



# INTELLIGENCE OFFICER

## JOB DESCRIPTION

Intelligence officers protect their country from security threats and serious and organized crime, such as terrorism or human trafficking. They may use data-analysis skills to interpret intelligence from “sources”—people with access to sensitive information—about organizations or individuals who pose a risk to national security.



### SALARY

Trainee ★★★★★

Senior officers ★★★★★

### INDUSTRY PROFILE

Growing job sector due to heightened global security concerns • Cyber crime is a major area of growth • Option for working freelance

## CAREER PATHS

To become a government intelligence officer, applicants must hold appropriate citizenship and pass a series of physical, psychological, and background checks. Your career path will depend on the skills for which you were recruited, but there is scope for specializing in particular areas—such as military intelligence—and progressing to senior roles in an agency.

### ▼ RELATED CAREERS

- ▶ **CYBERSECURITY ANALYST** *see pp.132–133*
- ▶ **FORENSIC SCIENTIST** *see pp.146–147*
- ▶ **CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE ANALYST** Examines crime data to investigate patterns in criminal activity, target individual offenders or gangs, and plan future crime-reduction initiatives.
- ▶ **CRYPTOLOGIST** Deciphers codes, puzzles, or cryptograms (puzzles that consist of a short piece of encrypted text), or creates them in order to protect private information.



**GRADUATE** You can apply to enter the intelligence service after earning your bachelor's degree in nearly any subject.



**INTELLIGENCE OFFICER** After a period of on-the-job training, you can serve in your first post for 18 months to three years. You can specialize in certain areas, or take a job rotation to another department or agency.

## AT A GLANCE



**YOUR INTERESTS** Psychology • Current affairs • Languages • Mathematics • Science • Information Technology (IT) • History • Economics



**ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS** Intelligence officers usually have a degree, or higher, qualification in a subject related to their specialization, such as forensics.



**LIFESTYLE** Intelligence officers typically work regular office hours, but overtime is often required during investigations.



**LOCATION** Most intelligence officers are mainly office-based, but may need to travel to the scene of a crime or to a location that is under surveillance.



**THE REALITIES** Intelligence work can be intensive and must be kept secret. During selection, candidates are subject to intrusive vetting procedures.

## SKILLS GUIDE



Excellent written and verbal skills for writing and presenting intelligence reports.



The ability to work with fellow colleagues and specialists from other agencies.



Excellent observational, analytical, and research skills, and an aptitude for creative problem-solving.



Proficiency in computer software for identifying significant data, and analyzing and recording it.



An organized approach to tasks, which may last many years, and the ability to prioritize.



### HUMAN OPERATIONS OFFICER

Gathers intelligence by making contact with sources, ranging from covert conversations with unsuspecting targets to the interrogation of suspects. Also plans and executes cover missions and briefs government officials.



### IMAGERY INTELLIGENCE OFFICER

Collects vital information via satellite and aerial photography. The information received will form the basis of many military operations.



### SIGNALS INTELLIGENCE OFFICER

Specializes in gathering intelligence by analyzing intercepted communications, both personal (such as telephone calls) and electronic (such as encrypted emails).

The United States' intelligence agency, the CIA, monitors five million tweets every day.