



# FORENSIC SCIENTIST

**INTERESTING SCIENCE JOBS IN THE  
NORTH EAST**

# FORENSIC SCIENTIST

## OVERVIEW

A forensic scientist collects and scientifically analyse evidence from crime scenes for use in a court of law, to either support the prosecution or defence in criminal and civil investigations. One of the primary roles of a forensic scientist is to examine trace materials, such as blood and other body fluids, hairs, fibres and tyre marks. Within forensic science there are 3 main areas: chemistry, biology, drugs and toxicology. The skills you need and the activities you'll do will typically depend on which area you work in. for example, forensic scientists specialising in chemistry will typically investigate and examine substances like paint or flammable chemicals, whereas a forensic scientist specialising in biology will perform DNA testing on blood and hair samples. Other things you'd typically be tasked with involve attending crime scenes, recording findings and research new forensic techniques.

## REGIONAL PRESENCE

Commercial companies in the North East, such as Keith Borer Consultants in Durham, provide forensic science services to the police and other agencies. The police also employ forensic scientists directly, as do other government departments There is also huge opportunity to employed and be part of some great research teams at the universities in the region.





## SKILLS REQUIRED

You'll need to be logical, have good communication skills and be able to work to deadlines to succeed in this type of job. Some other skills are listed below:

### Excellent attention to detail

You'll be analysing the finest of details so having an exceptionally keen eye will be highly advantageous.

### Good team player

You'll do independent work, but you'll need to be a valuable and effective team player as you'll also work as part of a wider team with a range of other people, so you'll need to be comfortable working with others as part of a group.

### Strong computer literacy

Using technology to analyse materials is part of the job, so you'll need to be competent and comfortable using computers, analytical software and scientific equipment.

### Good problem solving

You'll need to be unbiased and methodical in your approach to solving any issues that arise.

## EDUCATIONAL ROUTES

You'll typically require a degree in a scientific subject. However, after completing some science related A Levels, you can go straight into work as an assistant forensic scientist. It's also possible to complete a BTEC in Forensic science; colleges, such as Newcastle, provide this course if A levels isn't the route you wish to take. Universities, like Teesside and Northumbria, are extremely well known for their facilities and courses; they have specific degrees in forensic and crime scene science, which will provide you with the skills, knowledge and experience to work and excel in this field of science.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

[info@sunderlandsoftwarecity.com](mailto:info@sunderlandsoftwarecity.com)

