

**Carys Hor** @Carys\_HTX\_S&T\_Associate  
 Replying to @Curious\_Student\_1

A lot of people have been asking me what I do at work – try guessing!

Giving you more clues:  
 1/ Helping the dead to find closure is a large part of my work.  
 2/ Occupational habit: I take special interest in human skin. “Anti-fingerprint”? Pfft. No way 😊

**I am Curious** @Curious\_Student\_1  
 Replying to @Carys\_HTX\_S&T\_Associate

What do you do at work?



**Carys Hor** @Carys\_HTX\_S&T\_Associate

Haha! Guessed it right? I am a Senior Crime Scene Specialist (CSS) under the [HTX S&T Associate Programme](#).

I put myself in the victim's or perpetrator's shoes when I'm at a crime scene. Only then, can I find the evidence that an ordinary person is unable to see 🙄.



**Carys Hor** @Carys\_HTX\_S&T\_Associate

Sounds cool, huh? To be honest, I was initially intrigued by the prospect of investigating crime scenes, but I soon realised it takes a lot of hard work, decision-making and team work to ensure a crime scene is thoroughly processed.



**I am also Curious** @Curious\_Student\_2  
 Replying to @Carys\_HTX\_S&T\_Associate

Have you ever regretted it?



**Carys Hor** @Carys\_HTX\_S&T\_Associate

Actually, no. The dynamic nature of my job meant that I wouldn't be tethered to a desk, so I don't regret choosing to be a CSS. In fact, my probationary period was filled with certification courses and training. I wanted to be a good CSS so I sought competency and confidence in my skills and poured myself into learning as much as I could.

👉 Check out how HTX actually empower the frontline in solving crimes:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U3rxFv2pK5A>



**I am Curious** @Curious\_Student\_1  
 Replying to @Carys\_HTX\_S&T\_Associate

What other skills do you need as a CSI?



**Carys Hor** @Carys\_HTX\_S&T\_Associate

Photography! 📷 I learnt how to operate a DSLR camera to take photos of exhibits. Apart from that, we need to learn how to operate the various equipment and tools in our unit for evidence collection!

I think I'm a brilliant photographer 😊




**Carys Hor** @Carys\_HTX\_S&T\_Associate

To put into context how long it took me to pick up the basics... It took me THREE months to finally be able to go into an actual crime scene and apply my newfound skills – swabbing areas for DNA, lifting fingerprints, preserving evidence, taking photographs, and drawing up floor plans.

👉 DID YOU KNOW that as opposed to movies, fingerprint matching is not automated and still requires the human eye to do a final verification?



**I am also Curious** @Curious\_Student\_2  
 Replying to @Carys\_HTX\_S&T\_Associate

OMG that's so cool! I never knew about that? Could you let us understand a little more on the actual crime scene investigation?



**Carys Hor** @Carys\_HTX\_S&T\_Associate

Keen observation is key when it comes to CSI where we study the scene conditions and identify the relevant evidence. And due to the transient nature of some evidence, we often have to perform under time pressure. To do so, I would put myself in the shoes of either the perpetrator or the victim and picture how the crime was being committed, based on the facts gathered by the investigation officer.



**Carys Hor** @Carys\_HTX\_S&T\_Associate

By putting myself in the shoes of the perpetrator or the victim, evidence that I hadn't seen before might be revealed, and we can decide how to best gather these key pieces of evidence 🙄

That's also why I'm aware of fingerprints on surface and how much detail I can see from a print! You can read stories from just piecing these prints 😊



**I am Curious** @Curious\_Student\_1  
 Replying to @Carys\_HTX\_S&T\_Associate

WOW! I want to try out “piecing prints” too 😊



**Carys Hor** @Carys\_HTX\_S&T\_Associate

Oh, @Curious\_Student\_1, have you heard about [HTX Investigators' Challenge 2021](#)? We provided fingerprint dusting kits for the participants so they can recover and compare the fingerprint.. It's fun to pass on forensics knowledge to students, even if it's only a part of the event.




**Carys Hor** @Carys\_HTX\_S&T\_Associate

Keep the questions coming! Ask me more questions!



**Carys Hor** @Carys\_HTX\_S&T\_Associate  
 Replying to @Curious\_Student\_3

Another common question - Many people ask me this, “So how do you apply your Material Engineering skills to your job as a CSS?” Simple answer: I make the invisible visible. LOL!

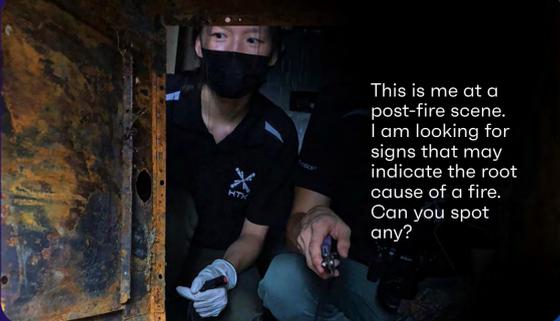
**I am Curious** @Curious\_Student\_3  
 Replying to @Carys\_HTX\_S&T\_Associate

You mentioned that you studied Materials Engineering at ICL - how do you use that knowledge at your current role?



**Carys Hor** @Carys\_HTX\_S&T\_Associate

To be precise, I use an electron microscope to see what we can't see with our naked eye. So for my Greenfield Project, I study the metallurgical examination of metals that survived a fire to determine if there were any changes in their microstructure in order to figure out what caused the fire. The ultimate aim of my project is to support the Singapore Civil Defence Force fire investigations by allowing this analysis to be conducted in-house.



This is me at a post-fire scene. I am looking for signs that may indicate the root cause of a fire. Can you spot any?



**I am Curious**  
 Replying to @Carys\_HTX\_S&T\_Associate

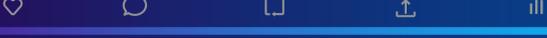
I saw some interesting events on HTX's [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#). Are associates involved in planning them?



**Carys Hor** @Carys\_HTX\_S&T\_Associate

Yes! I had a lot of opportunities thanks to HTX, like planning HTX's 2nd anniversary. Planning it during the pandemic was daunting, though!

But HTX's second anniversary celebrations turned out to be a huge success, with many exciting activities like art jams and HIIT sessions bringing Xponents from all departments together.



**Carys Hor** @Carys\_HTX\_S&T\_Associate

Stopping my thread here but I would like to end off thanking...

The HTX S&T Associate Programme and the close-knit community that's supporting me. Thanks to you, I've grown. ❤️❤️

