YOUR FUTURE

#TBCSfutures

Career of the Week Forensic Scientist

Forensic scientists use a range of techniques to find and study evidence from a variety of sources, like blood and other body fluids, hairs, textile fibres, glass fragments and tyre marks

Your main role will be looking for evidence to link a suspect with a crime scene, but you may also specialise.

Your day-to-day tasks may include:

- blood grouping and DNA profiling
- analysing fluid and tissue samples for traces of drugs and poisons
- examining splash patterns and the distribution of particles
- analysing handwriting, signatures, ink and paper
- providing expert advice on explosives, firearms and ballistics
- researching and developing new technologies
- recovering data from computers, mobile phones and other electronic equipment
- attending crime scenes, such as a murder or fire
- giving impartial scientific evidence in court

UK Entry Requirements

You'll usually need a degree or postgraduate award in forensic science. You may also be able to get into this career with a science-based degree like chemistry, biology, life sciences, applied sciences or medical sciences.

If you want to specialise in electronic casework (recovering data from computers, mobile phones and other electronic equipment), you may need experience and qualifications in computing, electrical engineering, electronics or physics.

Skills required

You'll need:

- a logical and analytical approach
- patience and concentration
- highly developed observation and scientific skills
- a high degree of accuracy and attention to detail
- strong written and spoken communication skills