Looking for that perfect career? Play your part in Britain’s engineering future.
WHAT IS ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION?

Engineering construction companies look after the UK’s critical infrastructure. In short, they keep the lights on, the water flowing and put food on the table. The industry contributes around £100 billion to the UK economy and employs 190,000 people.

People working in engineering construction design, test, install, maintain, repair, commission and decommission industrial facilities. They work on superstructures ranging from wind farms to nuclear power stations and are helping to tackle climate change by designing and installing new energy solutions.

GETTING INTO ENGINEERING

- School
- Sixth Form / FE College
- University
- Apprenticeships
- Training on the job
- Work
MEET AN APPRENTICE

“Some people look down on apprenticeships, but it’s the best route," says Jack Beaty, a Level 3 Welding Apprentice with Fenelon Tanks in Humberside. “You’re getting paid to learn and you’re learning the real job,” he explains.

Jack is pleased he pursued a vocational rather than academic start to his career: “When you go to university it’s all books and theory, but in the workshop and on-site it’s the real thing.”

And he is excited to use his new skills to broaden his horizons: “Once I finish the apprenticeship, I want to try a different kind of welding and go to new places, hopefully travel about a bit and see what there is out there.”

MEET A GRADUATE ENGINEER

“There are so many different ways to be an engineer. You can be anything really, you just need to be curious,” says engineering graduate Lou Charpentier-Dusoir.

For Lou, a career in engineering offers the chance to work around the world and learn new skills. “Ask yourself what you like in everyday life - is it travelling or meeting people? You can apply all those things to engineering and find a role that suits you.”

Lou moved to the UK to complete her studies at Cranfield University before becoming a project engineer with Lorien Engineering Solutions. In one of her first roles as a project engineer Lou helped design a modern new factory for a major food production company.

“I really enjoy both design and technical elements of being a project engineer and I’m not too fussed about setting out on a career path that’s too well defined because there are so many opportunities you can take.”
FOOD AND DRINK

Food and drink is the biggest manufacturing industry in the UK, larger than automotive and aerospace combined. Examples of the sector’s produce ranges from biscuits to beers.

OIL & GAS

Oil and gas provides more than 75% of the UK’s energy. From manufacturing materials to make smart phones and tablets to keeping the house warm, oil & gas is part of our daily life. The industry is supporting the transition to a lower carbon future.

RENEWABLES

Renewable energy is produced using the Earth’s natural resources like wind, waves and biomass. Energy from renewables is clean, affordable and reliable. Engineering construction companies design, install and repair wind farms and biomass plants, helping to improve the environment.

NUCLEAR

The UK’s civil nuclear sector is amongst the most advanced in the world. It provides more than 20% of the country’s electricity and is a reliable and low carbon energy source.
WATER

The water industry provides drinking water and wastewater services (including sewage treatment) to residential, commercial, and industrial sectors of the economy. Population growth and limited resources make efficient water treatment crucial to our living standards.

PHARMACEUTICALS

Engineering construction workers build and maintain the machines that produce vital drugs and medicines for the UK pharmaceutical sector. More than 20% of top 10 global pharmaceutical companies have their headquarters in the UK.

POWER

Power generation employs 10,000 engineering construction workers in the UK. These skilled people construct and maintain installations like power stations and turbines that generate electricity.

CHEMICALS

The UK chemical sector is highly diverse and impacts on almost every aspect of our daily life. The 3D print market relies heavily on the UK chemical industry.
6 FACTS ABOUT CAREERS IN ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION

TRANSFERABLE SKILLS
‘Portable skills’ that will be your passport to the world of engineering

STARTING SALARY
Average graduate starting salary of £23K

APPRENTICESHIP OPPORTUNITIES
Earn while you learn

TRAVELLING OPPORTUNITIES
Work on major projects overseas as well as in the UK

CAREER PROGRESSION
Opportunities to advance and develop your career

GROWING WORKFORCE
33K new jobs in the next decade

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