

Forensic Scientist

What is it?

Forensic scientists use scientific techniques to investigate crimes and analyse evidence collected from crime scenes. They play a crucial role in helping law enforcement agencies solve crimes and bring criminals to justice.

Qualifications/Experience Required:

To become a forensic scientist, you typically need a degree in forensic science or a related field such as chemistry, biology, or forensic anthropology. Some employers may also require a postgraduate qualification or relevant work experience. Strong analytical skills, attention to detail, and the ability to work well under pressure are essential for this role.

What the Work Involves:

Collecting and analysing evidence from crime scenes, such as fingerprints, DNA samples, and gunshot residue. Using specialized equipment and techniques to examine evidence, including microscopes, chromatography, and DNA profiling. Writing detailed reports and presenting findings in court as an expert witness. Collaborating with law enforcement agencies and other forensic specialists to piece together the circumstances of a crime.

Future Prospects – Labour Market Information:

The demand for forensic scientists is expected to remain steady, with opportunities available in both public sector and private forensic science companies.

Weekly Pay £810	Annual Pay £42,120
Hours/Week 37h	Hourly Pay £22

Workforce Change (projected)

Growth 2.4%	Replacement 38.9%
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Type of person who may be suited to this job:

This job may be suited to individuals who have a strong interest in science and criminal justice, as well as excellent problem-solving skills and attention to detail. Forensic scientists need to be methodical, objective, and able to work effectively as part of a team.

Money/Wage Guide:

Entry-level forensic scientists can expect to earn around £20,000 to £25,000 per year. With experience and specialization, this can increase to £25,000 to £45,000 or more. Senior forensic scientists or those in managerial positions may earn upwards of £50,000 per year.

Related Opportunities:

- Crime scene investigator
- Forensic pathologist
- Forensic psychologist
- Laboratory technician

Further Information:

Prospects:

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/forensic-scientist>

The Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences:

<https://www.csofs.org/>