

SKILLS HULL & EAST YORKSHIRE

INCORPORATING LMI HUMBER

CAREER OF THE WEEK: Mechanical Engineer

What does a mechanical engineer do?

Mechanical engineers play a critical role in many industries around the globe, helping to design and maintain the mechanical systems that make our modern world function successfully. They are involved in the research, design, development, maintenance, and repair of mechanical products and machinery. They may be involved in every step of this process or specialise in certain areas.



Common tasks that a mechanical engineer might perform include:

Designing mechanical systems: Mechanical engineers design and develop mechanical systems for various industries, such as manufacturing, automotive, aerospace, and energy. They use their knowledge of physics, mathematics, and materials science to create designs that meet specific performance requirements.

Developing prototypes: Once a design is complete, mechanical engineers will often build and test a prototype of the mechanical system to ensure that it works as intended.

Improving existing systems: Mechanical engineers may also work on improving existing mechanical systems by identifying areas where performance can be enhanced, reducing maintenance costs, or improving safety.

Conducting research: Some mechanical engineers may work in research roles, developing new technologies or materials that can be used in mechanical systems.

Managing projects: Mechanical engineers may be responsible for managing projects, including overseeing budgets, timelines, and teams of engineers and technicians.

Ensuring compliance with regulations: Mechanical engineers must ensure that their designs meet relevant safety, environmental, and industry-specific regulations.

Mechanical engineering is a large and extremely diverse area of work, and there can be a huge amount of variety between different mechanical engineering jobs. There is a wide range of opportunities available, and it is a skill that is very much in demand.

What can I expect to earn as a mechanical engineer?

Starting salaries are usually between £20,000 and £30,000 per year. With experience, this can increase to between £40,000 and £50,000 per year. Experienced chartered engineers can earn over £60,000 per annum.

What subjects should I study to become a mechanical engineer?

To start your career as a mechanical engineer it is a good idea to study at least one STEM subject (science, technology, engineering, and maths).

How can I start my career as a mechanical engineer?

There are several ways to start your career as a mechanical engineer. You could study a relevant college or degree course before applying for employment as a mechanical engineer. Courses include mechanical engineering, mechatronics, or electromechanical engineering. You could also complete an apprenticeship in mechanical engineering. Alternatively, you could find employment and complete your engineering training whilst working.

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

Useful websites to find out more about a career as a mechanical engineer:

The Institution of Mechanical Engineers <https://www.imeche.org/>

The Engineering Council <https://www.engc.org.uk/>

This is Engineering <https://thisisengineering.org.uk/>

EngineeringUK <https://www.engineeringuk.com/>

Women into Manufacturing & Engineering <https://greenporthull.co.uk/business-support-job-seekers/help-for-job-seekers/women-into-manufacturing-and-engineering>

The Women's Engineering Society <https://www.wes.org.uk/>

Prospects - Mechanical Engineer <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/mechanical-engineer>

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



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