



Careers Education

GA TSBY BENCHMARKS 2, 3 and 4
 Learning from career and labour market information
 Addressing the needs of each pupil
 Linking curriculum learning to careers



Career of the week – Police Officer

Monday 5 October 2020

Labour market information

<p>Employment Status</p>	<p>Future Employment</p> <p>The predicted number of people employed in this job throughout the UK</p> <table border="1"> <caption>Future Employment Data</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Number of people employed</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2017</td> <td>174,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2018</td> <td>173,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2019</td> <td>172,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2020</td> <td>171,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2021</td> <td>170,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2022</td> <td>170,000</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Year	Number of people employed	2017	174,500	2018	173,500	2019	172,500	2020	171,500	2021	170,500	2022	170,000
Year	Number of people employed																
2017	174,500																
2018	173,500																
2019	172,500																
2020	171,500																
2021	170,500																
2022	170,000																
<p>Starting Salary</p> <p>£21,000</p> <p>Source: U-Explore National Research</p>	<p>UK Average Salary</p> <p>£28,319</p> <p>Source: U-Explore National Research</p>	<p>Typical weekly hours estimate</p> <p>43</p> <p>Source: UKCES LMI For All - Annual Survey of Hours & Earnings</p>	<p>Videos:</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tAQE9C6L8qU</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FuNa4bkzDyM</p>														
<p>Useful GCSE / BTEC subjects for this career: Philosophy & Ethics, Physical Education, Languages, English, Maths, Sociology, Law. There are no set subjects required to enter the Police Force.</p>																	
<p>Job title:</p>																	
<p>Police Officer</p>	<p>Police officers keep law and order, investigate crime, and support crime prevention. They are called to accident and emergencies.</p>																

Career Pathways / Entry requirements:

You can get into this job through:

- a university course
- a college course
- an apprenticeship
- working towards this role
- applying directly

University

You could do the Professional Policing Degree run by some universities before applying to join a force.

Alternatively, you could get a degree in any subject and apply to:

- the [Degree Holder programme](#)
- the [Police Now](#) graduate leadership scheme

Entry requirements

You'll usually need:

- 2 to 3 A levels, or equivalent, for a degree

More Information

- [university courses and entry requirements](#)
- [student finance for fees and living costs](#)
- [equivalent entry requirements](#)

College

You could take a Level 2 or 3 Diploma in Public Services before applying to the police, although this is not essential.

Entry requirements

You'll usually need:

- 2 or more GCSEs at grades 9 to 3 (A* to D), or equivalent, for a level 2 course
- 4 or 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A* to C), or equivalent, for a level 3 course

More Information

- [equivalent entry requirements](#)
- [funding advice](#)
- [search for courses](#)

Apprenticeship

You could start by doing a Police Constable Degree Apprenticeship (PCDA). It's a 3 year work-based programme that leads to a degree in Professional Policing Practice.

You can [apply through your chosen force](#).

If you want to work in non-emergency response situations you could do a serious and complex crime investigator degree apprenticeship.

In this role, as well as police forces you could also be employed by organisations like:

- The National Crime Agency
- Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs
- The Ministry of Defence

Entry requirements

You'll usually need:

- 4 or 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A* to C) and A levels, or equivalent, for a degree apprenticeship

More Information

- [equivalent entry requirements](#)
- [guide to apprenticeships](#)

Volunteering

You can get a taste of what it's like to work with the police by volunteering as a [special constable](#).

You could also get paid work as a [police community support officer](#) (PCSO) before applying for police officer training.

Direct Application

You'll generally need A levels or an equivalent level 3 qualification, or experience in a related area like the military.

You'll usually apply to one police force at a time. If your application is successful, you'll be invited to an assessment centre where you'll:

- have an interview
- take written tests

If you pass the tests at the assessment centre, you'll then:

- complete a physical fitness test
- have a medical, including an eyesight check
- go through security and background checks
- You need to be 18+

You can search for forces that are recruiting at [Joining the Police](#)

If you're unsuccessful at the assessment stage, you may have to wait a minimum of 6 months before you can re-apply.

Skills required:

You'll need:

- legal knowledge including court procedures and government regulations
- knowledge of public safety and security
- negotiation skills for keeping people safe
- patience and the ability to remain calm in stressful situations
- sensitivity and understanding for dealing with traumatic situations
- the ability to understand people's reactions
- excellent verbal communication skills

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • leadership skills • to be able to use a computer and the main software packages competently
What you'll do:	<p>In this role you could:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • respond to calls for help from the public • investigate crimes and offences • interview suspects and make arrests • give evidence in court • control traffic and crowds at large public events and gatherings • advise the public on personal safety and crime prevention • promote respect for people in relation to their race, diversity and human rights
What you'll earn:	<p>Average salary (a year) £21,000 to £41,500</p>
Working hours, patterns and environment:	<p>You could work on a patrol or at a police station. Your working environment may be outdoors in all weathers and physically and emotionally demanding. You may need to wear a uniform. Typical hours (a week) 37 to 40 You could work - evenings / weekends / bank holidays on shifts</p>
Career path and progression:	<p>You'll spend 2 years as a student officer before becoming a police constable. You can then decide whether you want to specialise in a particular type of policing, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • criminal investigation department (CID), anti-fraud or road traffic • drugs or firearms • counter-terrorism • air support or underwater search • dog-handling or mounted policing <p>With experience, you may be able to apply for promotion to sergeant, inspector or chief inspector. In the CID you'll also have the title of detective added to your rank, for example detective sergeant or detective chief inspector.</p>

Related careers:

[Police Community Support Officer](#)

[Scene of Crime Officer](#)

[Probation Service Officer](#)

[Private Investigator](#)