

CAREER OF THE WEEK: Marine Engineer

What does a marine engineer do?

Marine engineers are the brains behind the machinery that keeps ships and submarines running smoothly. They design, build, operate, and maintain engines, propulsion systems, and other mechanical and electrical equipment on vessels. Their work ensures ships are safe, efficient, and environmentally friendly, from cargo ships and ferries to research vessels and luxury liners. A typical day might involve monitoring engine performance, troubleshooting technical problems, or planning maintenance schedules to prevent breakdowns at sea.



What can I expect to earn as a marine engineer?

Salaries for marine engineers can vary depending on experience, qualifications, and the type of vessel. Entry-level positions typically start at around £25,000–£30,000 per year. With experience, salaries can rise to £40,000–£60,000, while senior engineers or specialists can earn over £70,000 annually, especially in commercial shipping or offshore engineering.

What subjects should I study to become a marine engineer?

Strong foundations in STEM subjects are essential. You should focus on Mathematics (for calculations and design work), Physics (to understand forces, energy, and mechanics), and Engineering or Design Technology.

Higher education in mechanical, marine, or electrical engineering is usually required, often through a university degree or HND (Higher National Diploma).

How can I start my career as a marine engineer?

There are several routes into marine engineering. Some start with a degree in marine engineering, mechanical engineering, or naval architecture. Others may begin with an apprenticeship or cadetship, gaining hands-on experience on ships while studying. After qualifying, engineers must register with the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) or other relevant professional bodies to gain certification for working at sea. Joining professional organisations like the Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology (IMarEST) can help with networking, training, and career progression.

Marine engineering is perfect for problem-solvers who enjoy hands-on work, technology, and travel. If you like the idea of keeping enormous ships moving across the world's oceans and working with cutting-edge systems, this career could be your gateway to adventure at sea.

To research local education and training opportunities that could lead to a career as a marine engineer, visit our partner website www.logonmoveon.co.uk

Other useful websites to find out more about a career as a marine engineer:

National Careers Service - Marine Engineer <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-profiles/marine-engineer>

Royal Navy - Marine Engineer Officer <https://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/careers/roles/marine-engineer-officer>

IMarEST – Marine Engineering <https://www.imarest.org/education-and-training/marine-careers/marine-engineering.html>

This is Engineering - Marine Engineer <https://thisisengineering.org.uk/careers/marine-engineer/>



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