

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

### **What does a sound engineer do?**

Ever wondered who makes your favourite music, films, and podcasts sound perfect? That's the magic of a sound engineer. These professionals are the wizards behind the audio, ensuring every note, effect, and voice is crystal clear and perfectly balanced. From recording live music to mixing movie soundtracks or editing podcasts, a sound engineer controls the technical side of sound. They set up microphones, operate mixing consoles, adjust levels, and sometimes even create special effects to enhance the listening experience.



### **What can I expect to earn as a sound engineer?**

Salaries for sound engineers can vary depending on experience and the type of work. Entry-level roles often start at around £18,000–£22,000 per year, while experienced sound engineers working in film, TV, or high-profile music can earn £30,000–£50,000 or more annually. Freelancers may earn more per project, but income can be less predictable.

### **What subjects should I study to become a sound engineer?**

If you want to become a sound engineer, focus on subjects that develop both technical and creative skills. Music, physics, and maths are useful for understanding sound and electronics, while IT, computing, and media studies can help with digital audio technology. Some schools and colleges also offer courses in music technology or audio production, which give a head start in practical skills.

### **How can I start my career as a sound engineer?**

Breaking into sound engineering is often hands-on. Many people start with apprenticeships, internships, or volunteering in studios, theatres, or radio stations to gain real-world experience. Building a portfolio of your work, like recordings, mixes, or live sound projects, is beneficial. Once you've gained experience, you can work your way up in recording studios, live events, broadcasting, or post-production for film and TV. Networking is key—many opportunities come through connections rather than formal applications.

If you love music, technology, and creating immersive experiences, a career as a sound engineer could be your perfect fit. It's a blend of art and science, where your ears and technical skills can shape the way people experience sound.

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

Details of relevant degree courses can be found on the UCAS website <https://www.ucas.com/>.

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

National Careers Service - Studio Sound Engineer <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-profiles/studio-sound-engineer>

National Careers Service - Live Sound Engineer <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-profiles/live-sound-engineer>

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

BBC Bitesize: How to become a sound engineer <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zbjh7nb>



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