

Crime scene investigators

by J.R. Hartley (Level 3)

Crime scene investigators (CSIs) are highly trained police officers. It is their job to examine the crime scene and collect as much evidence and information as possible. Although CSIs do not chase down or interview suspects, the clues they recover at the scene can go a long way towards solving a crime. What we see on TV is far from reality. For one crime scene, a CSI can spend hours, days or even weeks. CSIs can investigate murder, assault and breaking and entering. Long working hours can be expected during busy times and in any kind of weather conditions. During quieter times, these investigators work around 40 hours a week and can be on call for 24 hours a day 7 days a week. To do their job, they use special equipment such as cameras, tripods, flashlights, sketchpads, notepads, pens, measuring tapes and rulers, and fingerprinting kits. There is a great deal of travelling involved as a CSI.

Qualifications: In Canada, you must first become a RCMP (Royal Canadian Mounted Police) officer and work for 3-5 years as a regular officer before you can train to become a CSI. The CSI training takes 2-4 years. To become a RCMP officer, you must be 19 years old and have a high school diploma, but it is better to have a college or a university degree. The annual starting salary is \$47,000 within 36 months of service (and eventually can increase to \$76,000). Check out www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca to find out more about the RCMP and how to become a member.