Forensic document examination has been around for over a century and has been part of NSW Police for over 75 years. An eye for detail is essential in this varied and fascinating realm of work.

The Document Examination Unit provides evidence in forensic document examination including handwriting and signature comparisons, examinations of indentations in documents, examinations of machine generated documents, ink comparisons and examination of damaged documents. The work can be painstaking but also hugely rewarding with document examination often providing vital evidence in serious and high profile criminal investigations.

While handwriting and signature examination have changed little over the years, document examination also involves the use of modern equipment such as the Video Spectral Comparator 6000 which can differentiate between inks that appear similar to the naked eye and can even make obliterated handwriting entries visible.

The Document Examination Unit is a highly driven team working out of Pemulwuy. All work is laboratory based. The Unit is accredited with the National Association of Testing Authorities.
Training is up to five years and includes both Diploma studies with the Canberra Institute of Technology and practical hands on training under the supervision of qualified examiners. Completion of training qualifies examiners for the Forensic Evidence & Technical Services Command Expert Allowance.

**What are the hours like?**

Forensic Investigators work a standard shifts, usually Monday to Friday during normal business hours, but may be required to work shift work or overtime.

**What’s the pay like?**

**Police officer salary:** A probationary constable in their first year receives approximately $65,000 which includes employer’s contribution to superannuation. In addition to this once you transfer into the FETSC you may also be entitled to specialist and academic allowances ranging from $2500 to $4000 per year.

Upon accreditation as a document examination expert, officers move from the specialist allowances to the expert allowance which is approximately $17000 per year.

**Contact us**

To apply for the FETSC Accelerated Recruit Program please email: FETSCARP@police.nsw.gov.au

For FETSC role specific information please contact

**Document Examination:** Sergeant Dean Swift, ph 02 9688 9310, email: swif1dea@police.nsw.gov.au

**Recruitment Officers:** ph 1800 222 122

**Charles Sturt University**

**future student enquires:**
ph 1800 334 733