

Job Title: Forensic Scientist



Job title: Forensic Scientist	Forensic scientists prepare traces of physical evidence for use in courts of law.
Entry requirements:	You can do a degree or postgraduate qualification in: • forensic science • a related subject like chemistry, biological science, physics or medical sciences It may help to choose a university qualification accredited by The Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences. Entry requirements You'll usually need: • 2 or 3 A levels, or equivalent, including chemistry • a degree in a relevant subject for postgraduate study You may be able to start by doing a laboratory scientist higher or degree apprenticeship. It will help if you do your apprenticeship with a company that provides forensic science services, or with a police force that has its own in-house lab facilities. Entry requirements You'll usually need: • 4 or 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 and A levels, or equivalent, for a higher or degree apprenticeship
Skills required:	You'll need: • to be thorough and pay attention to detail • patience and the ability to remain calm in stressful situations • the ability to accept criticism and work well under pressure • the ability to think clearly using logic and reasoning • knowledge of public safety and security • excellent written communication skills • the ability to work on your own • legal knowledge including court procedures and government regulations • to be able to use a computer and the main software packages competently
What you'll do:	In this role you could be: • blood grouping and DNA profiling • analysing fluid and tissue samples for traces of drugs and poisons • examining splash patterns and the distribution of particles • analysing handwriting, signatures, ink and paper • providing expert advice on explosives, firearms and ballistics • researching and developing new technologies • recovering data from computers, mobile phones and other electronic equipment • attending crime scenes, like a murder scene or arson • giving impartial, scientific evidence in court

What you'll earn:	• Starter: £20,000 • Experienced: £45,000 <i>These figures are a guide.</i>
Working hours, patterns and environment:	You'll typically work around 37-40 hours a week. This may include weekends and evenings to cover different shift patterns. You could work on the streets, in a laboratory or in a court. Your working environment may be outdoors in all weathers and emotionally demanding. You may need to wear protective clothing.
Career path and progression:	With experience, you could move into management and direct other forensics staff as a forensics manager or casework examiner. You could also work as a reporting scientist, acting as an expert witness in court.