

# Welcome to Maastricht University

## Two-year Master in Forensic Psychology

Prof. dr Corine de Ruiter



Forensic Psychology

## Goals for this Master programme

- ✓ Training the next generation of scientist-practitioners for the forensic mental health field
- ✓ Creating an international student environment
- ✓ Theoretical knowledge and intensive skills training
- ✓ First year: core courses and skills labs
- ✓ Second year: clinical and research internships

## Courses

- Psychology of Eyewitness Testimony
- Investigative Interviewing
- Experts and their Biases
- Psychotic Disorders
- Personality Disorders
- Professional Ethics
- Criminal Law
- Research Proposal Writing
- Faking Bad, Faking Good
- Forensic Neuropsychology
- Sex Offenders
- Young Offenders
- Psychopharmacology of Reward & Drugs of Abuse
- Applied Statistics for Forensic Psychologists

## Example of a task in a course (1)



Consider the following scenario: You are walking the streets at night when all of a sudden, a man approaches you and threatens you with a gun. He demands money and credit cards, or else...

Questions:

- How well would you be able to describe the events?
- Would you be able to identify the perpetrator from a line-up?
- How do people “normally” react to such adversity?
- Would they suffer from posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), or are they somehow resilient to traumatic experiences?
- Is it a good idea to use psychological debriefing protocols?

# Example of a task in a course (2)

## Case I.

Seung-Hui Cho, the 23-year old student who killed 32 people on April 16, 2007 and then himself, left a long and "disturbing" note in his dorm room at Virginia Tech, say law enforcement sources. He also wrote at least two violent plays for an English course that worried his professor and several classmates. Sources described the note, which runs several pages, as beginning in the present tense and then shifting to the past. It contains rhetoric explaining Cho's actions and says, "You caused me to do this," the sources told ABC News.

Sources say Cho killed two people in a dorm room, returned to his own dorm room where he re-armed and left the note, then went to a classroom building on the other side of campus. There, he killed 30 more people in four classrooms before shooting himself in the head.

Witnesses say he was stone-faced as he opened fire.



Watch the video:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VyalPi1GeDY>

Read:



Questions:

What symptoms does Cho reveal?

Could the massacre have been prevented?

If you think so, how? If you think not,

why not?

## Skills Labs

- Forensic Assessment Skills I & II
- Therapy Skills
- Expert Witness Skills
- Forensic Assessment in Child Abuse & Child Custody Cases



**Go  
the extra  
mile**

### Including

psychopathy assessment, risk assessment, criminal responsibility

schematherapy techniques

how to write a forensic report, mock trial

child custody evaluation, work product review



Second year

Clinical Internship

minimum 520 hours in a forensic-clinical setting

Option of obtaining BAPD ('Basis Aantekening Psychodiagnostiek') and GZ-verklaring

 Go the extra mile

**Research Internship**  
**6 months**

**Either at UM or elsewhere**

**Master's thesis**

# Internship placements

UM has agreements with clinical and research facilities in The Netherlands and abroad

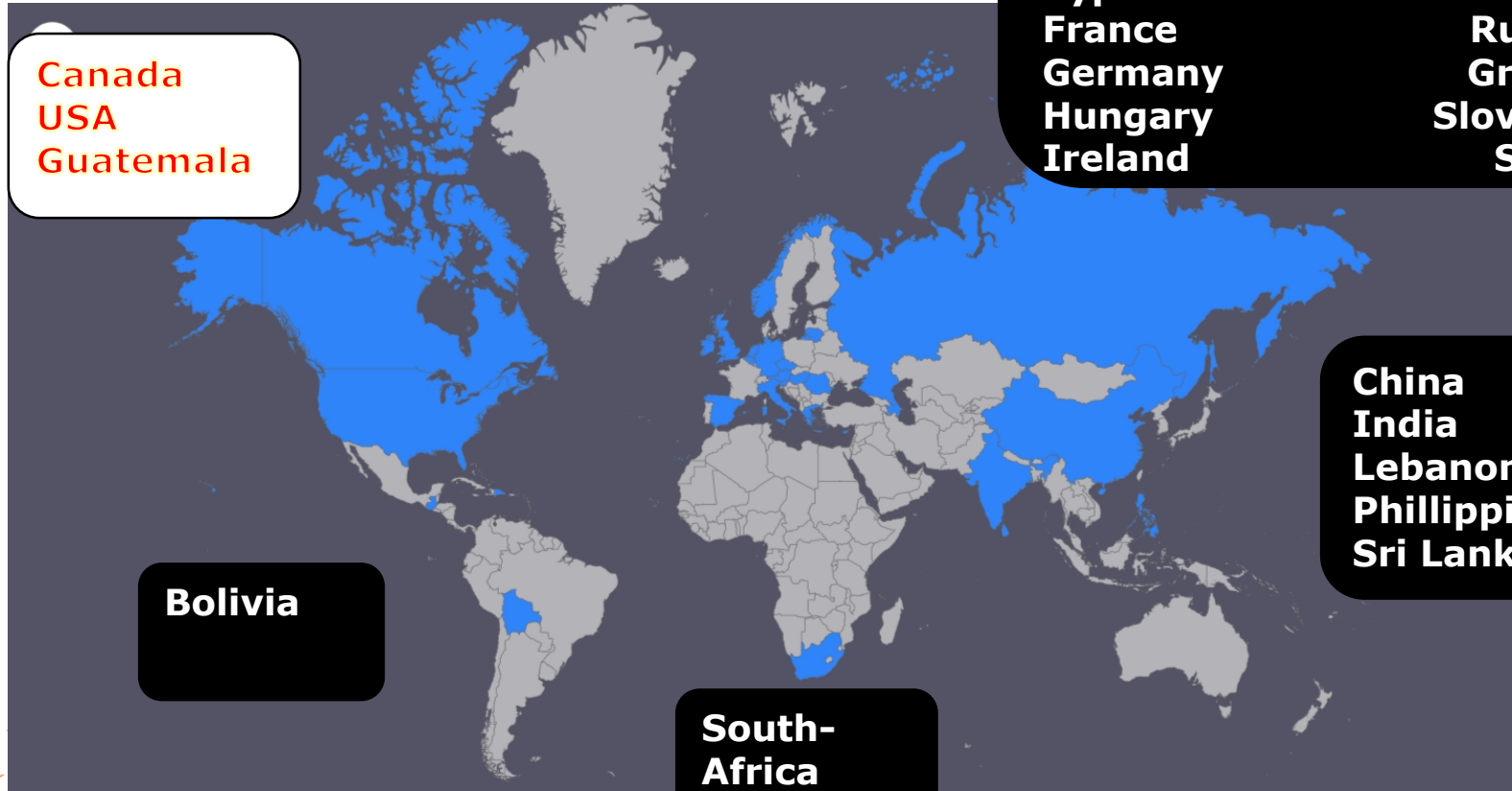
## Examples of internship placements:

