Level 3 Extended Diploma in Forensic and Criminal Investigation

The UK government sees STEM skills as crucial for the country's productivity. It has spent almost £1billion over the last ten years on initiatives to encourage the uptake of STEM subjects.[1]
Despite this, shortages of technical-level skills in sectors that depend on STEM subjects have been identified.[2] These skills shortages have been described by the government as 'one of our key economic problems' and with the exit from the European Union on the horizon, there are worries that these problems could be exacerbated.[3]

There's a definite need for STEM skills and graduates and this course will give you the skills and knowledge to progress into a range of different scientific disciplines.

Forensic Scientists are traditionally involved in the production of scientific evidence for use in courts of law to support the prosecution or defense in criminal and civil investigations.[4]

Crime Scene Investigators examine crime scenes to gather forensic evidence that will ultimately lead to the detection and prosecution of criminals.[5]

In order to be competent at either of these fields of expertise, you must be able to demonstrate the following:

Forensic Scientist

- undertake fine, analytical, painstaking work with exceptional attention to detail
- Have a logical, unbiased and methodical approach to problem solving
- Develop a persistent approach and enquiring mind
- Demonstrate your ability to work well in a team, as well as independently
- Have strong written and oral communication skills and the ability to communicate scientific information to non-experts
- Be able to work to deadlines
- Have good colour vision.
- Be committed to continued professional development

Crime Scene Investigators

- Must be thorough and pay attention to detail
- Have patience and the ability to remain calm in stressful situations
- Possess the ability to accept criticism and work well under pressure
- Develop knowledge of public safety and security
- customer service skills
- Must be flexible and open to change
- Demonstrate the ability to work on your own
- Have the legal knowledge including court procedures and government regulations
- Must be able to use a computer and the main software packages competently
- Be committed to continued professional development.[6]

Both Forensic Scientists and Crime Scene Investigators are responsible for the quality and accuracy of the work they undertake within the limits of their personal authority. They will be responsible for processing and categorising evidence that may be used in criminal investigations. This might include collecting or processing disturbing evidence samples from the scene such as biological evidence. For both fields, you will need to demonstrate a core set of behaviours in order to be competent in your job role, and for the role of forensic scientist, complement wider business strategy and development. This will enable them to support their long-term career development.

In 2020 – 2027, there is a 5.9% expected growth in specialist scientist roles and 37% in the CSI/Policing roles required along with 40% of the current workforce expected to retire in the same time period. This equates to an approximation of 42,000 and 65,000 new roles within the field of Forensic Science.[7] [8]

The field of forensic science is becoming increasing diverse and many industries use these skill sets such as:

- Analytical chemist
- Biomedical scientist
- Detective
- Forensic computer analyst
- Forensic scientist
- Forensic Anthropologist
- Forensic Archaeologist
- Scientific laboratory technician
- Teaching laboratory technician
- Toxicologist
- Psychologist
- Crime Scene Investigator

By completing this course, you will gain a formal Science qualification that is recognised by universities as well as industry. It provides you with a pathway to an Apprenticeship with one of the many local employers West Suffolk

College works with or the ability to progress onto numerous university course. The course is open to those progressing from Level 2 qualifications or GCSEs.

You will learn how to work effectively and practice advanced scientific skills. In addition to the practical skills you will develop, you will also improve your employability through the enhancement of your communication, numeracy and information technology abilities.

Course Content

Foundation knowledge of Biology, Chemistry and Physics	Environmental Forensics
Analytical Biology, Chemistry and Physics	Forensic Photography
Forensic Genetics	Forensic Anthropology
Forensic Investigation Procedures in Practice	Essential skills including problem solving, working with others and ICT
Work experience, employability and careers	Criminology

Duration and Attendance - 2 Years, starting September

Entry Requirements - Grade 4 (C) in English, Grade 4 (C) mathematics and Grade 4 (C) in Science

Further Study - Subject to successful interview and completion of this course, you may progress to further levels of study within Science in the college, apprenticeship, university or employment.

Career Opportunities - Completion of this course of study and further courses can provide a stepping stone and lead to modern apprenticeships or employment as a trainee in a wide range of science sectors.

Typical job titles – Forensic Scientist, Crime Scene Investigator, Forensic Anthropologist, Forensic Archaeologist, Toxicologist, Teacher/Lecturer, Scientific Lab Technician, Teaching Lab Technician.

Application Process - You will be invited to discuss your application with us. Your application, current qualifications and interview will form part of the selection process.

References

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3. House of Commons Committee of Public Accounts (June 2018). op.cit.
4. Graduate Prospects. https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/forensic-scientist
5. Nottingham Police. https://www.nottinghamshire.police.uk/site-page/what-crime-scene-investigator
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