

What does a Forensic Scientist do?

Forensic scientists prepare traces of physical evidence for use in courts of law.

Day-to-Day Tasks

- perform blood grouping and DNA profiling
- 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
- provide expert advice on explosives, firearms and ballistics
- research and develop new technologies
- recover data from computers, mobile phones and other electronic equipment
- attend crime scenes, like a murder or fire
- give impartial, scientific evidence in court

How do you become a Forensic Scientist ?

You can get into this job through:

- a university course (2 to 3 A levels)
- An apprenticeship (4 or GCSEs grade 9 to 4 or A levels for a higher or degree apprenticeship)

Skills and Knowledge

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

For more information visit:

- [National Careers Service](#)
- [Prospects](#)
- [My World of Work](#)
- [Target Jobs](#)
- [Unifrog Careers Library](#)

Average Salary

From £18,000 to £45,000

Typical Working Week

37 to 40 Hours