- Edinburgh, Glasgow, Oxford, Liverpool, London, Berkshire (UK)
- Dublin (IRL)
- Toronto, Hamilton, Vancouver (CAN)
- Fordham University, Florida State University, City University NY (USA)
- Stockholm (SWE), Oslo (NOR)
- Berlin, Munich, Aachen, Düren, Hamburg, Regensburg (GER)
- Antwerp (BE)
- Amsterdam, Heerlen, Den Haag, Almere, Maastricht, Utrecht, Venray (NL)
- Sydney, Melbourne (AUS)



# International Student Body (country of origin of admitted students)

Go  
the extra  
mile



Canada  
USA  
Guatemala

Bolivia

South-Africa

Austria  
Azerbaijan  
Bosnia  
Denmark  
Belgium  
Czech Republic  
Cyprus  
France  
Germany  
Hungary  
Ireland

Netherlands  
Italy  
Norway  
Romania  
Lithuania  
UK  
Russia  
Greece  
Slovenia  
Spain

China  
India  
Lebanon  
Phillippines  
Sri Lanka

## How to get in? (MAX 24 admissions per year)

- GPA of 7.0 (Bachelor's degree in Psychology or Mental Health Science or University College)
- Motivation letter
- Reference letters (2)
- Forensic experience/course work is a plus
- English language proficiency
- Interview (in person or via Skype)

**Deadline for admissions:** First Selection: 15 January 2020

Final: 1 April 2020

Tuition fee 2020-2021(NL/EU citizens): € 3.870

## And then, after this master?

- Further education, e.g., PhD programme
  
- Start clinical work in the forensic field, e.g.,
  - Forensic psychiatric hospital / forensic outpatient clinic
  - Addiction treatment facility
  - Prison
  - Juvenile Justice Institutions
  - Child protection services
  - Women's shelter/ Victims' advocacy
  - Policy advisor
  
- Further professional training as GZ-psychologist (NL), psychotherapist, etc.

# Rankings



**Go  
the  
mile**  
*extra*

- Keuzegids Masters 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019: first place of similar Master programmes
- Keuzegids Masters 2013, 2018 and 2019: quality rating ‘Top rated programme’, a rating given to less than 10% of all Master's programs
- July 2013: Dutch Ministry of Education accredited the Master programme as a Small Scale and Excellent Programme
- NVAO Reaccreditation (2014) for 5 years: rating “good”



# Graduating Class of 2017

## 90% had a job in the forensic field before obtaining their diploma





## Check out the website

[www.maastrichtuniversity.nl/fpn](http://www.maastrichtuniversity.nl/fpn)

- Prospective Students
- Master's programmes
- Forensic Psychology

Watch the videos!



# Q&A

Go  
the **extra**  
mile 



Website Forensic Psychology Programme:

<http://www.maastrichtuniversity.nl/fpn/master/forensicpsychology>

Programme Coordinator:

[corine.deruiter@maastrichtuniversity.nl](mailto:corine.deruiter@maastrichtuniversity.nl)

Admissions:

[Fpn-forensicmaster@maastrichtuniversity.nl](mailto:Fpn-forensicmaster@maastrichtuniversity.nl)



**Forensic Psychology**



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