL COMMUNICATION & DESIGN	
	MEDIA	
	MUSIC	
	DRAMA	
TECHNOLOGIES	FOOD STUDIES	
	SYSTEMS ENGINEERING	
	PRODUCT DESIGN	
SCIENCE	FORENSIC SCIENCE	

## ART

This unit allows students to build on their technical skills in Art. By studying various techniques and materials, used by both artists of the past and present, students will learn the tricks of the trade. Artists studied include Leonardo Da Vinci, Kandinsky and Srivilasa in order to produce their own individual works of art. Students will explore painting, ceramics, and digital photography while also working with charcoal and other traditional art mediums. Students will also get the opportunity to visit online and local art exhibitions.

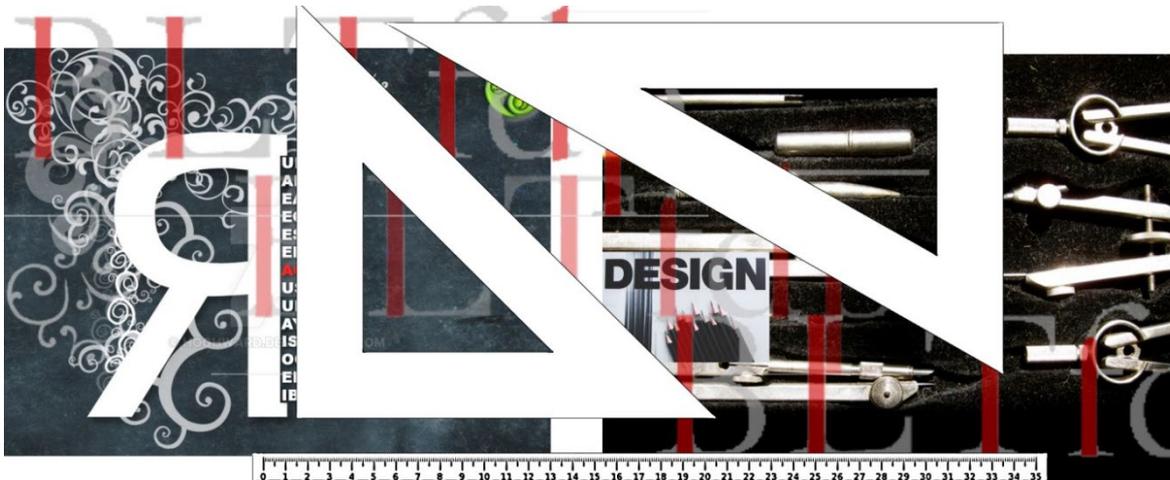
A levy of \$40 is charged to cover the cost of materials.



## VISUAL COMMUNICATION & DESIGN

Year 9 Visual Communication & Design is a continuation of the skills developed in Year 8. Students will focus on the production of visual communications and design. Students will explore product, fashion, poster and packaging design using a range of techniques, media and materials. Students will learn technical drawing systems such as oblique, isometric and planometric projections and learn how to draw using one and two-point perspective. Students will also learn about electronic drawing and design techniques such as Photoshop and Illustrator.

A levy of \$40 is charged to cover the cost of materials.



## MEDIA

Media focusses on the skills involved with photography, film making, special effects, sound editing and animation. Students explore photographic studio techniques such as three-point lighting, green screen photography and portraiture. Students learn about handling equipment such as cameras, tripods, lighting equipment and backdrops. Students will use film making process such as storyboarding, production and post-production editing, camera angles and movements and sound editing techniques. Animation techniques such as claymation and stop motion animation will be explored. Through the study of these areas, students will develop a digital folio of imagery, animation and short film.

A levy of \$10 is charged to cover the cost of materials.



## MUSIC

Music is a predominantly practical based subject that concentrates on exploring a variety of different styles and has a high emphasis on performing. Leadership and group performance skills are developed throughout the term. This subject will provide students with the opportunity to develop their practical skills in performance, in conjunction with music reading and writing. Assessment tasks will include group and solo performances together with a research project and theory tasks.



## DRAMA

A continuation of the skills developed in Year 7 and 8 Drama, this course is designed around the theatrical style of Horror and Suspense. Mood and tension is created through the students' use of lighting and sound technology. The practical workshops are supported by some theory lessons. Special effect makeup is also taught in this unit to allow students to creatively apply makeup to create a character e.g. Frankenstein. The unit culminates in a student devised horror performance that demonstrates their understanding of the style and how lighting and sound can be used for dramatic effect.

A levy of \$10 is charged to cover the cost of materials.



## FOOD STUDIES

Students explore advanced food production and preparation methods from a diverse selection of cuisines and cultures throughout this unit of study. They utilise traditional and modern cookery methods whilst developing a further understanding of ingredients and flavour combinations.

