



# JOB of the Week



**Job name:** Security officer

**Job description:** Security officers make sure that buildings, valuables and people are safe and secure.

**Tasks you will undertake in the job:** As a Security Officer, you'll:

- knowledge of public safety and security
- patience and the ability to remain calm in stressful situations
- the ability to work well with others
- to be thorough and pay attention to detail
- thinking and reasoning skills for dealing with emergencies
- concentration skills to stay alert and aware of your surroundings
- customer service skills for challenging people politely but firmly
- excellent verbal communication skills for negotiating with people
- to be able to carry out basic tasks on a computer or hand-held device

### Career progression

With experience, you could become a supervisor, then senior or chief security officer. With further qualifications like a Level 3 Security first line manager, you could go into security management or training. You could set up your own security company.

### Working environment

You could work at a store or from a vehicle. Your working environment may be physically demanding and outdoors in all weathers. You may need to wear a uniform.

### Skills required for this job (core competencies):

|                 |            |              |                  |
|-----------------|------------|--------------|------------------|
| Communication   | Resilience | Organisation | Teamwork         |
| Problem Solving | Initiative | Creativity   | Digital literacy |

**Sectors in which Security Officers would normally work.** A security guard's job responsibilities vary from one employer to another: In retail stores, guards protect people, records, merchandise, money, and equipment. They may work with undercover store detectives to prevent theft by customers or employees, detain shoplifting suspects until the police arrive, or patrol car parks  
In office buildings, banks, hotels, and hospitals, guards maintain order and protect the organization's customers, staff, and property  
In museums or art galleries, guards protect paintings and exhibits by watching people and inspecting packages entering and leaving the building  
In factories, government buildings, and military bases, security guards protect information and products and check the credentials of people and vehicles entering and leaving the premises.  
At universities, in parks, and at sports stadiums, guards do crowd control, supervise parking and seating, and direct traffic; at bars and nightclubs, guards (or bouncers) keep under-age people from entering, collect cover charges at the door, and maintain order among customers; guards who work as transportation security screeners protect people, transportation equipment, and freight at airports, train stations, and other transportation facilities.

**Salary:** Security Officers are typically paid a starting wage of £16 000, this increases with experience, skilled Security Officers can expect to earn approximately £26 000 per year.



**Working hours:** Working hours are usually around 37-48 hours per week. It is likely that you will work during evenings, weekends and on Bank Holidays on a shift rotation

## Qualifications to become a Security Officer:

You can get into this job through: a course run by a private training organisation. You can take a training course approved by the Security Industry Authority (SIA). Many of these courses are run by private training companies.

You may also take a Level 2 Certificate in Principles of Providing Security Services

When you have completed the right course for the type of security work you want to do, you can apply for a front-line SIA licence. You must have this before you can work legally in the private security industry in any job that is on the front-line.

Registration - you'll need a Security Industry Authority (SIA) licence for agency and contractor jobs

**Essential skills you need to show:** To succeed as a Security Officer, the following personal skills and attributes would give you an advantage:

- knowledge of public safety and security
- patience and the ability to remain calm in stressful situations
- the ability to work well with others
- to be thorough and pay attention to detail
- thinking and reasoning skills for dealing with emergencies
- concentration skills to stay alert and aware of your surroundings
- customer service skills for challenging people politely but firmly
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**Restrictions and requirements.** You'll need to: pass enhanced background checks and be over 18 years of age

An employer will carry out checks on your personal and work history up to 10 years. You need to let them know about any criminal convictions before you apply for a security licence.

**This job in the future:** The workforce is projected to grow by 0.2%, creating 400 jobs; in the same period, 63.6% of the workforce is likely to retire, creating 135 700 job opportunities.

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