

## Forensic Scientist

### Key Skills

- the ability to work on your own
- excellent written communication skills
- knowledge of public safety and security
- to be able to use a computer and the main software packages competently
- to be thorough and pay attention to detail
- the ability to think clearly using logic and reasoning
- the ability to accept criticism and work well under pressure
- patience and the ability to remain calm in stressful situations
- legal knowledge including court procedures and government regulations

### Salary

£18,000 - £45,000

### Working hours

38-40 per week  
You could work on call  
at short notice

Aspire | Challenge | Achieve

# Forensic Scientist

## University

You can do a degree or postgraduate qualification in:

- forensic science
- a related subject like chemistry, biological science, physics or medical sciences

Entry to jobs is competitive, so 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

## Top Tips

If you want to specialise in recovering data from computers and mobile phones, you'll need relevant experience and qualifications. Useful subjects include computing, electrical engineering, electronics or physics

## Apprenticeship

The following science degree apprenticeships may be relevant to this role:

- research scientist degree apprenticeship
- laboratory scientist 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

## Post 16

Most universities require you to have an A Level in Biology.

It would also be a good idea to take one or more of the following subjects at A Level:

- Chemistry
- Biology
- Maths
- Computer Science



## Career path and progression

Look at progression in this role and similar opportunities.

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

## Working conditions

You could work in a laboratory, in a court or visit sites.

Your working environment may be emotionally demanding.

You may need to wear protective clothing

## Day to Day tasks:

- perform blood grouping and DNA profiling
- research and develop new technologies
- provide expert advice on explosives, firearms and ballistics
- analyse fluid and tissue samples for traces of drugs and poisons
- examine splash patterns and the distribution of particles
- analyse handwriting, signatures, ink and paper
- attend crime scenes, like a murder or fire
- give impartial, scientific evidence in court
- recover data from computers, mobile phones and other electronic equipment

# Labour Market Information

In the Careers section of the school website you can find the useful comparison tool the 'Labour Market Information widget'.  
Use the widget to compare different job roles in any employment sector or relating specifically to the 'Job of the Week'.

Biological scientists and biochemists	
Weekly Pay <b>£810</b>	Annual Pay <b>£42,120</b>
Hours/Week <b>37h</b>	Hourly Pay <b>£22</b>
<b>Workforce Change</b> (projected)	
Growth <b>3.3%</b>	Replacement <b>39.3%</b>
The workforce is projected to grow by 3.3% over the period to 2027, creating 3,500 jobs. In the same period, 39.3% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating 42,600 job openings.	
You might find this job in Health Scientific research Education Public admin. & defence Architectural & related	
<a href="#">More info</a>	<a href="#">Clear card</a>

Protective service associate professionals n.e.c.	
Weekly Pay <b>£900</b>	Annual Pay <b>£46,800</b>
Hours/Week <b>34h</b>	Hourly Pay <b>£26</b>
<b>Workforce Change</b> (projected)	
Contraction <b>-0.2%</b>	Replacement <b>38.3%</b>
The workforce is projected to contract by -0.2% over the period to 2027, losing 100 jobs. In the same period, 38.3% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating 18,600 job openings.	
You might find this job in Retail trade Auxiliary services Employment activities Sport & recreation Public admin. & defence	
<a href="#">More info</a>	<a href="#">Clear card</a>

Police officers (sergeant and below)	
Weekly Pay <b>£910</b>	Annual Pay <b>£47,320</b>
Hours/Week <b>40h</b>	Hourly Pay <b>£23</b>
<b>Workforce Change</b> (projected)	
Contraction <b>-0.2%</b>	Replacement <b>38.3%</b>
The workforce is projected to contract by -0.2% over the period to 2027, losing 400 jobs. In the same period, 38.3% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating 65,100 job openings.	
You might find this job in Public admin. & defence Computer programming, etc Sport & recreation Rental & leasing Metal products	
<a href="#">More info</a>	<a href="#">Clear card</a>

# Labour Market Information

## Biological scientists and biochemists

Biological scientists and biochemists examine and investigate the morphology, structure, chemistry and physical characteristics of living organisms, including their inter-relationships, environments and diseases.

Common tasks in this job:

- studies the physical and chemical form, structure, composition and function of living organisms;
- identifies and studies the chemical substances, including microbial infections, involved in physiological processes and the progress of disease;
- performs tests to study physiological and pathological characteristics within cells and other organisms;
- researches the effects of internal and external environmental factors on the life processes and other functions of living organisms;

[Back](#)

[Clear card](#)

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## Protective service associate professionals n.e.c.

Workers in this unit group inspect goods to ensure compliance with regulations concerning payment of duty, establish that persons entering and leaving the UK have necessary authorisation for crossing national borders, monitor maritime conditions, undertake search and rescue operations, plan and coordinate services of private detection agencies and security measures for individuals, establishments or organisations, and perform other security and protective service occupations not elsewhere classified in MINOR GROUP 331: Protective Service Occupations.

Common tasks in this job:

- examines, weighs and counts goods imported by ship or aircraft, ensures that the declared value of goods is satisfactory and that duties and taxes have been paid;
- examines passports, visas, work permits and other immigration documents, and allows or refuses entry into the UK;
- maintains revenue control at breweries, tobacco factories and other premises where dutiable goods are manufactured, processed or stored;
- visits racecourses, greyhound stadiums and betting shops to ensure compliance with legal

[Back](#)

[Clear card](#)

## Police officers (sergeant and below)

Police officers (Sergeant and below) co-ordinate and undertake the investigation of crimes, patrol public areas, arrest offenders and suspects and enforce law and order. Officers of the British Transport Police operate within the specialised police service for the railway network across Britain.

Common tasks in this job:

- receives instructions from senior officers and patrols an assigned area on foot, horseback, motorcycle, motor car or boat to check security and enforce regulations;
- directs and controls traffic or crowds at demonstrations and large public events;
- investigates complaints, crimes, accidents, any suspicious activities or other incidents;
- interviews suspects, takes statements from witnesses and stops, searches and/or arrests suspects;

[Back](#)

[Clear card](#)

Keep looking...

Use these links to learn more about our Job of The Week, consider the various pathways leading to the career, what you can be doing now to help yourself and other roles in the industry...

Take a look at these short videos for inspiration...

### The Real CSI



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DAjQt3Gusck>

### What is forensic Science



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LYz3ezghHYY>

### Forensic Science at Uni



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=apgGXHYgSZk>

### Insider Guide



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PbEVwQdWdAQ>

## Useful Websites

[Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences | Recognised Professional Body \(csofs.org\)](https://www.csofs.org)

[How to Become a Forensic Scientist \(ncchomelearning.co.uk\)](https://www.ncchomelearning.co.uk)

[Forensic scientist job profile | Prospects.ac.uk](https://www.prospects.ac.uk)

[About our Sixth Form – Bourne Academy](#)

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