

Job of The Week

Aerospace Engineer

Key Skills

- knowledge of engineering science and technology
- to be thorough and pay attention to detail
- the ability to work well with your hands
- persistence and determination
- the ability to use, repair and maintain machines and tools
- the ability to work well with others
- to be able to use a computer and the main software packages confidently
- Maths skills
- the ability to use your initiative

Salary

£24,500 - £43,000

Working hours

40-42
evenings / weekends
on shifts

Aspire | Challenge | Achieve

Aerospace engineer

University

You could do a foundation degree or higher national diploma in engineering to get into this career.

Relevant subjects include:

- Aeronautical Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering
- Electrical or Electronics Engineering
- Avionics.

Entry requirements

You'll usually need 4 or 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4, or equivalent, including English, Maths and Science or 1 or 2 A levels, or equivalent, for a foundation degree or higher national diploma.

College

You could do an engineering course that would give you some of the skills and knowledge needed for this job.

General engineering, mechanical and electrical engineering courses are useful as well as more specialist courses like:

- Level 2 or 3 Diploma in Aerospace and Aviation Engineering
- Level 3 Diploma in Aircraft Maintenance
- T Level in Engineering, Manufacturing, Processing and Control.

Entry requirements

You'll usually need 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4, or equivalent, including English, Maths and Science or
4 or 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4, or equivalent, including English and Maths for a T level.

Apprenticeship

You could do an Engineering Technician Level 3 Advanced Apprenticeship or an Engineering Manufacturing Technician Level 4 Higher Apprenticeship.

Entry requirements

You'll usually need 4 or 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4, or equivalent, including English, Maths and Science or 4 or 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 and A levels, or equivalent, for a higher or degree apprenticeship.

Career path and progression

Look at progression in this role and similar opportunities. With experience, you could become a supervisor, manage a project or specialise in a particular area, like aircraft design.

Day to Day tasks:

You could work on the mechanics of an aircraft or the avionics which is the electrical and electronic systems.

As an Aerospace Engineering Technician, you could:

- build and service the main body of an aircraft
- create and test wings, engines and landing gear
- install and test systems used in navigation, communications and flight control
- investigate and test solutions to engineering problems
- use prototypes to predict and improve how well aircraft systems perform
- use computer aided design (CAD) and computer aided manufacturing (CAM) software

Working conditions

You could work in an aircraft hangar, on an aircraft, in a factory, in an office or in a laboratory.

Your environment may be cramped.



Labour Market Information

In the Careers section of the school website you can find the useful comparison tool the 'Labour Market Information widget'.

Use the widget to compare different job roles in any employment sector or relating specifically to the 'Job of the Week'.

Mechanical engineers

Weekly Pay £920	Annual Pay £47,840
Hours/Week 38h	Hourly Pay £24

Workforce Change (projected)

Growth 2.4%	Replacement 38.9%
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The workforce is projected to grow by 2.4% over the period to 2027, creating 2,200 jobs.
In the same period, 38.9% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating 36,000 job openings.

You might find this job in
Other trans. equipment
Architectural & related
Repair & installation
Construction
Head offices, etc

[More info](#)

[Clear card](#)

Engineering technicians

Weekly Pay £760	Annual Pay £39,520
Hours/Week 35h	Hourly Pay £22

Workforce Change (projected)

Growth 0.5%	Replacement 43%
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The workforce is projected to grow by 0.5% over the period to 2027, creating 500 jobs.
In the same period, 43% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating 41,900 job openings.

You might find this job in
Specialised construction
Head offices, etc
Public admin. & defence
Metal products
Machinery, etc

[More info](#)

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Electronics engineers

Weekly Pay £970	Annual Pay £50,440
Hours/Week 41h	Hourly Pay £24

Workforce Change (projected)

Growth 2.4%	Replacement 38.9%
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The workforce is projected to grow by 2.4% over the period to 2027, creating 900 jobs.
In the same period, 38.9% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating 15,000 job openings.

You might find this job in
Telecommunications
Specialised construction
Repair & installation
Architectural & related
Computers, etc

[More info](#)

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Labour Market Information

Mechanical engineers

Mechanical engineers undertake research and design, direct the manufacture and manage the operation and maintenance of engines, machines, aircraft, vehicle and ships' structures, building services and other mechanical items.

Common tasks in this job:

- undertakes research and advises on energy use, materials handling, thermodynamic processes, fluid mechanics, vehicles and environmental controls;
- determines materials, equipment, piping, capacities, layout of plant or system and specification for manufacture;
- designs mechanical equipment, such as steam, internal combustion and other non-electrical motors for railway locomotives, road vehicles, aeroplanes and other machinery;
- ensures that equipment, operation and maintenance comply with design specifications and safety standards;

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Electronics engineers

Electronics engineers undertake research and design, direct construction and manage the operation and maintenance of electronic motors, communications systems, microwave systems, and other electronic equipment.

Common tasks in this job:

- undertakes research and advises on all aspects of telecommunications equipment, radar, telemetry and remote control systems, data processing equipment, microwaves and other electronic equipment;
- determines and specifies appropriate production and/or installation methods and quality and safety standards;
- organises and establishes control systems to monitor performance and evaluate designs;
- tests, diagnoses faults and undertakes repair of electronic equipment.

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Engineering technicians

Engineering technicians perform a variety of technical support functions to assist engineers with the design, development, operation, installation and maintenance of engineering systems and constructions.

Common tasks in this job:

- plans and prepares work and test schedules based on specifications and drawings;
- sets up equipment, undertakes tests, takes readings, performs calculations and records and interprets data;
- prepares estimates of materials, equipment and labour required for engineering projects;
- diagnoses and detects faults and implements procedures to maintain efficient operation of systems and equipment;

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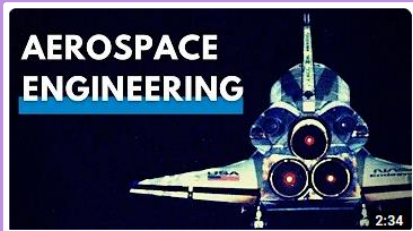
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Keep looking...

Use these links to learn more about our Job of The Week, consider the various pathways leading to the career, what you can be doing now to help yourself and other roles in the industry...

Take a look at these short videos for inspiration...

What is Aerospace Engineering?



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eJEsBA7UVX4&pp=ygUpQWVyb3NwYWNIIGVuZ2luZWVyaW5nIHRIY2huaWNpYW4gbWlsaXRhcnk%3D>

Becoming an Aerospace Engineer



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9n5P-JhUtRc>

Surprisingly STEM: Aerospace Technician



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p6QcVvXR-3g&pp=ygUgQWVyb3NwYWNIIGVuZ2luZWVyaW5nIHRIY2huaWNpYW4%3D>

Aerospace Engineering at The University of Manchester



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9YheWrHeP5c&pp=ygUZYWVyb3NwYWNIIGVuZ2luZWVyaW5nIHRIY2huaWNpYW4%3D>

Useful Websites

[Aerospace engineering technician | Explore careers | National Careers Service](#)

[Careers in Aerospace](#)

[Search – UCAS](#)

[RAF Recruitment | Engineering | Royal Air Force \(mod.uk\)](#)

[Home | BAE Systems](#)

[Home | Peterborough College](#)