

# Career of the week – **AEROSPACE ENGINEER**

**Aerospace (or “aeronautical”) engineers design, build and maintain planes, spacecraft and satellites. They can work in aircraft hangars, on aircraft, at a client's business, in a factory or in an office.**

Qualifications required:

You could do a degree in aerospace engineering, avionics, or a related subject like:

- electrical or electronic engineering
- mechanical engineering
- manufacturing or product engineering
- physics or applied physics
- software engineering or mathematics

Alternatively, you could do a higher national certificate (HNC) or diploma (HND) in engineering before applying for a job with an aerospace company. You could also do a degree apprenticeship as an aerospace engineer or you could join a company as an engineering technician and do training on the job to qualify as an engineer. You can apply for jobs directly if you've got qualifications and experience, for example from working in electrical or electronics engineering.

The sorts of things aerospace engineers do include:

- developing navigation, communications or weapons systems
- researching ways to make fuel-efficient parts
- using CAD software for design
- testing prototypes
- collecting and analysing test data
- planning and supervising the fitting of aircraft and components
- signing off projects under strict industry regulations
- scheduling and supervising maintenance

**The skills you need include knowledge of engineering science and technology, maths knowledge, design skills and knowledge, science skills, analytical thinking skills and to be able to use a computer and the main software packages competently. You could earn between £20,000 and £60,000 a year, depending on your experience, for working approx. 40 hours per week. You could specialise in a particular field like aerodynamics, fuel efficiency, space technology or investigating air accidents. You could also move up to become a project manager or consultant aerospace engineer.**