



JOB of the Week



Job name: Forensic Scientist

Job description: As a Forensic Scientist you'll provide scientific evidence for use in courts of law to support the prosecution or defence in criminal and civil investigations. You'll be primarily concerned with searching for and examining contact trace material associated with crimes. This material can include:

Blood and other body fluids; hairs; fibres from clothing; paint and glass fragments; tyre marks; flammable substances used to start fires.

Tasks you will undertake in the job:

As a Forensic Scientist, you'll need to (not all forensic scientists are involved in crime scenes, some work in the laboratory):

- Analyse samples, such as hair, body fluids, glass, paint and drugs, in the laboratory
- apply techniques such as gas and high-performance liquid chromatography, scanning electron microscopy, mass spectrometry, infrared spectroscopy and genetic fingerprinting
- sift and sort evidence, often held in miniscule quantities, then record findings and collect trace evidence from scenes of crimes or accidents (attend and examine scenes of crimes)
- liaise with teams and coordinate with outside agencies, such as the police and supervise assistants
- analyse and interpret results and computer data
- present the results of your work in written form or by giving oral evidence
- justify findings under cross-examination in courts of law
- research and develop new forensic techniques.

Qualifications you will need for this job: To work as a Forensic Scientist you'll usually need either a degree in a scientific subject, such as biological sciences or chemistry, or a degree in forensic science. Degree subjects such as statistics and geology can be useful for entry into specialist areas of forensic science.

While there's been an increase in the number of forensic science undergraduate degree courses, they don't all provide the skills and knowledge required to work as a Forensic Scientist. Check details of accredited courses with The Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences (CSFS).

Skills required for this job (core competencies):

Communication	Resilience	Organisation	Teamwork
Problem Solving	Initiative	Creativity	Digital literacy

Sectors in which Educational Psychologists would normally work: Forensic Scientists are employed by commercial companies such as [Cellmark Forensic Services](#), [SOCOTEC](#) and [eurofins Forensic Services](#), which provide forensic science services to the police and other agencies. Other employers include Forensic science units within local police forces, such as the Metropolitan Police Specialist Crime and Operations (SC&O); Government departments such as the Defence Science & Technology Laboratory (Dstl) and the Centre For Applied Science and Technology (CAST). You might also be employed by medical schools, university research departments, public health laboratories and companies dealing in specialist areas such as fire investigation.

Type of work: Although most of the work is laboratory-based, experienced forensic scientists may have to attend crime scenes. The balance of work in the laboratory, court and office varies between roles.

The work may be stressful and distressing at times, particularly when attending scenes of crimes. You'll need to feel comfortable presenting and defending your evidence in court under cross-examination. If attending a crime scene, you'll need to wear protective clothing to prevent contamination of the scene and sometimes to protect yourself from hazardous materials.



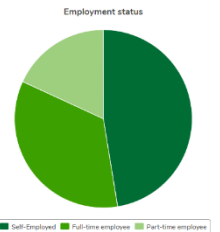
Salary: Average salary for an educational psychologist is £39 000, average salary in the UK is £28 758



Working hours: 45 average working hours in the week (37.5 working hours in the average working week). Some work will be weekends and evenings. Crimes happen at any time, so be prepared for odd hours

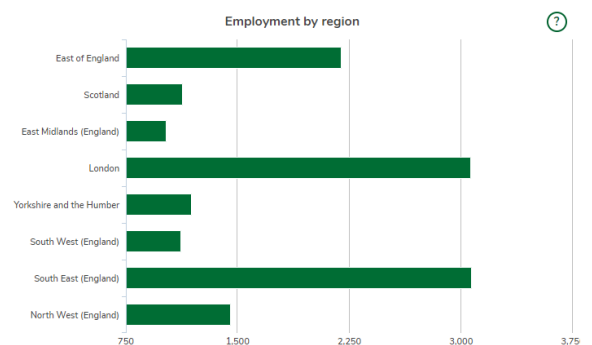
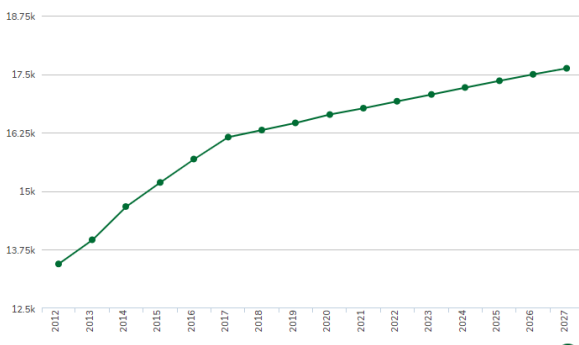
Workforce in the UK: 34% male / 66% female workforce

Top 10 industries for this job			
Scientific research	4518	Public admin. & defence	2425
Other personal service	2168	Education	2004
Membership organisations	1799		



This job in the future:

The workforce is projected to grow by 5.9%, creating 6 300 jobs; in the same period, 40.3% of the workforce is likely to retire, creating 40,600 job opportunities.



- www.icould.com
- www.successatschool.org
- www.nationalcareers.service.gov.uk
- www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/job-sectors
- www.ucas.com/careers-advice
- www.kudos/cascaid.co.uk/#/ (you all have a log on for this service)
- www.careersbox.co.uk (careers videos)

Helpful sites for careers information
GAT careers links

<http://airhead.io/public/launchpads/XqbuOMJgb00fqvMPCykcZA>

