

## **CAREER OF THE WEEK: Aerospace Engineer**

### **What does an aerospace engineer do?**

Aerospace engineers work on some of the most exciting technology in the world. Their job might involve designing safer passenger planes, developing stealth aircraft, or creating rockets to launch satellites and astronauts. They use advanced computer modelling, wind tunnels, and testing facilities to make sure their designs can handle extreme speeds, pressures, and temperatures. Some focus on aeronautical engineering (within Earth's atmosphere), while others work in astronautical engineering (beyond our atmosphere).



The work is rarely routine – one day you could be running simulations, the next you might be improving fuel efficiency or testing new materials. Problem-solving, teamwork, and precision are key, as safety and reliability are always top priorities.

### **What can I expect to earn as an aerospace engineer?**

Salaries depend on experience and employer, but aerospace engineers are well paid. Starting salaries for graduates are usually around £28,000–£35,000 a year. With more experience, this can rise to £45,000–£65,000, and senior engineers or project leaders can earn upwards of £70,000. Those working in specialist roles, research, or defence may earn even more.

### **What subjects should I study to become an aerospace engineer?**

At school, focus on subjects that build strong problem-solving and technical skills. Mathematics and physics are essential, as they underpin engineering principles. Chemistry, design & technology, and computing can also be useful. At university, you'll need a degree in aerospace engineering or a closely related subject such as mechanical engineering. Some roles, especially in research, may require a postgraduate qualification.

### **How can I start my career as an aerospace engineer?**

There are several routes into this career. Most aerospace engineers begin with a university degree accredited by professional bodies such as the Royal Aeronautical Society. You'll usually need A levels (or equivalent) in maths and physics. Another option is a degree apprenticeship in aerospace engineering, which combines paid work with study.

Work experience is highly valued – from summer placements with engineering firms to projects with space or aviation clubs. After qualifying, many engineers work towards Chartered Engineer status, which shows high professional standards and can boost your career further.

Whether you dream of designing the next generation of aircraft or contributing to space exploration, aerospace engineering offers a career at the cutting edge of innovation. If you're curious, ambitious, and love solving complex challenges, this could be the perfect path for you.

To research local education and training opportunities that could lead to a career as an aerospace engineer, visit our partner website [www.logonmoveon.co.uk](http://www.logonmoveon.co.uk)

### **Other useful websites to find out more about a career as an aerospace engineer:**

National Careers Service – Aerospace Engineer <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-profiles/aerospace-engineer>

Prospects – Aerospace Engineer <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/aerospace-engineer>

Royal Aeronautical Society – Careers <https://www.aerosociety.com/careers-education/>

Careers in Aerospace <https://www.careersinaerospace.com/>

UCAS Aeronautical and Aerospace Engineering Subject Guide

<https://www.ucas.com/explore/subjects/aeronautical-and-aerospace-engineering>

Space Careers <https://spacecareers.uk/home>