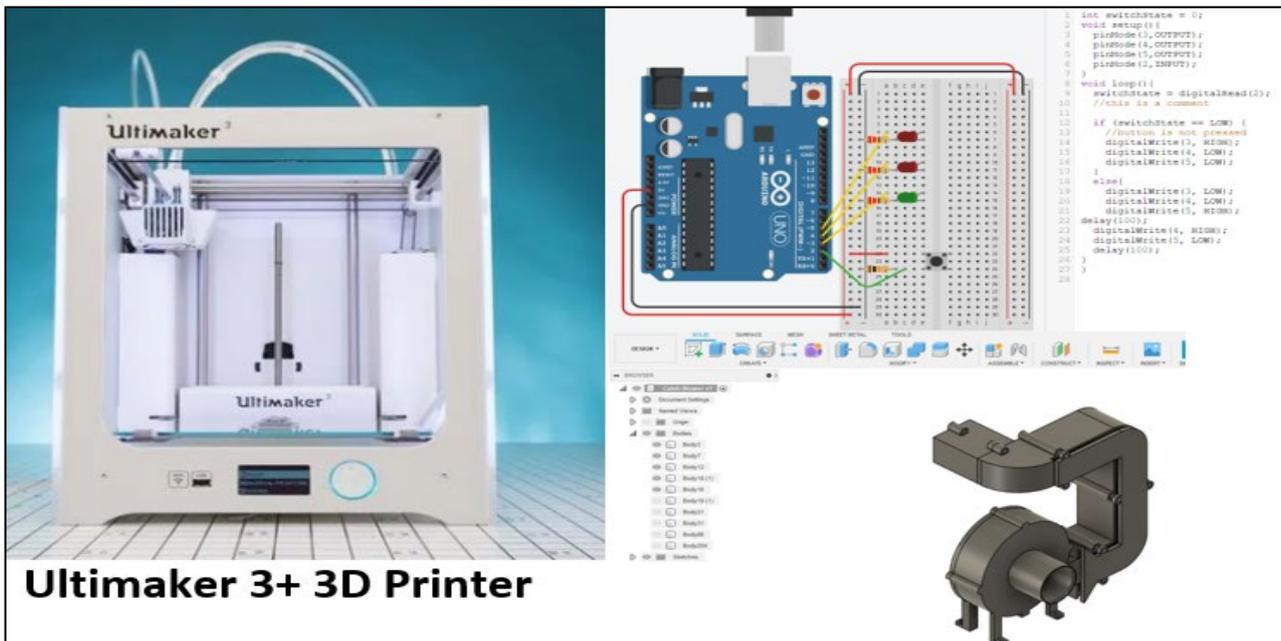
A levy of \$50 is charged to cover the cost of materials.



## SYSTEMS ENGINEERING - DESIGN AND PROGRAMMING

This unit focuses on the development of problem-solving and critical and creative thinking required for the design, production and evaluation of different engineering projects. Students will learn using cutting-edge equipment how the digital age will transform processes and production to improve efficiency whilst still learning critical traditional skills with a variety of specialised tools. In particular, this subject focuses on; design projects using Fusion 360, the ability to program an extensive range of sensors and other electronic components via the use of a suite of Arduinos, 3D print models, and laser cut components to achieve a variety of engaging projects.

A levy of \$50 is charged to cover the cost of materials.



## PRODUCT DESIGN – METAL / WOOD / PLASTICS

This unit creates an opportunity for students to extend their practical skills, whilst using specialised equipment. Students will create a design brief for a client and manufacture a product that serves a practical need. Materials include wood, metals and plastics.

This unit requires students to demonstrate advanced skills:

- building from a plan
- manufacturing to a time limit and to client specifications,
- using Safe Operating Practices in the workshop, and
- competently using various specialised tools.

Students will produce a folio of exploration and design options and will propose a final design for construction, which meets the client brief and aims to improve their craftsmanship skills. Product evaluation will reflect on the success of the production processes and the suitability to the client need. Laser cutting and etching, 3D printing and CNC routing are all at the student's disposal during this unit of work. Students will also refine their Computer Aided Design (CAD) skills by utilising Fusion360, MetalCut and VCarve Pro.

A levy of \$50 is charged to cover the cost of materials.



## FORENSIC SCIENCE

Forensic Science is offered in addition to Core Science. Forensic Science is a rapidly expanding field that utilises the skills and information from a very broad range of sciences: physical sciences, chemical sciences and biological sciences. It presents the opportunity to cover a very broad range of both theoretical and practical skill development in its investigations. It encompasses the practice of crime-scene investigation, applying skills and knowledge, reinforced by laboratory analysis. Students will apply their knowledge and skills learnt throughout the semester to investigate and solve a simulated crime scene.



