CAREER OF THE MONTH

FORENSIC SCIENTIST

Follow the evidence.Find the answers.



"Follow the evidence, find the answers, and help piece together the story"

£27,000
STARTING SALARY

£55,000
EXPERIENCED SALARY

35-40
HOURS PER WEEK

> "Every piece of evidence has a story. A forensic scientist's job is to uncover it."

WHAT DOES A FORENSIC SCIENTIST DO?

As a forensic scientist you would use science to help investigate crimes. You would examine evidence collected from crime scenes and try to work out what happened and who or what may be connected to it.

Did you know? Your fingerprints & their unique patterns are formed before birth.

A DAY IN THE LIFE

- **Laboratory Tests** on fibres, soil, paint, or other materials
- **Analyse DNA Evidence** including blood & other bodily fluids
- **Test drugs and chemicals from the scene**
- **Examine weapons** and other physical evidence
- **Record and analyse results**
- **Write reports to explain findings**
- **Give evidence in court when required**

HOW DO YOU GET THERE?

- You can get started in this career with a degree, ideally in a related field such as Biology, Chemistry, Biochemistry, Biomedical Science, Forensic Science. You'll usually need 3 relevant A levels (or equivalent) and 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 to access these degree courses.
- A Laboratory Scientist degree apprenticeship combines paid work for an employer and study towards a university degree, with the employer paying the tuition fees.
- Some employers offer entry level roles in digital forensics without a degree if you have IT qualifications, apprenticeships or relevant experience.
- Some entry level laboratory technician roles accept a levels, t-levels, or level 3 qualifications.

IS THIS CAREER FOR YOU?

You might enjoy being a Forensic Scientist if you:

- Have strong attention to detail
- Are patient and persistant
- Enjoy Science and problem-solving
- Work well in a team
- Like investigating how and why things happen

Fun fact: A forensic scientist can help solve a crime from something as tiny as a single fibre.

WHERE COULD IT TAKE YOU?

With experience, you could progress to:

- More senior roles like Senior Forensic Scientist, Principal/Specialist Scientist, and Laboratory Manager.
- Rather than line management, you can also specialize in an area such as DNA analysis, Forensic chemistry, Toxicology, Firearms examination, Digital forensics, Trace evidence (fibres, glass, paint, etc), or Crime-scene investigation

LEADERSHIP, INVESTIGATIVE, AND SPECIALIST ROLES: YOUR FORENSIC FUTURE IS OPEN

CAREER CHALLENGE

Could YOU be a Forensic Scientist?
Choose an everyday object and examine it closely. What could its marks, damage or position tell you about its history?



Big opportunities await

DGGS CAREERS