

Probation Officer

What is it?

A Probation Officer works with offenders who are on probation to help them reintegrate into society and reduce the likelihood of reoffending. They supervise offenders on community orders or released from prison on parole, providing guidance and support while ensuring compliance with court orders. Probation Officers play a crucial role in public safety and rehabilitation.

Qualifications/Experience Required:

A degree in probation studies or a criminology degree is typically required. Some people enter the profession after gaining a degree in social work or psychology. Alternatively, you can undertake a probation qualification framework (PQF) training route, which combines work-based learning and study for those already working in related fields. GCSEs (especially English and Maths) are typically required for entry to university or training programmes.

What the Work Involves:

Supervising offenders on probation, parole, or community orders to ensure they comply with court conditions. Conducting risk assessments to evaluate the likelihood of reoffending and create action plans. Providing support to offenders, helping them access rehabilitation programmes, employment, housing, and other social services. Preparing reports for courts, parole boards, and other authorities, outlining the offender's progress and risks.

Future Prospects – Labour Market Information:

Probation Officers have opportunities for career progression, including moving into senior roles or management positions within the probation service. There are also opportunities to specialise in areas like working with young offenders, women offenders, or offenders with mental health issues. Employment is available within the National Probation Service (NPS) or private sector providers who manage community sentence

Annual Salary £22,000 - £45,000

Typical weekly hours: 37 hours – 39

Type of person who may be suited to this job:

Have an interest in criminology, social justice, and rehabilitation. Are empathetic, patient, and non-judgmental. Can manage challenging behaviour and handle difficult situations calmly. Have strong communication and listening skills. Can remain objective and professional in potentially tense or emotionally charged situations.

Money/Wage Guide:

Starting salaries range £22,000 to £28,000 per year

With experience, Probation Officers can earn between £32,000 and £42,000.

Senior roles and managers may earn over £45,000

Related Opportunities:

- Social Worker
- Youth Offending Officer
- Criminal Psychologist
- Prison Officer

Further Information:

Probation Institute

<https://www.probation-institute.org.uk/>

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