

JOB SPOTLIGHT

Forensic Scientist

INFORMER



EXAMINE • INVESTIGATE • ANALYSE

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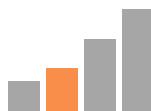
Forensic Scientist

Use science to solve crimes

Forensic scientists apply scientific principles and techniques to analyse evidence from crime scenes. Their main job is to help law enforcement agencies solve crimes by examining and analysing everything from DNA samples to fingerprints, ballistics, and even digital evidence.

If you're fascinated by science, enjoy solving puzzles, and want to play a crucial role in the justice system, a career as a forensic scientist could be perfect for you.

Growth



Moderate

Salary



Above Average

Field Size



Tiny

Hours



Average

Interest Area



Technology

Cluster



Informer



About you

Excellent attention to detail
Great problem solver
Analytical & critical thinker
Excellent communicator
Observant & patient
Unbiased & fair
Strong sense of justice
Resilient & persistent

Common tasks

- Examine crime scenes & find evidence
- Test samples, chemicals & materials
- Store evidence safely
- Interpret test results
- Document findings & observations
- Work with other legal professionals
- Report findings
- Testify & present evidence in court

About the role

Most forensic scientists work full-time, typically during standard business hours in laboratory settings. However, you may occasionally be called to crime scenes at any time of the day or night.

Remote work opportunities are limited, as most tasks require specialised laboratory equipment.

Forensic scientists typically earn above-average salaries throughout their careers.

Forensic scientists are typically most common in these industries:

- Professional, Scientific & Technical Services
- Public Administration & Safety
- Education & Training



Things you can do now

- 1 Focus on English, Maths, and Sciences at high school
- 2 Find work experience or volunteer in a relevant industry
- 3 Build skills through short courses and microcredentials
- 4 Research qualifications and requirements
- 5 Talk to a forensic scientist to see what a day in their life is like

Future study ideas

To become a forensic scientist, you'll typically need to complete a bachelor's degree in forensic science, chemistry, biology, physics, or a related scientific field. Many employers prefer candidates with postgraduate qualifications in forensic science or a relevant specialisation.

Many forensic scientists also pursue professional certifications and ongoing training to stay current with evolving technologies and techniques. Some specialisations may require additional qualifications, such as digital forensics or toxicology.



What next?

If you're interested in science, technology, or justice, there are lots of other job areas you might like to consider as well, such as:

- Biology
- Policing
- Law
- Medicine
- Cyber Security
- Security
- Chemistry
- Intelligence

Join science clubs or participate in science competitions to deepen your knowledge and start building important skills.

Look for work experience opportunities at universities, research institutions, or forensic laboratories.

“
Physical evidence
can not be
intimidated. It does
not forget. It sits
there and waits to
be detected,
preserved, evaluated
and explained.”

HERBERT L. MACDONELL
FORENSIC SCIENTIST

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